

Chapter 3121: The Law of Wood

The Profound Nether Mansion's Vice Mansion Masters and the ten inspectors had considerably high status in the Mansion, and yet, even they had not met the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion?

After listening to Qi Tian Ming's words, Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel inwardly impressed by the mysterious Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion.

After 15 minutes, Qi Tian Ming brought Duan Ling Tian into a vast valley.

The valley was beautiful with clear streams and lush greeneries.

Qi Tian Ming brought Duan Ling Tian to a waterfall on one side of the valley. They stood on a huge boulder in front of the waterfall.

Qi Tian Ming stood on the boulder with his back straightened before he bowed slightly in the direction of the waterfall. He infused his Celestial Origin Energy into his voice before he said, "The Profound Nether Mansion's Inspector Qi Tian Ming requests to enter the Imperial Tutor Pavilion to meet the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion."

Qi Tian Ming's voice that had been laced with Celestial Origin Energy ensured that his voice traveled beyond the waterfall, but there was no reply.

Duan Ling Tian frowned slightly. Was the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion really behind the waterfall? Was it possible that the waterfall was not real and was merely the product of an Illusory Formation?

After ten breaths had passed, there was still no reply. Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Qi Tian Ming and said, "Maybe no one's here?"

Qi Tian Ming remained calm and indifferent as though he had expected this. He continued looking at the waterfall and said. "Lord Pavilion Master, I've brought this young man next to me here so he could take the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's test to become an Imperial Tutor. I think he has the potential to be the first Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion in 30,000 years!"

After Qi Tian Ming finished speaking, there was still no response. However, he continued speaking, undeterred, "His name is Duan Ling Tian. He's a peerless prodigy whom Sect Leader Sun Liang Peng of the Simplicity Celestial Sect found. He's not even 100 years old, but he's already a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Moreover, he has comprehended six profundities from the law of space."

This time, as soon as Qi Tian Ming finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian saw the waterfall that was flowing down stir slightly. Although it was just a minor change, it did not escape his notice. At the same time, he felt as though he was being thoroughly examined from inside and out. It made him feel vulnerable. Despite feeling this way, he could not sense anyone's presence at all. However, he knew someone was using their Divine Consciousness to probe him, and it was likely that the culprit was the person behind

the waterfall. The reason he could not detect anyone's presence was probably due to how powerful the other person was.

Duan Ling Tian who felt exposed as though he had no secrets left suddenly heard a low and hoarse voice saying, "He stays. You may go now."

The voice sounded as though it came from all directions.

For Qi Tian Ming, he felt as though his soul was cleansed when he heard that voice. The voice seemed magical. He could not help but tremble inwardly, in fear and awe.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian did not seem to be affected much compared to Qi Tian Ming.

It seemed like the higher one's cultivation base was, the more one would be affected by the voice.

"Lord Pavilion Master?" Qi Tian Ming's eyes were bright. Apart from not having met the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion before, he had also never heard the pavilion master's voice before. He could not help but feel slightly excited when he heard the pavilion master speak; it took him a while before he finally managed to calm down. Due to how his soul felt as though it was being cleansed when he heard that voice, he was 100% certain the person who had spoken was none other than the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. Who else in the Profound Nether Mansion could affect a Ten Directions Celestial King with just his voice alone? Not even the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion was capable of something like that.

Qi Tian Ming was still in a daze when a scoff rang from behind the waterfall. At the same time, the water began to stir violently.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Countless water droplets like scattered pearls shot toward Qi Tian Ming in the air. However, they disappeared suddenly when they were still quite a distance away from him. Nonetheless, the water droplets might have disappeared, but the wind generated from the attack swept out and hit Qi Tian Ming's face.

Duan Ling Tian's robes fluttered in the air.

The wind hit Qi Tian Ming who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian like a truck. Although he tried to resist, he was still sent flying back like a helpless puppy.

Boom!

A loud noise resounded in the air as Qi Tian Ming crashed into the side of the valley. After the dust settled, he appeared, looking miserable. His appearance was in a mess, and blood could be seen on the corners of his lips. He wiped the blood off the corners of his lips before he bowed in the direction of the waterfall and said, "Thank you for showing mercy, my lord!"

Before Qi Tian Ming left, he sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian, "Duan Ling Tian, don't worry about staying here. With your achievements at such a young age, the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion won't make your stay here difficult. I'll come back for you once you pass the test."

