

Chapter 3051: The Fire Elemental Profundity

“That’s the price to hire a One Basic Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang. If you want someone stronger to do the job, the price will, naturally, be different. However, in my opinion, even the weakest assassin in the Blood Skull Gang should be sufficient to kill a mere peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial...”

“Yes, yes, it’s sufficient,” Zheng Hong Yi agreed. He could not help but gulp when he heard that price that was quoted. Although he knew it was going to be costly to hire an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, he did not expect it to be so expensive. He thought to himself, ‘The price to hire a One Basic Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang is two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by Celestial Lords? Thank the heavens that Wang Hong will share the cost with me. Although I can afford to pay two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by Celestial Lords, if I use them to pay for the assassin, I’d be without protection.’

Zheng Hong Yi felt rather fortunate. With Wang Hong sharing the cost of hiring an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang with him, he would only have to part with one of the two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords in his possession. With this, he would have one left for his protection. Although he hated Duan Ling Tian for robbing him of the final position of a true disciple in the Simplicity Celestial Sect, he would not have given up two Celestial Weapons that could protect him just to take Duan Ling Tian’s life.

Soon after, Zheng Hong Yi’s eyes lit up as he thought to himself, ‘Based on Chen Li’s words, the two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by Celestial Lords can also be replaced with six purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. This means a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by Celestial Lords can be replaced with three purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. In the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion, a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that has been nurtured by a Celestial Lord can be exchanged with four purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. As for the exchange rate for other King Grade Celestial Weapons, they’re the same,’ Zheng Hong Yi’s eyes lit up as he thought to himself.

Coincidentally, Zheng Hong Yi possessed two ordinary purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. As long Wang Hong handed over her purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord, he could trade it for four ordinary purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. After the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang had completed his task, he would only need to hand over six purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. With this, he would not have to give up his purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord.

“Young Master Chen, I have no problem with the price you’ve quoted. May I know when the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang would be dispatched?” Zheng Hong Yi asked Chen Li via the Communication Celestial Talisman. He could not wait for the assassin to kill Duan Ling Tian. Unfortunately, it was impossible for the assassin to arrive today. Moreover, even if the assassin managed to arrive today, if Duan Ling Tian did not leave the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate, it would be difficult for the assassin to make a move. After all, a One Basic Celestial King was not capable of breaching the Simplicity Celestial

Sect's defenses and killing someone in the sect's estate. Even on the off chance that the assassin managed to kill his target, it would be difficult for him to escape. Apart from that, the assassin might have the support of the Blood Skull Gang, but the Simplicity Celestial Sect was under the Profound Nether Mansion that was supported by one of the ten major clans in the Southern Heaven Territory. Compared to the ten major clans in the Southern Heaven Territory, the Blood Skull Gang was truly insignificant. In fact, the Blood Skull Gang did not dare to receive assignments that were related to the people of the ten major clans.

"We'll send our One Basic Celestial King out within three days. When he arrives, he'll find a way to get in touch with you. According to the Blood Skull Gang's rules, you're required to pay half of the price as a deposit beforehand. When he arrives, you'll need to hand over the deposit first, and after he has completed his job, you'll hand him the remaining half," Chen Li said.

"Alright," Zheng Hong Yi replied.

After Zheng Hong Yi bade farewell to Chen Li, he continued thinking about the price the Blood Skull Gang had charged him. 'Two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by Celestial Lords to hire a One Basic Celestial King... The price is five times higher compared to the assassin organizations in the Profound Nether Mansion.' However, he knew the price was reasonable considering the assassin and the target's abilities and the distance the assassin had to travel. Moreover, if he had hired an assassin from the organizations in the Profound Nether Mansion, it would be easy for his master, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, to trace the assassination attempt back to him if his master had gone to the Profound Nether Mansion for help. The assassin organizations in the Profound Nether Mansion would undoubtedly be unable to withstand the pressure from the mansion. If he was exposed as the mastermind behind Duan Ling Tian's assassination, not only would he lose the chance to become a true disciple, but his master might even kill him. Even if his master spared his life, he would definitely be expelled from the Simplicity Celestial Sect and have his cultivation base crippled. For all these reasons, he did not have any complaint about the price the Blood Skull Gang charged him despite it being exorbitant. As the saying went, 'Caution is the parent of safety.'

'I should look for Wang Hong and collect a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that has been nurtured by a Celestial Lord from her... After I trade her purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that has been nurtured by a Celestial Lord for four ordinary purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons, coupled with two of my purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons, I'll have enough to pay the Blood Skull Gang.' With this thought in mind, Zheng Hong Yi left his courtyard in search of Wang Hong.

Zheng Hong Yi was rather delighted and pleased with himself when he thought about his plan that would ensure he would not have to give up any of his two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords. Alas, reality was cruel.

When Zheng Hong Yi informed Wang Hong about the price they would have to pay the Blood Skull Gang, she said, "Although I've not had any dealings with the Blood Skull Gang before, I know how top assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory work. Before they start the job, they would ask for half

the price as a deposit. Inform me when the assassin arrives, and I'll hand over the deposit. You can pay the remaining half after the job is done."

Wang Hong's words completely shattered Zheng Hong Yi's brilliant plan. He could not take advantage of her at all.

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Meanwhile, after Duan Ling Tian returned from the library, he remained in his residence. He sat cross-legged on the ice bed in his room to comprehend the law of fire's Fundamental Profundity, the Fire Elemental Profundity, with the help from the Chaos Divine Flame.

Previously, the Chaos Divine Flame had said to Duan Ling Tian, "If you manage to obtain King Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities that contain the law of fire, I can help you to completely comprehend the law of fire's Fire Elemental Profundity in three hours!"

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian was excited to see if the Chaos Divine Flame would really be able to help him comprehend the law of fire's Fundamental Profundity, the Fire Elemental Profundity, in three hours.

During the process of comprehending the Fire Elemental Profundity, Duan Ling Tian thoroughly followed the Chaos Divine Flame's instructions. He summoned a grey flame to his fingertip just like how he would if he was refining pills. Then, he cleared his mind. Soon after, he felt himself merging with the Chaos Divine Flame. His emotions, joy, anger, and sorrow, would change in accordance with the grey flame. Many scenes from the past where he had used the Chaos Divine Flame, mostly when he was refining pills, flitted across his mind. Slowly but surely he began to lose all sense of time.

When Duan Ling Tian finally regained his senses, he discovered he had completely comprehended the law of fire's Fire Elemental Profundity! Naturally, he did not know how much time had passed. It felt like a moment, but it also felt as though a century had passed.

"How long did I take to comprehend the Fire Elemental Profundity?" Duan Ling Tian asked the Chaos Divine Flame.

"Two and a half hour," the Chaos Divine Flame replied.

As soon as the Chaos Divine Flame finished speaking, the Chaos Divine Earth scoffed and said, "Nonsense! It was two and a half hours and three breaths..."

The Chaos Divine Flame ignored the Chaos Divine Earth's words.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian could sense the jealousy in the Chaos Divine Earth's words. It was not surprising since the Chaos Divine Earth took an entire night to help him comprehend the law of earth's Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity, in the past.

Although the Chaos Divine Flame's help was crucial in helping him to comprehend the Fire Elemental Profundity in such a short time, he knew it was also, in part, due to his familiarity with the Chaos Divine Flame that was born from the times they refined pills. His understanding of the Chaos Divine Flame had subtly grown deeper each time he refined pills with the Chaos Divine Flame. For this reason, he was able to comprehend the Fire Elemental Profundity in less than three hours.

“The Fire Elemental Profundity...” With just a thought, Celestial Origin Energy surged out of Duan Ling Tian’s body. After it was boosted with the Fire Elemental Profundity, the Celestial Origin Energy turned red like flames.

Sizzle! Sizzle! Sizzle!

A sizzling sound from the burning Celestial Origin Energy rang in the air.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian raised his hand, and the fiery red Celestial Origin Energy shot out like a terrifying beast shrouded in flames!

Chapter 3052: The Profound Divine Metal Awakens

“Attack-wise, my Celestial Origin Energy seems to be more powerful when it’s boosted by the Fire Elemental Profundity compared to when it’s boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity...” It did not take long for Duan Ling Tian to discover this fact.

Then, Duan Ling Tian tried to boost his Celestial Origin Energy that had already been boosted with the Fire Elemental Profundity with the Earth Elemental Profundity as well. Alas, he felt the Earth Elemental Profundity and the Fire Elemental Profundity repelling each other when he did so. He was perplexed by this discovery. “This...”

The Chaos Divine Earth explained, “Boy, before you become a god and can summon a clone, you can only use one law in battles. You can, naturally, switch between laws, but it’s impossible to use more than one at the same time. To switch laws, you’ll have to completely clear the Fundamental Profundity from a law in your Celestial Energy before boosting it with another law’s Fundamental Profundity.”

The Chaos Divine Earth continued to say, “I’m sure you know all profundities from a law rely on the law’s Fundamental Profundity. This means, you’re also limited to using the profundities from the same law as the Fundamental Profundity you’d chosen to boost your Celestial Origin Energy with...”

“Saying that, you should continue to comprehend the law of earth, the law of fire, and the law of metal whenever you have the chance. After all, with the Chaos Divine Flame, Profound Divine Metal, and me around, you’d be able to swiftly comprehend the profundities from the three respective laws,” the Chaos Divine Earth said, “With our help, you have the chance of comprehending all the profundities from the law of earth, the law of fire, and the law metal before you break through the divine barrier and become a god! Moreover, if you’re able to help us evolve into higher forms, it’s possible for you to comprehend all the profundities from the three laws to the mastery stage before you become a god.”

“So this means that before I break through and become a god, I can only use one law at a time...” Duan Ling Tian knew it was not realistic for him to switch to a different law in the midst of battles. After all, it would take time to clear a law’s Fundamental Profundity from his Celestial Origin Energy before replacing it with another law’s Fundamental Profundity. It would be best for him to stick to the law that he had comprehended the most.