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian only regained his senses when he heard Qi Tian Ming’s Voice Transmission. He had been shocked when Qi Tian Ming was sent flying. When the wind swept toward them, the wind only ruffled his clothes, but Qi Tian Ming, a Ten Directions Celestial King, was sent flying like a puppet! One could just imagine how powerful the person behind the waterfall was based on this.

After a beat, Duan Ling Tian bowed slightly in the direction of the waterfall. “Senior.”

However, the waterfall was now gone. Only fragrant flowers and chirping birds could be seen. It was a harmonious scene. Clearly, just as he had suspected, the waterfall was just an illusion. What he was seeing now was real. As he was about to bow, he saw a plaque with the words ‘Imperial Tutor Pavilion’ on the entrance.

When he straightened his back, to his surprise, he found that his surroundings had changed again. He was now standing on a vast stone platform that seemingly had no end.

“Another illusion?” Duan Ling Tian squinted his eyes as he surveyed his surroundings.

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, a figure seemed to materialize out of thin air on the stone platform.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt as though he was looking into a mirror. This was because the figure that just appeared looked just like him. Appearance, height, clothes... Everything was the same! It was as though he was looking at his reflection. If it had to pick one difference, he would pick the eyes. As the saying went, ‘the eyes are the windows to the soul.’ The eyes of the person in front of him were lifeless like a zombie.

‘It seems like this is a test from the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion... If I pass the test, I’ll become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes lit up. At the same time, rich Celestial Origin Energy coursed through his 99 Heavenly Veins. It was brewing under his skin, ready to surge out at a moment’s notice.

‘Hmm?’ Duan Ling Tian stiffened when his opponent, the figure that looked exactly like him, began to make a move.

Bam!

His opponent stomped his foot on the ground, causing the ground to quake. At the same time, a green thorny bush grew before its thorny vines snaked toward Duan Ling Tian.

“The law of wood?” Duan Ling Tian watched as his opponent attacked with the vines. At the same time, deadly thorns shot toward him in the air as well. Their speed was so fast that Duan Ling Tian almost did not react in time despite his Celestial Origin Energy that was brewing under his skin.

‘Teleport!’ With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian hastily cast the law of space’s Teleportation Profundity with his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Space Elemental Profundity. In just an instant, he seemed to vanish into thin air.

After Duan Ling Tian teleported about 100 meters to the left, his opponent that looked exactly like him sneered in disdain. "Teleportation Profundity?"

Just like before, Duan Ling Tian could barely react when his opponent began to move his hands swiftly. Countless thorny vines began to surround him as they moved like snakes toward him. There were so many of them; they seemed to cover every inch of the ground.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

"No!" By the time Duan Ling Tian snapped back to his senses, he discovered his escape routes had been blocked. Vines covered the entire area within his teleportation range. He was trapped!

Chapter 3122: The Imperial Tutor Pavilion's Test

Currently, Duan Ling Tian had only comprehended the law of space's Teleportation Profundity to the rudimentary stage. The maximum range of his teleportation was a radius of 100 meters. Since his opponent had covered the ground within 100 meters with vines by using a profundity from the law of wood, he could no longer use the Teleportation Profundity. However, he remained calm. A smirk could be seen on his face as his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Space Elemental Profundity surged out of his body to form a space territory around him. 'Do you think that's all I can do?'

Duan Ling Tian had just cast the law of space's Territory Profundity. As soon as the space territory was formed, the thorny vines were attacked by the Space Energy in the territory. In just a blink of an eye, severed vines were strewn all over the ground.

Unfortunately, the thorny vines did not disappear. They began to glow green, and when the green light faded away, the thorny vines had been mended.

The energy inside the space territory kept trying to destroy the vines, but the vines would be mended after the green glow appeared and disappeared.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he thought to himself, 'Is this another profundity from the law of wood?' It did not escape his notice that from the beginning until now, his opponent, who looked like him, had cast quite a number of profundities from the law of wood. However, he noticed his opponent's cultivation base was similar to his; they were both Ten Directions Celestial Dukes.

'Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity!' Duan Ling Tian looked ahead as he cast another profundity from the law of space. A hissing noise rang in the air as cracks began to appear on the void around him. In just a blink of an eye, a streak of grey light that resembled a sword ray shot out from one of the cracks.

Swoosh!

The sword ray sailed in the air, leaving ripples in the void as it moved to cut the vines.

While Duan Ling Tian used the law of space's Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to defend himself, wooden thorns were sent his way again. They shot toward him like sharp arrows and glowed with green light. It was clear that the space territory would not be able to stop them. Even with the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, he could only stop some of the deadly thorns.

'Distortion Profundity!' Faced with this vicious attack, Duan Ling Tian's robes fluttered as the void around him began to ripple when he cast another profundity from the law of space.

The wooden thorns breached the barrier of the space territory and entered the distorted space. In just an instant, some of them were reduced to dust by the distorting and rippling void. Those that were not turned to dust continued shooting toward Duan Ling Tian like the god of death's scythe. They drew closer and closer to him.

'Did he use another profundity?' Duan Ling Tian stared at the wooden thorns that were drawing closer and closer despite the deadly distorted space. Moreover, not only were the wooden thorns not weakened, but it seemed like they had grown stronger as well. With this, he was rather certain his opponent had cast another profundity.

'Restraining Profundity!' Duan Ling Tian was aware of two possibilities: the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion was testing his strength to see if he was worthy or this was the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's test itself. He was more inclined toward the first possibility. Therefore, to showcase his strength, he cast another profundity from the law of space even though he had other means to defend himself.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes were trained on the wooden thorns, which were formed by Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Wood Elemental Profundity, as he used the Restraining Profundity to stop them in their tracks. At this moment, the wooden thorns seemed as though they were frozen in the air.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian effectively dealt with the wooden thorns using the Restraining Profundity, a blinding light flashed briefly in front of his eyes. When his vision returned to him, he discovered his opponent had vanished. Not only that, but he was no longer standing on the stone platform as well. It was as though the battle earlier did not happen at all.

'It's done?' Duan Ling Tian was back in the valley that was blooming with colorful flowers and the sound of birds chirping permeated the air. He saw an ancient palace in front of him, and the plaque with the words 'Imperial Tutor Pavilion' hanging on the entrance again as well.

At this moment, a low and hoarse voice rang in his ears. "Do you want to become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion?"

Duan Ling Tian could tell the voice belonged to the person who had sent Qi Tian Ming flying earlier. It must be the voice of the elusive Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion. Thus, he hurriedly responded, "Yes, senior."

"Why?"

Why? Duan Ling Tian was stunned when asked for the reason for him wanting to become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion. However, he quickly regained his senses and replied, "It is because this is the fastest way for me to join the Profound Nether Mansion... Moreover, after becoming the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion, I'll have access to the mansion's cultivation resources. With that, I'll be able to improve myself. The Profound Nether Mansion is the perfect stepping stone for me to leave the Southern Heaven Territory for a larger stage. I don't plan to stay in the Southern Heaven Territory forever!" He sounded extremely passionate when he spoke. To others, it might seem like he was arrogant and was unwilling to submit to mediocrity. It was as though he would

rather be ordinary in a bigger place rather than stay as the cream of the crop in the Southern Heaven Territory.

Only Duan Ling Tian knew that when he said he wanted to go to bigger places, he was not referring to any place in the Devata Realms. He was referring to the Divine Offering Land, a Realm of Gods. He was determined to go to the Divine Offering Realm after 1,000 years to save his wives, children, family, and friends. If he still did not possess strength superior to everyone in the Devata Realms at that time, everything would be for naught.

“You are ambitious but honest.” The low and hoarse voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears again. It was obvious the person was slightly taken aback by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

The place fell silent again.

Eventually, Duan Ling Tian broke the silence first. “Senior. Were you testing me earlier to see if I’m worthy or was it the Imperial Tutor Pavilion’s test?”

“I only wanted to test your strength. It’s not the Imperial Tutor Pavilion’s test. Your strength is impressive at your age. You’re certainly qualified to become the first Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion in 30,000 years. However, before that, you’ll first have to pass the test...”

“What test?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

The person did not beat around the bush and revealed the test to Duan Ling Tian. “Enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm and rank first. When you’re able to maintain the first place for 12 months in a row, that’s when you’ll become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion!”

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian could not help but smile wryly. “Senior, this is...” Although he had confidence in his current strength, he knew it would be difficult for him to maintain the first place on the scoreboard for the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm for 12 months consecutively.