“Yes...” the Chaos Divine Earth said, “Before you become a god, it’s best for you to use the law you’re most familiar with and have a high comprehension of. Based on current circumstances, focusing on the law of fire is your best option.”

Although Chaos Divine Earth was able to help Duan Ling Tian to swiftly comprehend the various profundities from the law of earth, that was only if Duan Ling Tian managed to obtain King Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities that contained the law of earth. Currently, Duan Ling Tian only possessed one King Grade Celestial Method that contained the law of earth’s Gravitational Space Profundity. The number of profundities from the law of earth that he had access to was limited compared to the five profundities from the law of fire, the Blazing Sun Profundity, the Fire Escape Profundity, the Explosion Profundity, the Pillaging Profundity, and the Burning Profundity, that he had obtained from the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. On the other hand, including the law of earth’s Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity, he currently only had access to two profundities from the law of earth.

Duan Ling Tian nodded in agreement. “Based on the current circumstances, it’s true that it’s best that I focus on the law of fire for now.”

“Although you should focus on comprehending the law of fire’s profundities, you should also comprehend the law of earth’s Gravitational Space Profundity when you have time. After all, you’ve already mastered the basics of the Gravitational Space Profundity and can use it with minimal power,” the Chaos Divine Earth continued to say.

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded again.

When Duan Ling Tian thought about the five profundities from the law of fire that he had obtained from the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, he asked the Chaos Divine Flame, “Senior Chaos Divine Flame, now that I’ve comprehended the law of fire’s Fire Elemental Profundity, which of the five profundities from the law of fire should I prioritize?”

Before the Chaos Divine Flame could reply to Duan Ling Tian, the Chaos Divine Earth spoke up first. “I can answer this question for you! You can prioritize the Explosion Profundity, the Pillaging Profundity, or the Burning Profundity.”

At this moment, the Chaos Divine Flame finally said, “Prioritize comprehending the Pillaging Profundity or the Burning Profundity. In comparison to the Pillaging Profundity and the Burning Profundity, even with my help, it’d be more difficult and it’d take longer for you to comprehend the Explosion Profundity. As a Celestial Alchemist, you have more experience with controlling the heat and the speed of the heating. These skills are helpful in comprehending the Pillaging Profundity and the Burning Profundity. On the other hand, your experience is lacking in regard to fire explosions. Therefore, it’d be faster for you to comprehend the other two profundities compared to the Explosion Profundity.”

The Chaos Divine Flame understood Duan Ling Tian’s situation better compared to the Chaos Divine Earth so its suggestion was more detailed.

The Chaos Divine Flame concluded, “The Burning Profundity is an offensive profundity while the Pillaging Profundity is a movement profundity. The most powerful offensive profundity from the law of

fire isn't the Burning Profundity but the Explosion Profundity. Therefore, between the Burning Profundity and the Pillaging Profundity, I suggest you prioritize comprehending the Pillaging Profundity."

"Alright, I'll heed your advice, senior." Duan Ling Tian had no objection to the Chaos Divine Flame's suggestion.

"Moreover, you could shroud yourself in flames when you charge toward or attack your opponents after comprehending the Pillaging Profundity... With this, the Pillaging Profundity could deal considerable damage as well. Compared to the Explosion Profundity, the Burning Profundity, and the Corrosive Profundity, the Pillaging Profundity doesn't raise your offensive power as much. However, it would still contribute some..."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded. He understood what Chaos Divine Flame meant.

Duan Ling Tian recalled his encounter with Sima Chun of the Sima clan in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Sima Chun had comprehended two profundities from the law of wind: the Wind Elemental Profundity and the Gale Profundity. The Gale Profundity was a movement profundity, and it granted its user increased speed. Although it was not as powerful as an offensive profundity, due to inertia from speed, it, naturally, raised Sima Chun's offensive power as well even if it was just a little.

After listening to the Chaos Divine Flame's advice, Duan Ling Tian did not waste time and began to comprehend the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity.

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Just a few months had passed, but Duan Ling Tian had already made impressive progress in comprehending the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity. He could already use it during battles. At this moment, his comprehension of the Pillaging Profundity was on the same level as his comprehension of the law of earth's Gravitational Space Profundity.

All of a sudden, the Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind, "Profound Divine Metal! You are finally awake!"

Previously, both the Profound Divine Metal and the Chaos Divine Flame had fallen into a deep slumber after they exhausted their strength from helping Duan Ling Tian claim ownership of the branch from the Divine Tree of Life in his body. The Chaos Divine Flame had recovered faster and had awakened earlier since it was in its third form. The Profound Divine Metal needed a few extra months to recover since it was only its second form.

The Profound Divine Metal said groggily, "You little brat, what are you shouting for? I'm awake."

Unlike the other times, the Chaos Divine Earth was not angered when the Profound Divine Metal referred to it as a little brat. Instead, it said with a chuckle, "Hey! I have good news and bad news for you! Which one would you like to hear first?"

"Stop with the foreshadowing and get straight to the point," the Profound Divine Metal calmly said, "Even if you don't tell me, the Chaos Divine Flame will tell me."

“Fine! I’ll tell you the bad news first!” the Chaos Divine Earth quickly said, “This lad obtained five King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that contain profundities from the law of fire. Therefore, in the near future, he’ll concentrate more on the law of fire instead of the law of metal.”

“Five King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that contain profundities from the law of fire? It seems like lady luck was on the lad’s side when I was resting.” The Profound Divine Metal was shocked by the Chaos Divine Earth’s words. However, it seemed indifferent toward what the Chaos Divine Earth had referred to as bad news. After all, it was only in its second form so it knew it could not do much to help Duan Ling Tian for now even if Duan Ling Tian managed to obtain many King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that contained the law of metal. After a while, it asked, “What about the good news?”

Upon sensing the Profound Divine Earth’s indifference, the Chaos Divine Flame said apologetically, “Oops, I forgot you’re still in your second form... However, fret not, there’s good news like I said earlier...”

Before the Chaos Divine Earth finished speaking, the Profound Divine Metal asked Duan Ling Tian, “Boy, did... did you obtain a first-form Profound Divine Metal?!”

“Yes, I was lucky and managed to obtain a first-form Profound Divine Metal for you, senior.” With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian brought out the first-form Profound Divine Metal he had obtained from his Spatial Ring.

As soon as the first-form Profound Divine Metal appeared, a streak of golden light shot out of Duan Ling Tian’s body like a lightning bolt toward the first-form Profound Divine Metal. Then, as soon as they made contact, the golden light shrouded the first-form Profound Divine Metal completely as though it had devoured the first-form Profound Divine Metal!

Chapter 3053: Huan’er?

In a lush green forest ten thousand miles north of Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate.

A skinny middle-aged man dressed in all black was hovering three feet above the ground. His complexion was deathly pale, and he was so skinny that his cheekbones were so prominent, causing his face to look sunken. It seemed he only had skin over his bones. Upon closer inspection, one would see a graphic blood-red skull on the chest of his robe.

At this moment, the middle-aged man suddenly cocked an eyebrow as though he had sensed something.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two distinct sounds of wind howling rang in the air accompanied by two figures flying side by side at high speed.

“Are you Zheng Hong Yi?” The middle-aged man asked indifferently as he looked at the young man who just arrived. From the beginning until now, he did not spare the young woman next to the young man a glance at all. It was as though she did not exist in his eyes.

If someone else were to ignore her in such a blatant manner, Wang Hong would have been furious. After all, apart from being a genius among the inner disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, she was also the granddaughter of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's Grand Elder. Nevertheless, she did not dare to put on airs in front of the middle-aged man. Although the middle-aged man's cultivation base might be lower than her grandfather's, the middle-aged man was from a force that even grandfather could not afford to offend.

The Blood Skull Gang was one of the three biggest and infamous assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory. It, naturally, had a terrifying reputation in the Southern Heaven Territory. The only people who did not fear them were those from the Ten Major Clans and the Five Leading Sects.

The Simplicity Celestial Sect was merely a grade-seven sect. Although it was under the Profound Nether Mansion, it was only one of many grade-six and grade-seven forces under the Profound Nether Mansion's rule.

"Yes, senior... I'm Zheng Hong Yi," Zheng Hong Yi hurriedly responded. After all, as he stood in front of the middle-aged man, he could keenly feel the killing intent from the middle-aged man, causing chills to run up his spine.

"Who did you contact in the Blood Skull Gang to employ our service?" the middle-aged man asked. It was clear he was trying to verify the people in front of him were indeed the Blood Skull Gang's clients.

"Chen Li, Young Master Chen." Zheng Hong Yi said.

"You know the rules, don't you?" the middle-aged man said as he looked at Zheng Hong apathetically.

"I do." Zheng Hong Yi nodded before he turned to the person next to him and prompted, "Wang Hong."

"Senior, this is the deposit." With a wave of her hand, a rattan armor glowing with a green light appeared in Wang Hong's hand. With just a glance, it looked like it was woven from green-glowing rattan. It was quite a dazzling sight.

"That is right." The middle-aged man took it and nodded in satisfaction after examining it. "This is indeed a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon nurtured by a Celestial Lord." Then, he said, "Inform me as soon as the target leaves your Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate... Once I have completed the mission, I'll return for the other half of the payment."

Subsequently, the middle-aged man took Zheng Hong Yi and Wang Hong's Soul Pearls and gave them his Soul Pearl to facilitate their communication. After that, he left and vanished without a trace.

Zheng Hong Yi and Wang Hong were not surprised. No matter what, the middle-aged man was still a One Basic Celestial King. Moreover, since the middle-aged man was from the Blood Skull Gang, he must be more powerful than ordinary One Basic Celestial Kings in the Profound Nether Mansion. Put everything else aside, the laws and profundities he comprehended were undoubtedly above average since the Blood Skull Gang possessed many Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that contained various laws.

At this moment, Wang Hong looked at Zheng Hong Yi and asked, "What are we going to do if Duan Ling Tian doesn't leave the sect? If that happens, even the Blood Skull Gang would have no way of killing him, right? As far as I know, since he arrived at the sect, he has only left his residence once to go to the library. I'm afraid it won't be easy for us to lure him out of the sect. Even if you manage to lure him out, he'd probably ask your master to send some men out with him for protection. With that, the assassin might not succeed in killing him..."