During his journey to the Profound Nether Mansion, he had learned from Qi Ming Tian that the Ten Directions Celestial Dukes who represented various grade-six Celestial Mansions were all remarkable.

“You may give up and leave the Profound Nether Mansion. You can attempt to join the mansion again when the mansion recruits disciples from the Three Sects and Two Clans. It should be easy for you to pass the mansion’s entrance test.” Despite his words, the mysterious Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion seemed rather certain Duan Ling Tian would not give up. After all, Duan Ling Tian had expressed the reason he wanted to become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion was so he could join the mansion as quickly as he could.

“I agree,” Duan Ling Tian said with a hint of helplessness. He knew he had given himself away earlier with his words. However, it did not matter; his decision remained unchanged. Moreover, he was planning to enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm sooner or later. With the test, he would just have to enter the middle realm sooner than he had planned. Additionally, the test was in line with his plan to rank first for 24 months in a row so he could enter the clan that controlled the Profound Nether Mansion. The clan was one of the Ten Major Clans in the Southern Heaven Territory. Once he entered the clan, he would be among the elites of the Southern Heaven Territory.

Chapter 3123: Zhou Hong Jie

"I agree." As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, the valley seemed to regain its peace as the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion no longer spoke.

Duan Ling Tian waited for a moment before he called out, "Senior..."

Swoosh!

Before Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, a token flew out of the ancient palace. He raised his hand and caught it. After that, he lowered his head to look at the token. There were some complex patterns inscribed around the token's edges. The center of the token was blank. When he turned it around, he saw three bold words: Profound Nether Mansion. Underneath the three words were three smaller words: Outer Court Disciple.

"This identity token proves your status as the Profound Nether Mansion's outer court disciple. Inscribe your name on the blank space on the token and establish ownership by dripping a drop of your blood on it. With that, you're officially an outer disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion... With this identity, you'll be allowed to use the Transporting Formation that'll bring you to the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, obtain an Accumulative Jade, and enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm!" The Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears again after he caught the order token. "You're only allowed to stay in the middle realm for ten days every month. Ask the person who brought you here to arrange your accommodation in the mansion. Once you successfully maintain your position at number one for 12 months in a row, you'll become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion. At that time, you'll enjoy the privilege and the cultivation resources that come with that position."

Duan Ling Tian no longer said anything and contacted Qi Tian Ming immediately through a Communication Celestial Talisman. He had exchanged Soul Pearls with Qi Tian Ming during their journey to the Profound Nether Mansion so it was convenient for him to contact Qi Tian Ming.

...

"Maintain the first place on the scoreboard of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm for 12 months in a row?" Qi Tian Ming was stunned when he learned about the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's test from Duan Ling Tian. The test was too difficult! After all, Duan Ling Tian was not even 100 years old. In the history of the Southern Heaven Territory, there were no Ten Directions Celestial Dukes younger than the age of 100 who had placed first on the scoreboard. In fact, the number of Ten Directions Celestial Dukes below the age of 100 who had entered the middle realm was incredibly low as well. Moreover, the few Ten Directions Celestial Dukes under the age of 100 had only entered the middle realm for the experience. They would shatter their Accumulative Point Jades as soon as they met an opponent. And yet, the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion had said Duan Ling Tian could only become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion if he managed to maintain the first place for 12 months in a row!

If that had always been the requirement to become an Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion, Qi Tian Ming was no longer surprised there was no Imperial Tutor in the Profound Nether Mansion over

the last 30,000 years. If he did not meet Duan Ling Tian, there would not even be a chance of someone being selected as an Imperial Tutor candidate even after another 30,000 years had passed.

“That’s right.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I think the test is rather difficult as well... However, there’s nothing I can do but to agree to it.”

“Indeed. Even Lord Mansion Master wouldn’t be able to change the mind of the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, let alone someone like me,” Qi Tian Ming said with a sigh as he brought Duan Ling Tian back to his cultivation place, an independent courtyard located on another main island in the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate.

The cultivation environment in Qi Tian Ming’s residence was the best Duan Ling Tian had encountered since he ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven. Even the cultivation environment in the valley where the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion resided was not as good. Naturally, inside the pavilion master’s residence, the cultivation environment was undoubtedly superior.

“You can live with me temporarily.” Qi Tian Ming said.

“Elder Qi, will I bother you?” Duan Ling Tian could sense Qi Tian Ming’s kind intentions. “Since I’m an outer court disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion, I’m sure there is a residence for outer court disciples that I can stay in...”

“Of course, there’s a residence for the outer court disciples. However, the cultivation environment there can’t compare to the cultivation environment here,” Qi Tian Ming said, “It’s a waste of your talent to cultivate there. You can stay here for now. You’ll be able to live in the Imperial Tutor Pavilion once you pass the test. Although I’ve never been inside the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, I know the cultivation environment there is the best in the entire Profound Nether Mansion’s estate. Even the mansion master cultivates in seclusion there all the time.”

“The mansion master cultivated in seclusion in the Imperial Tutor Pavilion all the time?” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback when he learned that even the mansion master’s cultivation environment was inferior to the cultivation environment in the Imperial Tutor Pavilion.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not place too much importance on his cultivation environment since he had the Divine Tree of Life’s help, he still wanted to become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion. He might not care about his cultivation environment, but he cared about the cultivation resources that could quickly improve his strength.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi Tian Ming and asked, “Elder Qi, where’s the Transporting Formation to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?”

“Why? Are you planning on entering the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm now?” Qi Tian Ming was taken aback.

“During our journey here, didn’t you say the scoreboard would be refreshed at the start of the new month? There are only 7 days left before the start of the new month...” Duan Ling Tian said as his eyes flashed.

“You’re planning to spend these 7 days in the middle realm and rank first on the scoreboard?” Qi Tian Ming asked as he shook his head. “Duan Ling Tian, put aside the fact that the Celestial Dukes who enter

the middle realm are all extraordinary, even if you're so strong that you can defeat all of them, it's impossible for you to rank first if you enter now."

"Why?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled.

"It's because it's almost the end of the month. Most powerful Celestial Dukes have already used up the ten days they could spend in the middle realm and have obtained their points. Usually, the competition is most stiff at the beginning and the middle of the month. Therefore, near the end of the month, there are very few people in the middle realm. With so few people, even if you're invincible, you won't be able to obtain enough points to rank first," Qi Tian Ming said.

Since most of the stronger Celestial Dukes with a lot of points had used up their time in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, they could only wait for the scoreboard to be reset. It was not just strong Celestial Dukes, most Celestial Dukes had already used up their time in the middle realm at the end of the month. Therefore, just as Qi Tian Ming had said, even if Duan Ling Tian was invincible, he would not be able to rank first. How was he going to rank first if there was no one for him to defeat?

"I see." Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian still planned to enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Even if he would not be able to earn enough points to rank first this month, he would benefit from familiarizing himself with the middle realm. It would make things easier for him next month.

After Duan Ling Tian shared his thoughts with Qi Tian Ming, Qi Tian Ming agreed with him. "You have a point. I'll bring you the Transporting Formation closest to us now..."

Each of the three main islands in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate had a Transporting Formation that led to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian and Qi Tian Ming arrived at their destination. They had arrived outside of a huge courtyard. Unlike Qi Tian Ming's residence, the front yard was much more spacious.

At this moment, there were many people gathered in front of a screen in the middle of the yard. They would point at it occasionally as they spoke among themselves.

"Han Qing Mansion's Liu Ji only entered the middle realm five days ago, but he has accumulated so many points. Moreover, his points are still increasing! I think it won't be hard for him to rank in the top thirty this time."

"I'm keeping an eye on the Green Spirit Mansion's Leng Yun You. He's the latest person to break into the top twenty. In just an hour, his time in the middle realm would be up, but he's already in the eleventh place. He's close to surpassing the person who ranks tenth. He's only ten points away from overtaking the tenth place. I wonder if he'll be able to do it with just an hour left!"

"I have my eyes on Leng Yun You as well... He ranked in the top ten quite frequently last year. I don't think it'd be difficult for him to rank in the top ten again."

The people discussing among themselves in the yard made for a very lively scene.

"I think Senior Brother Zhou Hong Jie hasn't ranked in the top twenty for almost a year now, right?"

As soon as these words fell, everyone in the yard abruptly fell silent.

For this reason, the footsteps of Duan Ling Tian and Qi Tian Ming who were walking in at this moment were particularly loud. The sound caught everyone's attention immediately.

Many of these people recognized Qi Tian Ming and greeted him immediately.

"Lord Inspector!"