"Don't worry," Zheng Hong Yi said dismissively and confidently, "He'll leave the sect alone soon!"

"How do you know?" Wang Hong asked skeptically.

"It's a secret," Zheng Hong Yi said before he took flight with a mysterious smile on his face.

On the other hand, Wang Hong left the forest as well but with a displeased expression on her face. She was angered by how Zheng Hong Yi had kept her guessing. No matter what, she had borne half of the cost to hire an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill Duan Ling Tian!

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Three days later.

In the valley where true disciples and inner disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect cultivated and resided.

A middle-aged man wearing the uniform of an inner disciple stood outside Duan Ling Tian's residence and called out, "Duan Ling Tian!"

Duan Ling Tian who was comprehending the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity was startled by the sudden disturbance. 'Is someone looking for me?'

Duan Ling Tian walked out of the room in confusion and saw the middle-aged man standing near the entrance of his true disciple residence. "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Earlier, before I entered the sect's estate, someone threw a letter at me from afar," the middle-aged man said as he handed a letter over to Duan Ling Tian. It was clearly written on the envelope that the letter was addressed to Duan Ling Tian.

"What a strange way of delivering a message..." Duan Ling Tian frowned when he looked at the letter. It had been a while since he arrived in the Devata Realm, the Spirit Overarching Heaven, but this was his first time encountering someone who delivered letters by such ancient means. He asked, "Do you know the person who delivered the letter?"

"I didn't see his face." The middle-aged man shook his head. "Based on the Voice Transmission he sent, it's a man."

"A man?" Duan Ling Tian frowned. Who could it be?

"Duan Ling Tian, I'll return if there's nothing else," the middle-aged man said.

"Alright, thank you." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

After the middle-aged man left, Duan Ling Tian opened the letter. There were two paragraphs in the letter. As soon as he saw the first two words of the letter, his expression changed drastically. The two words were Huan'er.

The letter read: 10,000 miles east of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate, above the field and lake. Come alone. If I discover anyone with you, not only will you not see me, but she'll die as well!

"Huan'er!" Duan Ling Tian had been worried ever since Huan'er's disappearance. He grew even more worried after reading this letter.

"Huan'er... She was kidnapped, and the kidnapper is asking to meet me? It's obvious he has a hidden agenda. Huan'er probably doesn't even know my whereabouts. Even if she did, she would never reveal it. However, how did this person know about Huan'er? Is she really with him?" Although Duan Ling Tian was anxious, he did not lose his rationality. After taking a deep breath, he managed to calm down.

"No matter if Huan'er is with him or not, regardless of his intention, I must go!" Although Duan Ling Tian felt that it was unlikely that Huan'er had been kidnapped and that it was likely that he was being lured out of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate for sinister reasons, he did not dare to risk it. After all, there was a small likelihood that the person was truly holding Huan'er captive. At that time, if he did not show up, that person would definitely harm Huan'er.

"There's no doubt he has sinister intentions since he's adamant that I meet him alone... I need to be careful..."

Duan Ling Tian no longer wasted any time. He left the valley where the true disciples and inner disciples resided and headed east.

After Duan Ling Tian left, a figure walked out of one of the inner disciples' residences. It was none other than Zheng Hong Yi, the third direct disciple of Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect. A wide smile could be seen on his face as he muttered to himself, "He took the bait. The Blood Skull Gang truly lives up to its reputation. I was racking my brains for ways to lure him out of the sect, but the Blood Skull Gang did it so easily. I wonder what's written in the letter..." Based on his words, it seemed like he knew the Blood Skull Gang had their means of luring Duan Ling Tian out of the sect, but he did not know the specifics.

Three days ago, Zheng Hong Yi had been so confident in front of Wang Hong because he had spoken to Chen Li beforehand. Chen Li had told him the Blood Skull Gang's assassin had a way to lure Duan Ling Tian out of the sect alone.

"He left." Zheng Hong Yi's eyes glinted coldly as he informed the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang of Duan Ling Tian's departure through the Communication Celestial Talisman.

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At the same time.

"He took the bait?" In a stone forest about 50,000 miles east of Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate, the skinny black-clad middle-aged man seated on a giant rock opened his eyes as a sinister smile appeared on his face.

Chapter 3054: The Ten Thousand Beast Heaven

The Ten Thousand Beast Heaven, like the Spirit Overarching Heaven, was one of the 81 Devata Realms. The difference was more than 90% of the inhabitants in the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven were Celestial Beasts. This was due to the hatred the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven's Celestial Beasts harbored against humans and other life forms. If the beasts encountered humans or other life forms, they would not hesitate to kill.

On the other hand, the Spirit Overarching Heaven was relatively peaceful. Humans and Celestial Beasts co-existed rather peacefully.

Apart from the Heavenly Emperor's Palace in the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven, another major force in the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven was the dragon clan. The patriarch of the dragon clan was a Ten Directions Celestial Emperor and a titled Heavenly Emperor. In terms of strength, he was not much weaker than the Heavenly Emperor of the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven. Apart from the patriarch, there were also many powerhouses in the dragon clan. Their existence was the foundation and the backbone of the dragon clan, allowing the dragon clan to maintain high status in the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven.

The dragon clan's estate was situated at a vast plain called the Ancient Dragon Plain. The entire plain belonged to the dragon clan as its name suggested. Usually, other Celestial Beasts would not come near here.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

At this moment, two figures shot out of the Ancient Dragon Plain's inner area to the outer area like a bolt of black lightning and a bolt of white lightning respectively. In just a blink of an eye, they vanished from the Ancient Dragon Plain.

Soon after, a grey figure appeared out of thin air above the outer area. The figure belonged to an old man dressed in a long grey robe. He was tall and well built. At this moment, a hint of helplessness could be seen in his eyes.

Swoosh!

With a wave of his hands, a Celestial Talisman appeared in his hand. Following that, it started burning before transforming into a seven-color light beam that shot up into the sky.

Almost simultaneously, the void in the distance seemed to ripple violently. Soon after, a group of people appeared in the distance in a formidable manner.

The group consisted of eleven people, and their leader was a middle-aged man. All of them wore silver armors, and the middle-aged man's armor was clearly the sturdiest.

"Elder 13." As soon as the middle-aged man saw the old man, he hurriedly bowed.

The other ten people hastily followed suit.

"Did you see the two little fellows who had just left?" the old man asked as he looked at the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man shook his head.

The old man felt a pang of disappointment before the middle-aged man continued to say as he pointed south, "Although I didn't see them, I felt two waves of Celestial Origin Energies earlier. They were headed that way."

When the middle-aged man finished speaking, the old man had already vanished like a ghost.

After the old man left, the middle-aged man shook his head and muttered to himself, "It seems the ones who left are the little fellows..."

Upon hearing these words, one of the men asked curiously, "Captain, you know the people Elder 13 is after?"

"Didn't you hear about it? A few years ago, our dragon clan's youngest elder, Elder Ji Xiang, brought back two new members from the mundane realm?" The middle-aged man responded with a question.

"Yes, I did." The young man said, "It's said that they're eight-clawed divine dragons in the mundane realm... After entering our Dragon Cleansing Pool, it looked like they were going to evolve into nine-clawed divine dragons! They're truly extraordinarily talented! Although they're not even 100 years old, they're already Celestial Dukes. One of them has comprehended four profundities from the law of water while the other one has comprehended three profundities from the law of destruction. Although the latter only comprehended three profundities, one of the profundities has already been comprehended to the initial stage. For this reason, the latter's combat strength is greater than the former."

He continued to say, "Both of them are rare geniuses who might only appear in the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven's dragon clan once every 10,000 years. No wonder Lord Patriarch values them so much and tasked Elder 13 with the responsibility of watching over them!" After he finished speaking, his eyes suddenly widened in horror as realization dawned on him. He looked at the middle-aged man in shock and asked, "Captain, was Elder 13 referring to them earlier?"

"Of course," the middle-aged man said with a bitter smile, "Based on Elder 13's expression, it seems like he lost them due to his carelessness." He sighed as he continued to say, "I hope Elder 13 finds them... Otherwise, apart from Elder 13, even us, the border patrols, would be punished if something happens to them."

...

Meanwhile, the grey-clad old man left the Ancient Dragon Plains and headed south. He searched every inch of the area but did not find anything. His expression was grim as he muttered to himself helplessly, "Ever since both of them became Celestial Dukes, they keep trying to run away... I managed to stop them the last few times. This time, I was careless only for a moment, but they managed to escape! I hope they're fine. Otherwise, how am I going to explain it to Lord Patriarch?"

...

At the same time, about 10,000 miles northeast of where the grey-clad old man was, two figures slowly came to a stop.

One of them tall and the other was short. It was a young man and a young woman.

The young man was dressed in all black. His face was chiseled, and his expression was cold. He was tall and muscular, looking like an iron tower when he stood unmoving.

On the other hand, the young woman was dressed in a white robe. She looked pretty but not delicately so. She was about 180 cm in height, much taller than most women. She looked strong and healthy. However, standing next to the black-clad young man who was almost two meters tall, she looked slightly petite. Although her robe was loose, it did not fully conceal her curvaceous body. Her long legs were apparent even under her robes.

At this moment, the white-clad young man sighed in relief and said, "I think we lost him." Then, she turned to look at the black-clad young man and asked, "Little Black, have you contacted Little Gold?"

"Hm." The black-clad young man said with a glint in his eyes, "She's already there... We just need to head there now."

"She lives such a comfortable life! There's no one constantly keeping an eye on her, and she can leave whenever she wants," the white-clad young lady grumbled softly as she followed the black-clad young man.

Like two bolts of lightning, they took the sky again, heading south.

...

While the pair traveled south, the dragon clan's Elder 13 was still looking for them.

...

Three days later. In a desolate city that was filled with ruins in the desert.