"Lord Inspector!"

With this, even more people began to greet Qi Tian Ming.

The position of an inspector was rather high in the Profound Nether Mansion after all. They were only behind the mansion master and the pavilion masters. Although the position might be slightly lower than that of a vice mansion master, their strength was the same. After all, vice mansion masters only got their positions due to them being descendants of the Profound Nether Mansion's founding fathers.

As Qi Tian Ming nodded in response to the greetings, he said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Zhou Hong Jie is the disciple I mentioned previously. He's the Ten Directions Celestial Duke from the Profound Nether Mansion who has comprehended seven profundities from the law of wood... He's one of the few core disciples in the Profound Nether Mansion who has yet to become a Celestial King."

Chapter 3124: External Help?

Previously, during their journey to the Profound Nether Mansion from the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian had already heard from Qi Tian Ming that the Profound Nether Mansion had cultivated some powerful Ten Directions Celestial Dukes to represent them in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. There were a few who had comprehended six profundities from a law, but there was only one person who had comprehended seven profundities from the law of wood.

'Zhou Hong Jie.' Duan Ling Tian committed the name to his memory. Based on the conversation he had overheard earlier, it seemed like Zhou Hong Jie, the Ten Directions Celestial Duke who had comprehended seven profundities from the law of wood, had not broken into the top twenty for almost a year now.

'He has comprehended seven profundities from the law of wood, and yet, he can't even rank in the top twenty... It seems like the Ten Directions Celestial Dukes from other grade-six Celestial Mansions are incredibly strong...' It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to figure out that the Celestial Dukes from other grade-six Celestial Mansions were incredibly strong. These grade-six Celestial Mansions should all have Ten Directions Celestial Dukes under the age of 1,000 who had comprehended at least seven profundities from a law. Otherwise, it would not be difficult for Zhou Hong Jue to rank in the top twenty with his strength.

Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian was not surprised when Qi Tian Ming said Zhou Hong Jie was a core disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion. In the Profound Nether Mansion, those weaker than Celestial Kings, with the exception of a few powerful Ten Directions Celestial Dukes, were all outer court disciples.

The test to become an inner court disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion was rather difficult. Usually, only extraordinarily strong Ten Directions Celestial Dukes and Celestial Kings were able to pass the test. As for core disciples, they were mostly those who became Celestial Kings before reaching the age of 1,000. Strength was not the only thing that was important, the Profound Nether Mansion placed much importance on talent as well.

Although Zhou Hong Jie was just a Ten Directions Celestial Duke, his comprehension skills and the number of profundities he had comprehended surpassed most inner court disciples and a few core disciples in the Profound Nether Mansion. Moreover, the reason Zhou Hong Jie had not broken through and become a Celestial King was probably due to the Profound Nether Mansion's wish to suppress his cultivation base.

For all these reasons, Duan Ling Tian was not surprised to learn that Zhou Hong Jie was a core disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion.

"The screen in the yard, as you can guess, is the current scoreboard for the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm... If you want to see the rankings from previous months, you'll have to go inside," Qi Tian Ming said as he led Duan Ling Tian to the back.

The Profound Nether Mansion disciples in the front yard were extremely curious when they saw Qi Tian Ming leading Duan Ling Tian around. They were naturally curious about his identity. After all, for an inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion to bring him around, he could not be an ordinary person.

"Who's he? I don't think I've seen him before..."

"He must be outstanding if Inspector Qi is personally bringing him around..."

"Inspector Qi is next to him so I don't dare to probe him with my Divine Consciousness. However, my Divine Consciousness was close enough to detect he's not even 100 years old!"

"He's not even 100 years old?"

"Oh, I thought Inspector Qi found external help to raise the Profound Nether Mansion's ranking in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm... It seems like I was overthinking things."

"External help? They're not easy to find... Put aside the fact that there are very few sectless Ten Directions Celestial Dukes under the age of 1,000 who are powerful, even if there's one, the other grade-six Celestial Mansions would have found him first. The Profound Nether Mansion has never been particularly successful in recruiting external help."

'External help?' Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he overheard the conversations in his surroundings just as he was about to enter the building. He sent a Voice Transmission to Qi Tian Ming who was walking in front of him. "Elder Qi, are we allowed to seek external help?"