A curvaceous golden figure could be seen standing above the ruins. It was a young lady dressed in a golden robe. Her features were sharp, and she looked pretty even without any makeup. Her beauty made the surroundings paled in comparison. Moreover, she was rather tall, standing at 175 cm.

All of a sudden, her eyes shifted north. "They're here!"

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two figures could be seen approaching in the distance. As they drew closer, she could see that the two figures belonged to a black-clad young man and a white-clad young woman respectively.

"Little White! Little Black!" the golden-clad young woman cried out excitedly as soon as she saw the two figures. A wide smile could be seen on her face as she flew toward them.

The white-clad young woman said with a smile, "Little Gold, it's been too long! You've grown prettier again."

“Little White, I can say the same for you! I don’t understand... You and Little Black are twins, but why do you look so good when he’s this ugly?” the golden-clad young woman said as she looked at the black-clad young man from the corners of her eyes.

The corners of the black-clad young man’s mouth twitched as he glared at the golden-clad young man. His icy and approachable aura seemed to intensify as he said, “Although you’re prettier now, your chest is still as flat as ever. Those who don’t know might even think you’re a boy.” It was rare for him to speak so many words at one time.

The golden-clad young woman was about to lose her temper when the white-clad young lady quickly stepped forward to diffuse the situation. “Alright, alright... We haven’t seen each other for so long. Why must both of you do this as soon as we meet? Don’t forget why we’re gathered today.”

The black-clad young man and golden-clad young man woman who were glaring at each other looked away when they heard the white-clad young woman’s last few words.

The golden-clad young woman, Little Gold, asked Little White, the white-clad young woman, “Little White... Do you think Brother Ling Tian and Sister Ke’er are still in the Saint Province Realm after all these years?”

“We must go even if Brother Ling Tian and Sister Ke’er are no longer in the Saint Province Realm... We are Celestial Dukes so we don’t have to be afraid of the mundane realm’s secular krama!” Little White replied.

Although Little Black, the black-clad young man, was quiet, a hint of warmth could be seen in his eyes when the two women spoke about their Brother Ling Tian and Sister Ke’er.

“With our current appearances, I don’t think Brother Ling Tian and Sister Ke’er would be able to recognize us when we meet...” Little Gold muttered.

Chapter 3055: The Blood Skull Gang’s Assassin

In the Spirit Overarching Heaven’s Southern Heaven Territory. In one of the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control.

On a vast grassland 80,000 to 130,000 miles east of the Simplicity Celestial Sect. There was a brilliantly blue lake that was more than 1,000 meters wide in diameter in the middle of the grassland. The water was so clear that it reflected the clear blue sky and the sun from above.

Whoosh!

A gust of wind stirred up as a purple figure appeared in the empty sky above the lake. It was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had rushed here from the Simplicity Celestial Sect. He had come here in a hurry after receiving a letter about Huan’er.

“Hm?” Duan Ling Tian looked around the surroundings but did not find anyone in the vicinity. However, he was not anxious. After all, the person had taken the trouble to lure him here so that person would appear sooner or later.

Therefore, he sat cross-legged in the air and continued to comprehend the Pillaging Profundity. With the Chaos Divine Flame's help, he was making tremendous progress comprehending the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity.

'At the rate I'm comprehending the Pillaging Profundity, I should be able to master it in six months,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Naturally, what he meant by mastering the Pillaging Profundity was comprehending it to the rudimentary stage. From the King Grade Celestial Method, this was the highest stage he could comprehend it to.

Despite comprehending the Pillaging Profundity, Duan Ling Tian was still on alert. He had extended his Divine Consciousness out as he comprehended the Pillaging Profundity. With this, he would have plenty of time to react if someone approached him. Naturally, this was under the condition that the person's cultivation base was not significantly higher than his.

...

Meanwhile, back in the Simplicity Celestial Sect.

Two people in the sect were busy as well. They were none other than Zheng Hong Yi, the third direct disciple of Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, and Wang Hong, the granddaughter of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's Grand Elder.

The duo went around the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate to make sure all of the powerhouses stronger than Celestial Kings were in the sect's estate. This was, naturally, to help the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang. After all, the assassin whom the duo hired from the Blood Skull Gang was only a One Basic Celestial King. Although he was quite powerful, there were many powerhouses in the Simplicity Celestial Sect who were stronger than him.

As an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, he was cautious by nature. Upon learning that Duan Ling Tian had left the sect three days ago, he had sent a message to Zheng Hong Yi to confirm if any powerhouses from the Simplicity Celestial Sect had left the sect as well.

"All the powerhouses on my side are accounted for. No one left," Wang Hong said to Zheng Hong Yi.

"It's the same on my end." Zheng Hong Yi nodded.

After that, Zheng Hong Yi took a Communication Celestial Talisman out. With the mark of the Soul Pearl, he sent a message to the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang. "Senior, all of the powerhouses stronger than Celestial Kings are accounted for. None of them left the sect. It seems like Duan Ling Tian didn't tell anyone about your meeting." Then, he tried to ingratiate himself by adding, "You're truly capable, senior. Not only did you manage to lure Duan Ling Tian out of the sect, but you even managed to make him keep quiet about it..."

"Noted." Despite Zheng Hong Yi's attempt at flattery, the assassin's reply was curt and indifferent.

...

In an area near the grassland.

"It's time to strike." A middle-aged man who was sitting in the air suddenly rose to his feet. His eyes glinted coldly and killing intent surged from his body as he looked in the direction of the grassland.

"It seems like our information is accurate... The lady named Huan'er is truly important to him. I can't believe he really came without notifying anyone. Couldn't he tell the purpose of the letter was just to lure him out of the sect? Don't tell me he really thinks he won't be in danger as long as he listens to my instructions.... What a naive boy!" the black-clad middle-aged man muttered to himself with a sneer on his face. Then, he shot toward the grassland.

...

Back in the center of the vast grassland where the lake was as clear as a mirror. From afar, the lake looked like a pearl that had fallen from the sky and embedded itself in the ground. It was a charming sight.

Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged in the air. He looked like he was resting, but with a closer look, one would be able to see the faint ripples in the air near him. If it was dark, it would be easier to see the heatwave around his body that glowed faintly red. It was none other than the law of fire's Fundamental Profundity, the Fire Elemental Profundity.

Duan Ling Tian had been waiting at this place for a few days for the person who had sent him the letter. However, up until now, there was no sign of the person who had sent the letter. In order not to waste time, he had been comprehending the Pillaging Profundity as he waited.

All of a sudden, Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes at this moment and looked ahead warily. "Someone's here!"

Whoosh!

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian saw a black figure that appeared like a ghost. It was a middle-aged man dressed in a long black robe. Although he was so skinny that he looked like a bag of bones, the fierce aura he emitted would strike fear into ordinary people's hearts.

"Hm?" Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian's attention was drawn by the graphic blood-red skull on the middle-aged man's robe. It was so life-like that it looked as though real blood was dripping down the skull.

"Isn't that the assassin organization, the Blood Skull Gang?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow as he looked at the middle-aged man's face that seemed sunken due to how thin he was.

Before joining the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian had never heard of the Blood Skull Gang, let alone being able to identify their emblem. However, during his time in the Simplicity Celestial Sect's library in the inner sect, he had learned many things about the Southern Heaven Territory. This included the three famous and strongest assassin organizations.

Duan Ling Tian learned that the Blood Skull Gang's assassins wore standard uniforms embroidered with the gang's emblem. Slight differences in the emblem differentiated the assassins' ranks.

"You're rather knowledgeable. You recognized a Blood Skull Gang's assassin," the middle-aged man said as he stared at Duan Ling Tian coldly. Inwardly, he was rather shocked. This was because he discovered

Duan Ling Tian had sensed his presence before he even appeared. After all, he was a One Basic Celestial King while Duan Ling Tian was only a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial.

Duan Ling Tian ignored the middle-aged man's words and asked indifferently, "Where's Huan'er?"

"Huan'er?" The middle-aged man was momentarily taken aback before he chuckled. "There's no Huan'er... It's just a way to lure you out of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate. I didn't expect you to follow the instructions so precisely and come alone. This Huan'er must be important to you. She must be a woman, right? Alas, a prodigy like you is going to die today because of a woman..." The expression on his face turned icy as he reached the end of his sentence.

"So... You don't know where Huan'er is?" Duan Ling Tian asked. Inwardly, he sighed in relief.

"Wasn't I clear enough? It's a trick." The middle-aged man sneered.

"I have to say the Blood Skull Gang's information network is really vast. You even found out about Huan'er," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently. Then, he asked, "Can you tell me who hired the Blood Skull Gang to assassinate me? As far as I know, it's not easy to employ the Blood Skull Gang's services. Not everyone is qualified..."

"You're, indeed, knowledgeable..." The middle-aged man looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a dead man walking and said, "Well, there's no harm telling you this since you're going to die anyway. Unfortunately, the Blood Skull Gang has its rules so you can only die with your curiosity and regrets!" As soon as he finished speaking, a terrifying energy surge out of his body, and the air began to ripple around him. The killing intent radiating from his body was terrifying.

Swoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, the middle-aged appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian like a phantom. He swung his fist that was wrapped in cerulean Celestial Origin Energy at Duan Ling Tian. Based on the color of his Celestial Origin Energy, it was obvious he had used the law of water's Water Elemental Profundity.

The middle-aged man's fist moved like a fierce water dragon as he aimed it at Duan Ling Tian's head. Clearly, he intended to kill Duan Ling Tian with just a strike. His expression was blank when he attacked; he clearly did not think he would have any difficulty killing Duan Ling Tian with just a strike.

However, in the next moment, the middle-aged man's eyes widened in shock, and his expression changed drastically.

Thud!

A clear sound rang in the air.

Duan Ling Tian did not move from where he stood as he leisurely extended his right hand and easily caught the middle-aged man's fist. The yellow glow around his hand was extremely eye-catching.

Chapter 3056: A Reincarnated Celestial Lord?

The middle-aged man was thoroughly shocked. In fact, he had felt something was amiss earlier when he saw the lack of fear in Duan Ling Tian even when Duan Ling Tian discovered he was an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian seemed knowledgeable about the Blood Skull Gang.

However, the middle-aged man knew Duan Ling Tian was a transcender from a mundane realm and did not come from a powerful faction. The Blood Skull Gang's investigation and Zheng Hong Yi, an inner disciple of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, had confirmed this.

Although there was suspicion that Duan Ling Tian was a reincarnated powerhouse, nobody put much importance on it. After all, regardless of how powerful he was in his past life, he was just a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial at the moment!

"You... H-how did you... How's this possible?!" The middle-aged man was further shocked when he discovered he could not free his fist from Duan Ling Tian's grip even after he cast a few profundities from the law of water.

Duan Ling Tian held the middle-aged man's grip in a leisurely manner. Regardless of how the middle-aged man struggled or what profundity he used, his grip remained firm.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian scoffed as he looked at the middle-aged man's futile struggles. He impatiently yanked the middle-aged's fist in an upward motion.

The sound of flesh tearing rang in the air as Duan Ling Tian tore the middle-aged man's arm away from his body before he threw the severed arm away.

Splash!

A splashing sound rang from the lake as the middle-aged man's severed arm fell into the lake. Tendrils of red blood spread in the water, dyeing it red.

The middle-aged man could still retrieve his arm from the lake to reattach it, but he was too afraid and too shocked to do so at this moment. His expression made him look as though he had seen a ghost. "You... Aren't you a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?! How can your Celestial Origin Energy be so powerful?"

When the middle-aged man finished speaking, it seemed as though he had just regained his senses. He quickly widened his distance from Duan Ling Tian as though Duan Ling Tian was a ferocious beast that was capable of devouring him whole. Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian caught his fist, he could sense the law of earth's Earth Elemental Profundity in Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy. Most importantly, it was clear to him that Duan Ling Tian, who had only used the Earth Elemental Profundity, was so powerful that even though he had used all his strength and cast all the profundities he had mastered, he still could not free his fist. He knew he was no match for Duan Ling Tian now.

'Ten Directions Celestial Kings are capable of overwhelming me like this, but it seemed like his Celestial Origin Energy is even more powerful than Ten Directions Celestial Kings! It... it feels as though his Celestial Origin Energy is on par with that of a Celestial Lord!' The middle-aged man thought to himself.

'Duan Ling Tian had only come to the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm not too long ago... This means he's really just an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial! However, his Celestial Origin Energy seems to be as powerful as that of a Celestial Lord... This must be because he's using some powerful Celestial Talisman or some consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon! This means his powers aren't infinite. However, until he has exhausted his powers, it'd be as easy as flicking his fingers for him to kill me...'

It did not take long for the middle-aged man to figure out why Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy was comparable to that of a Celestial Lord.

Regardless, there was only one thought in the middle-aged man's mind now: Run!

Alas, before the middle-aged man could flee, Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy that was laced with the law of earth's Earth Elemental Profundity surged out. It was as though he knew the middle-aged man was going to run away.

Whoosh! Whoosh Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity shot out and formed several black pillars around the middle-aged man, effectively trapping the middle-aged man.

Although Duan Ling Tian had merely comprehended the basics of the law of earth's Gravitational Space Profundity, he was already capable of using the King Grade Celestial Method, the Black Rock Prison Method.

Naturally, his Gravitational Space Profundity was not very powerful now. The bulk of his strength came from his Celestial Origin Energy that was equivalent to that of a Celestial Lord now. With the Celestial Origin Energy of a Celestial Lord, it was naturally incredibly powerful even if he had only cast the law of earth's Earth Elemental Profundity and the Gravitational Space Profundity that he barely comprehended!

Meanwhile, the pull of gravity in the Black Rock Prison was so strong that the middle-aged man was doubled over at this moment.

"Ahhh!" The middle-aged man roared as his Celestial Origin Energy boosted by the law of water's Water Elemental Profundity surged. He was clearly trying his best to break free from the prison. Alas, nothing he did affect the Black Rock Prison at all.

"I... I-I can't escape... I'm going... g-going to d-die!" Fear flashed in the middle-aged man's eyes. He was certain he was going to die.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the middle-aged man expressionlessly and said, "Tell me who hired you, and I might show you mercy. After all, as an assassin, you're just doing your job."

Contrary to Duan Ling Tian's expectation, the middle-aged man's expression suddenly turned eerily calm, and a sinister smile bloomed on his face. Soon after, he shone with a blindingly bright blue light before he exploded into a blood mist in the Black Rock Prison, leaving only his armor and Spatial Ring behind.

“He committed suicide?” Duan Ling Tian frowned slightly. “Well, it’s not surprising... After all, for the Blood Skull Gang to gain such notoriety, their assassins definitely would not give away their clients’ names so easily...”

Duan Ling Tian speculated out loud, “However, assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory have a rule of demanding half of the price as a deposit before they make their moves.... Since I have his Spatial Ring, I might be able to find the deposit he received and find some clues about the person who hired him to assassinate me... However, that’s only under the condition that the person is from the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion Sect. Nevertheless, I don’t think there’s anyone outside of the Profound Nether Mansion who knows me, let alone wants me dead. Regions under the Profound Nether Mansion have prominent Celestial Crystals, at most. An organization like the Blood Skull Gang isn’t lacking in prominent Celestial Crystals. This means that person most likely used other items to hire the assassin...”

Duan Ling Tian continued murmuring to himself, coming to a conclusion, “Although there are a few people whom I killed in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm who had extraordinary backgrounds, there’s no way the forces behind them know I’m the murderer. Therefore, it’s impossible that those people hired an assassin to kill me. It’s highly likely that the person who hired the assassin is from the Simplicity Celestial Sect.”

With this thought in mind, a name appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s mind: Zheng Hong Yi. He had met Zheng Hong Yi, the third direct disciple of Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, when he first arrived at the sect. “Based on the other inner disciples’ words, Zheng Hong Yi was one of the candidates who was considered for the final position of a true disciple before I was given the spot. When I met him, I could see his jealousy and hatred. Could he be the one who hired the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang? However, how did he manage to hire an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang? The gang is very selective of their clients, after all...”

With all these questions in mind, Duan Ling Tian returned to the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate. “When I return to the sect, I’ll look for the sect leader. Perhaps, there are some items in the assassin’s Spatial Ring that he’ll be able to identify if they belonged to Zheng Hong Yi. With that, I’ll be able to determine if Zheng Hong Yi is the culprit.”

Despite being the direct disciples of the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian was aware that Zheng Hong Yi was of average talent compared to Sun Liang Peng’s other direct disciples. This was also one of the reasons Zheng Hong Yi was not selected as a true disciple in the end.

Duan Ling Tian was confident Sun Liang Peng would not shield Zheng Hong Yi if Zheng Hong Yi truly turned out to be the culprit. Regardless if Sun Liang Peng dealt with Zheng Hong Yi privately or openly, Duan Ling Tian was certain Sun Liang Peng would not let Zheng Hong Yi go unpunished if Zheng Hong Yi was found guilty.

If Duan Ling Tian was merely an ordinary inner disciple from the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Sun Liang Peng might not have cared. However, Duan Ling Tian was well aware of his value to Sun Liang Peng from the way Sun Liang Peng had treated him when he joined the Simplicity Celestial Sect.

...

Meanwhile, the Blood Skull Gang had already received the message the assassin sent before he committed suicide.

“The target, Duan Ling Tian, might be a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, but he has a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon or Celestial Talisman that granted him the strength of a Celestial Lord... I have failed my mission.”

After the Blood Skull Gang received the Communication Celestial Talisman, the liaison for this job, Chen Li, the illegitimate son of one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang, was also informed about the matter immediately.

“What?! Duan Ling Tian possessed a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon or a Celestial Talisman that granted him the strength of a Celestial Lord?” Chen Li was stunned. Naturally, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian to possess such an item.

“It’s even more likely now that he’s the reincarnation of a Celestial. Moreover, he must have been remarkable in his past life. He must have recovered his memories and managed to retrieve all these extraordinary items from his past life.” In Chen Li’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian’s consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon or Celestial Talisman that could grant him the powers of a Celestial Lord had to be something Duan Ling Tian left behind in his past life. Moreover, he was certain Duan Ling Tian was not just the reincarnation of a Celestial Lord, but Duan Ling Tian had to be the reincarnation of an extraordinary Celestial Lord.

Chapter 3057: I Killed Him

In the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate in one of the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control.

In a secluded valley, Zheng Hong Yi and Wang Hong were sitting in front of a stone table waiting for the message from the Blood Skull Gang’s assassin to inform them of his mission completion.

“What’s taking him so long?” Wang Hong furrowed her brows. “With his strength, it should be easy for him to kill Duan Ling Tian. He should’ve sent us a message by now, notifying us of the job completion.”

“I agree. Although I’ve confirmed the matter with him, is it possible he’s being cautious and taking his time to make sure Duan Ling Tian didn’t bring anyone with him?” Zheng Hong Yi speculated out loud.

“That’s possible. Why don’t you send him another message and urge him to finish the job quickly?” Wang Hong suggested.

Zheng Hong Yi nodded slightly.

Wang Hong waited as Zheng Hong Yi sent a message to the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang. Suddenly, she noticed the drastic change of expression on his face. An ominous feeling rose in her heart, and a frown appeared on her face as she asked, “What’s wrong?”

“H-he... He’s d-dead!” Zheng Hong Yi replied with a trembling voice. A feeling of dread welled up in his heart.

“Wh-what?!” Wang Hong was taken aback.

Zheng Hong Yi raised his hand, revealing a shattered Soul Pearl lying on his palm. “T-this is the assassin’s Soul Pearl that I’ve been using to communicate with him.”

“D-dead? H-how’s that possible!” Wang Hong looked at him incredulously, “Is it possible that Duan Ling Tian sought help from your master? Is it possible that your master sought help from powerhouses who aren’t from the sect to help Duan Ling Tian?” This was the only reason Wang Hong could think of. Not even in her wildest dreams could she have expected that Duan Ling Tian was the one who had forced the assassin to his death.

“I have no idea...” Zheng Hong Yi shook his head. He was still stunned, unable to regain his senses.

After calming herself down, Wang Hong said, “Contact Young Master Chen. The Blood Skull Gang should be the first to know if their assassins are dead. Moreover, the assassin had most likely sent a message back to the gang before he died.”

Zheng Hong Yi took out another Soul Pearl and sent a Communication Celestial Talisman to the owner through the soul mark imprinted on the pearl. The owner of the Soul Pearl was none other than the illegitimate son of one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang, Chen Li.

“Young Master Chen... The Soul Pearl left by the assassin you sent has shattered. H-he’s dead. Did he send a message back to the organization before his death?” Zheng Hong Yi asked without beating around the bush.

As the duo waited for Chen Li’s reply, Wang Hong asked, “Zheng Hong Yi... Do you think the assassin managed to kill Duan Ling Tian before he died?”

“I have no idea.” Zheng Hong Yi shook his head. “We’ll have to wait for Young Master Chen’s reply to find out what happened. I hope the assassin managed to send a message back before his death.”

Wang Hong nodded slightly.

The duo continued to wait in silence. As time continued to pass, their expressions turned grimmer and grimmer.

“It’s here!” Zheng Hong Yi exclaimed suddenly as his eyes lit up.

Wang Hong instinctively turned to look at Zheng Hong Yi. Her eyes were shining brightly as well.

It did not take long before Zheng Hong Yi’s expression changed drastically as his eyes widened in shock.

“What’s wrong?” Wang Hong asked.

Zheng Hong Yi remained silent. He was shocked to the core by the message he had just received from Chen Li.

The content of Chen Li’s message was as such: Zheng Hong Yi, the assassin from our Blood Skull Gang has failed his mission. Based on the rules of our organization, the mission will continue and our price will be reduced by half. Since the dead assassin had collected half the price, you no longer need to make any

payment. We will arrange for another assassin to take care of Duan Ling Tian. However, we'll need your cooperation if it's deemed necessary.

"Young Master Chen, do you know who killed the assassin? Was he killed by a powerhouse from the Simplicity Celestial Sect?" Zheng Hong Yi asked.

"No." Chen Li lightly replied and dispelled all of Zheng Hong Yi's thoughts with his following remark, "You don't need to know how he died... All you need to know is that the Blood Skull Gang will complete this mission."

Zheng Hong Yi's expression changed drastically after hearing Chen Li's words. He no longer dared to ask any questions.

At this moment, Wang Hong asked again, "Zheng Hong Yi, has Young Master Chen replied to you?"

"Yes." Zheng Hong Yi finally returned to his senses. He nodded slightly. "Young Master Chen said the assassin failed his mission... However, the Blood Skull Gang will complete the mission of killing Duan Ling Tian!"

"He failed?" Wang Chen's heart sank. "Did he say how the assassin failed? Was he killed by a powerhouse from the Simplicity Celestial Sect?"

"I asked him the same question, but all he said was the Blood Skull Gang will see the job to its end. Rest assured, even if the assassin died, our involvement won't be exposed. The Blood Skull Gang is known for protecting their clients' identities..." Zheng Hong Yi said.

Wang Hong narrowed her eyes and looked at Zheng Hong Yi knowingly as she said, "Zheng Hong Yi, based on what I know, the Blood Skull Gang has a rule that if they fail the first attempt, the price would be reduced by half..."

Zheng Hong Yi knew he could not hope to profit from this when he heard Wang Hong's words. He sighed before he took out two ordinary purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons and handed them over to her.

Wang Hong received it with a smug expression on her face.

"Wang Hong, Young Master Chen said that the Blood Skull Gang might need us to cooperate with the new assassin. If you don't want to be involved in this matter anymore, pass me the two King Grade Celestial Weapons I've just given you first in case further payment needs to be made," Zheng Hong Yi said in a last-ditch attempt to regain his prized King Grade Celestial Weapons.

Wang Hong only sneered as she put away the two King Grade Celestial Weapons and retorted, "Zheng Hong Yi, why wouldn't I be involved? The Blood Skull Gang won't expose both of us. I don't mind cooperating with them to kill Duan Ling Tian as long as it's within my capabilities."

All of a sudden, a thought appeared in Zheng Hong Yi's mind, causing his expression to change dramatically again. "Wang Hong, if I'm not mistaken, the purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord that you gave to the assassin was obtained from the Profound Nether Mansion by your grandfather, right?"

Wang Hong was puzzled; she did not know why Zheng Hong Yi would ask such a question.

“Since the assassin is dead, his Spatial Ring must have gone to the person who killed him. If the person who killed him is a powerhouse from the Simplicity Celestial Sect, it’s possible that the powerhouse might be able to recognize your King Grade Celestial Weapon in the assassin’s Spatial Ring...” Zheng Hong Yi said solemnly as he looked at Wang Hong.

The gravity of the situation finally dawned on Wang Hong after she heard Zheng Hong Yi’s words. Her expression changed drastically as well. Indeed, the King Grade Celestial Weapon she had given the assassin was given to her by her grandfather. Most of the powerhouses stronger than Celestial Kings in the Simplicity Celestial Sect knew about that King Grade Celestial Weapon that used to be in her grandfather’s possession.

“Wang Hong, I think you should discuss this matter with your grandfather. If sh*t happens, I’m afraid you’re going to get in trouble if you don’t have your grandfather’s support,” Zheng Hong Yi said with a panicked expression on his face. His first thought was not to push all the blame on Wang Hong. After all, he knew, based on her temperament, if something were to happen to her, she would definitely drag him down with her.

“I’ll look for my grandfather at once...” Wang Hong did not waste any time and took flight to search for her grandfather.

After Wang Hong left, Zheng Hong Yi muttered under his breath with a grim expression on his face, “I didn’t expect it’d be troublesome to kill a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial... If the person who killed the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang is a powerhouse from the Simplicity Celestial Sect, that person must have already returned to the sect to report to master, right?”

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian went to look for Sun Liang Peng as soon as he returned to the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate.

Sun Liang Peng was slightly surprised when he saw Duan Ling Tian. He asked, “Duan Ling Tian, what brings you here?”

“Sect leader...” Duan Ling Tian began to recount what happened. He told Sun Liang Peng how he was lured out of the sect’s estate by an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang.

“What?! The Blood Skull Gang?!” A horrified expression appeared on Sun Liang Peng’s face as soon as Duan Ling Tian mentioned the assassin was from the Blood Skull Gang. “Why didn’t you inform me about this earlier?”

“I was worried that he had really captured Huan’er. If that was the case, I might jeopardize her life by telling you about it,” Duan Ling Tian explained.

“What happened after that?” Sun Liang Peng asked. He was drenched in cold sweat imagining what could have happened. Fortunately, Duan Ling Tian returned safely.

“After that...” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes glinted coldly as he slowly said, “... I killed him...”

Chapter 3058: The Suspect

“What?!” Although Sun Liang Peng, as the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, had experienced and seen many things in life, he was still shocked when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. Beads of cold sweat could be seen on his forehead after he found out someone had hired an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill Duan Ling Tian. He had assumed that some powerhouse had appeared at the critical moment and saved Duan Ling Tian. Not even in his wildest dreams did he expect Duan Ling Tian to say that he had killed the assassin. The Blood Skull Gang was one of the top three assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory; even the weakest assassin was a One Basic Celestial King. Most, if not all, of the One Basic Celestial Kings in the Blood Skull Gang had comprehended a few profundities of a law so they were much stronger than ordinary One Basic Celestial Kings in the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control. Moreover, the Blood Skull Gang was comparable to a grade-five force. For this reason, they were not lacking King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities.

After a moment of silence, Sun Liang Peng looked at Duan Ling Tian and tentatively asked, “Duan Ling Tian, y-you’re joking, right?”

“Sect leader, there’s no reason for me to joke about this,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a shrug. At the same time, he released his formidable Divine Consciousness and let it shroud Sun Liang Peng.

As soon as Sun Liang Peng sensed Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Consciousness, his expression changed drastically. He felt the domineering aura easily confining him, making him feel like a helpless and lonely boat in the middle of a storm that would capsize at any moment.

‘T-this... I-isn’t this the Divine Consciousness of a Ten Directions Celestial King?!’ Sun Liang Peng’s heart thumped wildly in his chest. It felt similar to the time when he felt pressured by the Divine Consciousness of a Vice Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion. His expression soon changed to one of incredulity as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

After a brief moment, Duan Ling Tian withdrew his Divine Consciousness.

When Sun Liang Peng regained his senses, he asked in shock, “Duan Ling Tian, w-why is your Divine Consciousness so powerful?!”

Duan Ling Tian stared at Sun Liang Peng and asked, “Sect Leader, would you believe me if I say my Divine Consciousness was even more powerful than this when I killed the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang?”

“More powerful than this? Does this mean your Divine Consciousness was comparable to the Divine Consciousness of a Celestial Lord at that time?” Soon after, realization dawned on Sun Liang Peng, and he quickly asked, “C-could it be that you possess a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon?”

Although there were some powerful Celestial Talismans capable of raising one’s Celestial Origin Energy and Divine Consciousness to those of a Celestial Lord, the effects would only last a short while before one’s strength reverted to its original state. However, consumable Celestial Weapons were different. The improved strength would decrease according to one’s usage of it. For example, when Duan Ling Tian first used his consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, his strength was that of a Celestial Lord. After killing the assassin, his strength had dropped to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King.

“Isn’t that obvious?” Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

After Sun Liang Peng recovered from his shock, he asked, “Duan Ling Tian, did you obtain your consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?”

“No. I obtained it elsewhere.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“How many times can you use it?” Sun Liang Peng asked solemnly.

Duan Ling Tian feigned a grim expression as he replied, “Twice... This is my second time using it so I’ve used it all up.” He had deliberately hidden the fact that he still had one more use. Who knew if Sun Liang Peng would covet his consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon? After all, consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapons were tempting even to sect leaders of grade-seven sects such as Sun Liang Peng. It was not surprising since the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon could raise one’s Divine Consciousness and Celestial Origin Energy to the level of a Celestial Lord.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Sun Liang Peng smiled wryly and said, “What a waste... Duan Ling Tian, you should have informed me about it. I could’ve secretly protected you... Since you’re just a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, it’s likely that the Blood Skull Gang had sent an assassin weaker than me. He wouldn’t have discovered my presence even if I were to follow you there.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Sun Liang Peng meaningfully and said, “What if the person who hired the assassin is from the Simplicity Celestial Sect? What if he came to look for you and found you missing? It wouldn’t have taken much for him to guess where you’ve gone.”

“Duan Ling Tian, are you saying that you suspect someone from our Simplicity Celestial Sect hired an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill you?” Sun Liang Peng was shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

“That’s a possibility...” Duan Ling Tian said.

“Do you have evidence to prove your suspicion?” Sun Liang Peng asked as his eyes glinted coldly. If it was true that someone from the Simplicity Celestial Sect was behind this assassination attempt, he would not let that person get away with it.

“Unfortunately, no.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“Did you have any conflict with anyone since you arrived in the Simplicity Celestial Sect?” Sun Liang Peng asked.

“There isn’t any conflict... However, I think my presence has negatively affected some people’s interests. It’s possible they want me dead because of a conflict of interest,” Duan Ling Tian said.

“A conflict of interest? You’ve only arrived in the Simplicity Celestial Sect a few months ago... How could this be?” Sun Liang Peng asked, puzzled.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Sun Liang Peng meaningfully and slowly spat out two words, “True disciple...”

Sun Liang Peng’s eyes narrowed as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. “Indeed. This might cause a conflict of interest. Before you came along, there were three potential candidates for the position of the

final true disciple. There's my direct disciple, Zheng Hong Yi. However, the cost of hiring an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang is too high. Based on what I know about him, he can't afford the price. Then, there's Wang Hong. She's the granddaughter of the Grand Elder of our Simplicity Celestial Sect. I don't think she's capable of hiring an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang as well. Finally, there's Zhuang Fan. He's rather mysterious. We found nothing even after we tried to investigate his identity and background. In fact, the grand elder wanted to recruit him as a direct disciple, but he rejected the grand elder," Sun Liang Peng said.

"Mysterious?" Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow. "Does this mean you think Zhuang Fan is most likely to be the one who hired the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang?"

"Not necessarily... Although Zhuang Fan's origin is a mystery, he's not as... passionate as Zheng Hong Yi and Wang Hong in regard to becoming the sect's true disciple," Sun Liang Peng said, "Naturally, it's possible that he's only putting up a front."

As though he had just recalled something, Sun Liang Peng suddenly turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said, "The Blood Skull Gang is one of the top assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory. Half of the price has to be paid upfront as a deposit before the assassins make a move. If it's really one of those three who had hired the assassin, they must have already paid the deposit. The Profound Nether Mansion only has prominent Celestial Crystals, but the Blood Skull Gang wouldn't be interested in prominent Celestial Crystals..." He paused for a moment before he continued to speculate out loud, "This means whoever hired the Blood Skull Gang must have used something else as payment. In my opinion, it has to be King Grade Celestial Weapons, at least, or possibly King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords..."

"King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords? Am I worth such a price?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback. He was just a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, why would his life be worth so much?

"The Blood Skull Gang is one of the top assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory. Therefore, their price is, naturally, higher compared to other ordinary assassin organizations. Moreover, they need to travel quite a distance to kill you so the price would, naturally, be higher," Sun Liang Peng explained. It seemed like he was rather knowledgeable about the Blood Skull Gang.

"This is the assassin's Spatial Ring." Duan Ling Tian took out a Spatial Ring and emptied the contents out of the ring. In just a moment, a pile of items appeared on the ground. "Sect leader, please have a look and see if there's anything you find familiar..."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Sun Liang Peng wasted no time in looking through the items.

"Hm?" When Sun Liang Peng shifted his gaze to one of the items, his eyes narrowed immediately.

Although Sun Liang Peng had tried to conceal his reaction, it did not escape Duan Ling Tian's notice.

Duan Ling Tian watched as Sun Liang Peng deliberately looked away from the item that had clearly caught his attention. Then, he picked up an armor glowing with green light before he said in a leisurely tone, "Sect leader, it seems like you're familiar with one of the items..."

Chapter 3059: Want Qian Zhan

Sun Liang Peng smiled somewhat sheepishly when he saw Duan Ling Tian holding the armor glowing with green light.

Duan Ling Tian stared at Sun Liang Peng intently as he said, "This seems to be a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord. It's likely used as the payment to kill me. It's truly a high price to pay..." The corners of his mouth lifted into a cold smirk as he continued to say, "Sect leader, are you going to continue pretending you don't recognize this King Grade Celestial Weapon?"

Sun Liang Peng did not deny Duan Ling Tian's words. Instead, he answered honestly, "This King Grade Celestial Weapon belongs to Wang Qian Zhan, the Grand Elder of our Simplicity Celestial Sect... I know he possesses such a King Grade Celestial Weapon, but I can't say for sure if he had given it to someone else."

"The Grand Elder of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Wang Qian Zhan?" Duan Ling Tian slightly raised an eyebrow as he speculated, "Sect leader, earlier, you mentioned one of three candidates who were considered for the position of a true disciple before I came along was Wang Hong, the Grand Elder's granddaughter, right? Based on your words, is it right to say that this King Grade Celestial Weapon was probably given to Wang Hong by the grand elder, and she had used it to pay an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill me? If the grand elder wanted to kill me, he could've done so himself without the need of hiring someone else..."

"The culprit is definitely not the grand elder!" Sun Liang Peng said confidently, "Moreover, it's also unlikely for Wang Hong to be the culprit. If she wants you dead, she could've asked the grand elder to kill you. Why would she go to such trouble to hire an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang? Why don't you come with me to meet the grand elder? We can ask him to whom he had given this Jade Light Armor to..." After he finished speaking, he beckoned to Duan Ling Tian to follow him.

Before leaving, Duan Ling Tian kept the items on the ground back in the Spatial Ring. After all, this was his reward for killing the One Basic Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang. There were quite a number of valuable things in there so he could not possibly discard them. Apart from the Jade Light Armor, there were a few other King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords in the Spatial Ring as well.

...

The name, Wang Qian Zhan, would make one envision a person with a muscular build. However, in reality, Wang Qian Zhan was rather skinny. Apart from the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang whom he had recently killed, Duan Ling Tian had never met anyone as skinny as Wang Qian Zhan.

"Sect leader." The grand elder bowed as he greeted Sun Liang Peng. Then, his eyes instinctively moved to Duan Ling Tian who was standing next to Sun Liang Peng.

"Grand elder." Sun Liang smiled slightly before he began to introduce Duan Ling Tian to Wang Qian Zhan. "This is Duan Ling Tian. You must have heard of him..."

Wang Qian Zhan nodded slightly before he said, "Of course... Our Simplicity Celestial Sect is blessed to have such a rare and peerless genius who hasn't been seen in the Profound Nether Mansion in the past 10,000 years!"

"Grand elder." Duan Ling Tian greeted Wang Qian Zhan. Then, he did not beat around the bush and directly brought the Jade Light armor out.

Sun Liang Peng did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be this direct.

"The Jade Light Armor!" Wang Qian Zhan exclaimed in shock. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked in confusion, "Duan Ling Tian, why is the Jade Light Armor in your possession? I'd traded it for some materials I needed to inscribe a Celestial Talisman three years ago..."

From the moment Duan Ling Tian had brought out the Jade Light Armor, he had been looking at Wang Qian Zhan intently to see if he could discover anything from Wang Qian Zhan's reactions and expressions. However, Wang Qian Zhan seemed genuinely surprised and confused by the Jade Light Armor in his hand.

Sun Liang Peng asked, "Grand elder, are you certain you traded it away three years ago?"

Wang Qian Zhan nodded without any hesitation. "I remember trading it for, at least, a dozen rare materials... Duan Ling Tian, are you an acquaintance of the sectless cultivator whom I traded with? If that's the case, we can be considered as fated..."

Duan Ling Tian's expression was calm as he continued to ask, "Grand elder, do you have any evidence to prove that you traded the Jade Light Armor away to a sectless cultivator for rare materials three years ago?"

"Evidence?" Wang Qian Zhan furrowed his brows slightly. "I'm afraid I don't have any evidence. However, I can confirm the Jade Light Armor in your hands is the one I used to own. The intricate patterns on its surface and its aura are exactly the same."

Every King Grade Celestial Weapon had its unique characteristics. Although some weapons might have similar appearances, if closely inspected, one would be able to see the differences between the auras of the weapons.

'Is he telling the truth?' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly, 'Is it possible that during our journey here the sect leader sent him a message to inform him of this matter so he could prepare himself?'

Duan Ling Tian knew if Sun Liang Peng decided to shield Wang Qian Zhan, even if he had the Jade Light Armor, it would be impossible for him to find out who had hired an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill him.

"Grand elder..." Sun Liang Peng began to recount what had happened to Duan Ling Tian to Wang Qian Zhan, including how they found the Jade Light Armor in the assassin's Spatial Ring.

"What?! T-the Blood Skull Gang?! Consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon?!" Wang Qian Zhan's expression changed drastically. He was clearly shocked.

'If Wang Qian Zhan is lying, then his acting is truly worthy of an award like those on earth,' Duan Ling Tian mused inwardly as he observed Wang Qian Zhan.

Sun Liang Peng concluded, "The assassin from the Blood Skull Gang most probably obtained the Jade Light Armor from the sectless cultivator you traded with three years ago."

"That must be it." Wang Qian Zhan nodded slightly. Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said with a hint of concern, "Duan Ling Tian, I understand you're worried the assassin might harm your friend, but you should've spoken to the sect leader. After all, if you're worried about the assassin discovering you've sought help, the sect leader could have asked powerhouses outside the sect to help you. With that, you wouldn't have had to use your consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon on a mere One Basic Celestial King. Although he was an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, it's still not worth it." It was clear he felt it was a waste that Duan Ling Tian had used his consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon.

Sun Liang Peng had only mentioned Duan Ling Tian suspected someone in the Simplicity Celestial Sect had hired the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, but he did not mention Wang Hong was one of the main suspects. For this reason, Wang Qian Zhan was rather calm.

'It looks like it's been a waste of time coming here... ' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself before he bade Sun Liang Peng and Wang Qian Zhan farewell. It did not matter if Wang Qian Zhan was lying or not since he did not have the evidence to prove Wang Hong had used the Jade Light Armor to hire the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang to kill him.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed with a terrifying killing intent as he continued thinking to himself, 'Wang Qian Zhan, you can protect your granddaughter for now. If I find out the Jade Light Armor is indeed given to the assassin by Wang Hong... Prepare to die with her when that time comes!'

Duan Ling Tian would have died if he did not have the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon! Therefore, he was eager to find out the culprit. Now that all signs pointed to Wang Hong, he would not easily let it go unless he found evidence that proved otherwise.

...

Meanwhile, after Sun Liang Peng left Wang Qian Zhan's residence, Wang Qian Zhan sent a Communication Celestial Talisman to his granddaughter. He recounted what he had learned from Sun Liang Peng and Duan Ling Tian's visit.

"Duan Ling Tian possesses a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, and he killed the One Basic Celestial King assassin from the Blood Skull Gang?" Wang Hong was stunned by this discovery. She did not expect this at all. Then, she quickly relayed what she had found out to Zheng Hong Yi.

...

"Duan Ling Tian has a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon that will raise his cultivation base and Divine Consciousness to that of a Celestial Lord?" Similar to Wang Hong, Zheng Hong Yi was shocked when he found Duan Ling Tian was the one who had killed the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang.

Chapter 3060: Six Combos Celestial King

“Duan Ling Tian... Who is he exactly? He even has a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon!”

Wang Hong and Zheng Hong Yi were similarly shocked.

“Zheng Hong Yi, do you think it’s possible that Duan Ling Tian is a reincarnation of a powerful Celestial Lord? Is there a possibility the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon is something he left behind in his past life?” Wang Hong asked Zheng Hong Yi through a Communication Celestial Talisman.

“There’s a high possibility of that...” Zheng Hong Yi replied.

“Unfortunately, we’re too weak... Otherwise, we can claim everything he owns after he dies!” Wang Hong said greedily.

“It’s impossible for me... However, it’s not impossible for you to claim his possessions...” Zheng Hong Yi replied.

“It’s not impossible for me?” Wang Hong asked in confusion. Her interest was piqued.

“Well, if the grand elder is willing to kill Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian’s possessions will, naturally, go to him. At that time, as his granddaughter, wouldn’t you have the pick of Duan Ling Tian’s possessions?” Zheng Hong Yi said, clearly trying to tempt Wang Hong.

...

After returning to his residence, Duan Ling Tian received a message from Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, as soon as he stepped foot into his room.

“Duan Ling Tian, according to the rules of the Blood Skull Gang, if their assassin failed a mission, they would send another assassin to finish the job. Additionally, the price would be halved. Therefore, it’s best if you don’t leave the grounds of the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate at all... If you must leave, at least inform me about it so that I can assign someone to protect you.” Sun Liang Peng’s voice was solemn. It was clear he took the threats of an assassin from the Blood Skull Gang very seriously.

“Thank you for your reminder, sect leader.” Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew the Blood Skull Gang would not give up so easily. He had learned about this while he was in the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s inner sect library. Nevertheless, he still thanked Sun Liang Peng for Sun Liang Peng’s kind intention.

‘After killing the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, my current cultivation base is roughly that of a Ten Directions Celestial King. However, because my comprehension of the profundities isn’t too deep, if I have to face a Five Elements Celestial King who has comprehended the same number of profundities as the assassin I killed, it’d be impossible for me to defend myself unless I use the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword,’ Duan Ling Tian thought himself.

The deeper one comprehended a profundity, the greater one’s improvement would be. The improvements could even be a few times greater.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian shook his head and thought to himself, 'I should focus on fully comprehending the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity now... As long as the assassin the Blood Skull Gang sends isn't too powerful, I should be capable of defending myself with my current cultivation base if I have a better comprehension of the Pillaging Profundity.'

He no longer wasted time and focused on comprehending the law of fire's Pillaging Profundity. With the Chaos Divine Flame's help, he progressed rapidly.

...

Meanwhile, at the borders of the Profound Nether Mansion.

Swoosh!

A black figure crossed the Profound Nether Mansion's territories in just a blink of an eye. He was the new assassin that the Blood Skull Gang had sent to kill Duan Ling Tian. At this moment, he muttered to himself as he flew in the sky, "What's going through the organization's mind? Is it necessary to send me out for this job? The target is essentially like a Ten Directions Celestial King who has only comprehended two profundities from the law of earth. Any Four Phenomenons Celestial King from the organization is more than capable of killing him!"

A Three Talents or Four Phenomenons Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang was much stronger than a One Basic Celestial King. It was fairly easy for a Four Phenomenons Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang to kill someone who was no different from a Ten Directions Celestial King who had only comprehended two profundities from a law.

"Unless he has comprehended more than four profundities, he'd die if he meets a Six Combos Celestial King like me!" The assassin was clearly very confident about killing Duan Ling Tian. After all, Six Combos Celestial Kings from the Blood Skull Gang had strength comparable to leaders of ordinary grade-seven forces. For this reason, he felt it was a waste that the Blood Skull Gang sent him to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware that the Blood Skull Gang had already sent a Six Combos Celestial King to assassinate him.

...

A month later.

In the valley where the true disciples and inner disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect resided.

A figure flew out from one of the inner disciples' residences. He was enthusiastically greeted by his peers as soon as he appeared.

"Senior Brother Zheng!"

This person was none other than Zheng Hong Yi, the third direct disciple of Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect.

'It has only been a month, but the new assassin from the Blood Skull Gang has arrived? It took the previous assassin a few months before he arrived. It seems like this assassin is much stronger than the previous one. Well, it's only natural they'd sent someone powerful. After all, I've told Young Master Chen that Duan Ling Tian possesses a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. That was how he killed the previous assassin. His current strength is still comparable to a Ten Directions Celestial King!' Zheng Hong Yi thought to himself, 'It's unlikely that the Blood Skull Gang has sent a Ten Directions Celestial King here... Although Duan Ling Tian's strength is comparable to a Ten Directions Celestial King due to the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, he has only comprehended two profundities from the law of earth. One of them is law of earth's Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity.'

He continued to speculate inwardly, 'A Three Talents or Four Phenomenons Celestial King from the Blood Skull Gang is more than enough to kill him... The profundities the assassins from the Blood Skull Gang comprehended aren't any weaker than elders with the same cultivation bases from the Simplicity Celestial Sect. To take only one month to travel here, the assassin has to be a Three Talents Celestial King, at least!'

Zheng Hong Yi's eyes flashed with excitement. Before he left the valley, he looked at one of the true disciples' residences and sneered. 'Duan Ling Tian, your time's up... It's best if you stay in your residence like a coward. Otherwise, you'll certainly die!'

...

This time Zheng Hong Yi had left the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate alone to meet the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang without informing Wang Hong.

Chen Li, the illegitimate child of one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang, had a designated place where Zheng Hong Yi would meet with the assassin.

Previously, Zheng Hong Yi had only brought Wang Hong along since she had to pay the deposit. However, there was no need for further payment to be made so he did not bother to inform Wang Hong at all.

Finally, Zheng Hong Yi met with the assassin in a remote and desolate canyon.

"Senior," Zheng Hong Yi greeted the man respectfully.

The assassin was a middle-aged man with a medium build. He wore the assassins' standard long black robe from the Blood Skull Gang. His appearance was average, but his eyes were fierce and cold.

Zheng Hong Yi felt chills running up his spine when he met the assassin's eyes.

The middle-aged man looked at Zheng Hong Yi and said nonchalantly, "I'll try to lure the target out... However, if you're able to lure the target out, the Blood Skull Gang will reward you with ten bottles of Duke Grade Celestial Pills."

The assassin's strength was on par with Sun Liang Peng's strength. It would be difficult for them to defeat each other. He was also confident he would be able to breach the Simplicity Celestial Sect's defense to kill Duan Ling Tian and escape unharmed. However, he did not dare to do so. This was because the Profound Nether Mansion would not let this matter slide even if the Simplicity Celestial Sect was just a grade-seven force. If the Profound Nether Mansion mobilized their forces, it would be difficult

for him to leave the Profound Nether Mansion's territories after he completed his mission. This was because the estates of the Three Sects and Two Clans were protected by special Formations. An indelible mark would appear on his body once he entered the estates, even if it was just for a short time. With the mark, the Profound Nether Mansion would have no problem tracking him. Once he was found, the inspectors from the Profound Nether Mansion would surely kill him.

"Ten bottles of Duke Grade Celestial Pills?" Zheng Hong Yi's eyes lit up when he heard the middle-aged man's words.

Duke Grade Celestial Pills were beneficial to Celestial Dukes, similar to how Overarching Heaven Pills were beneficial to Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials. Despite the same effects, Duke Grade Celestial Dukes were far more valuable and rare compared to Overarching Heaven Pills.

Although Zheng Hong Yi was the third direct disciple of the Sect Leader of Simplicity Celestial Sect, Duke Grade Celestial Pills were still valuable to him. He would only use them if he was very close to a breakthrough. In the Devata Realms, a bottle of Duke Grade Celestial Pills would contain ten pills. With ten bottles, it meant that he would possess 100 pills!

After the two men exchanged Soul Pearls, Zheng Hong Yi returned to the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate. He could barely contain his excitement whenever he thought about the ten bottles of Duke Grade Celestial Pills. He thought to himself eagerly, 'How can I lure Duan Ling Tian away from the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate?'