"Yes." Qi Tian Ming nodded. "The rules in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm don't prohibit us from seeking external help. However, it's incredibly difficult to find capable help. It's extremely rare for a sectless Ten Directions Celestial Duke under the age of 1,000 to comprehend six profundities from a law, let alone seven profundities. Those who have such qualifications are naturally outstanding and have long been recruited into one of the Ten Major Clans and the Top Five Sects. One isn't allowed to seek help from members of the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects. Even if you

somehow manage to get one of the members to help you, you'd definitely have to pay a high price for it. Most, if not all, grade-six Celestial Mansions wouldn't be able to afford the price. Therefore, grade-six Celestial Mansions could only look for sectless cultivators if they want to seek external help."

Based on Qi Tian Ming's words, it seemed like many members from the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects who met the requirements to enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm could easily rank at the top of the scoreboard. He was not too surprised. After all, the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects were the top forces in the Southern Heaven Territory. The Blood Skull Gang was nothing in front of such forces.

When Qi Tian Ming finished speaking, they had already entered the building. As soon as they entered, they were in a spacious hall. Both sides of the hall were lined with more than ten counters. At the back of the hall, there was a stone platform with elaborate carvings.

"You can claim your Accumulative Point Jade from any of the counters at the sides. You can also check previous rankings there."

The stone platform at the back was where the Transporting Formation to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was located. As long as one was younger than 1,000 years old and possessed both the Profound Nether Mansion's identity token and the Accumulative Point Jade, one could use the Transporting Formation.

"You'll be given only one Accumulative Point Jade every month. Apart from that, once your ten days in the middle realm are up, the Formation in the Accumulative Point Jade would automatically activate and bring you out of the middle realm. At that time, your score on the scoreboard would be the final score for the month," Qi Tian Ming explained to Duan Ling Tian.

Similar to when they were outside, people who recognized Qi Tian Ming began to greet him one after another.

"Lord Inspector!"

"Lord Inspector!"

After that, they shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian and looked at him curiously. Like the people outside, they were curious about his identity. What kind of background did he have that an inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion was showing him around?

"External help?"

Their guesses were similar to the people outside, and upon discovering Duan Ling Tian's age, most of them dismissed him as a young master from a prominent family.

"Give him an Accumulative Point Jade please," Qi Tian Ming said to a middle-aged man seated behind the counter.

The middle-aged man was just an ordinary elder in the Profound Nether Mansion. He was stunned when he heard Qi Tian Ming's words. 'Give the young man next to him an Accumulative Point Jade?'

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian took out his identity token that proved his status as an outer court disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion before placing it on the counter.

“This is my identity token, I would like an Accumulative Point Jade so I can enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.”

Although it was just an outer court disciple’s identity token, it caused quite a commotion when those in the surroundings saw it.

“He even has an identity token from the Profound Nether Mansion... It seems like this purple-clad young man really comes from a prominent family.”

“He’s not even 100 years old? Is he going sightseeing in the middle realm?”

“Not only is Inspector Qi showing him around, but he also has an identity token from the mansion... Although it’s just an outer court disciple’s identity token, we all know how difficult it is to obtain one.”

“That’s right! Even the Inspectors and Vice Mansion Masters of the Profound Nether Mansion don’t have the authority to issue identity tokens. Only the Mansion Master and the Pavilion Masters of the Profound Nether Mansion have the authority to issue identity tokens.”

“Is there a possibility that this purple-clad young man is related to the mansion master or one of the nine pavilion masters?”

“Wow! This purple-clad young man is really amazing!”

Although the conversations in the surroundings were not loud, they did not escape Duan Ling Tian and Qi Tian Ming’s ears. Qi Ming Tian did not care about the conversations while Duan Ling Tian felt that these people had overactive imaginations.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew these people arrived at that kind of conclusion all due to his young age. After all, what could someone who was not even 100 years old do in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm apart from sightseeing?

The middle-aged elder seated behind the counter handed an Accumulative Point Jade to Duan Ling Tian and said, “You can inscribe your name on it. Once I confirm the name is the same as the one on your identity token, you can drip a drop of blood on it to claim ownership.”

As soon as Duan Ling Tian picked up the Accumulative Point Jade, he could feel it was special. Even without using his Divine Consciousness or sending his Celestial Origin Energy into it, he could feel the energy fluctuations from it.

Chapter 3125: The Profound Nether Mansion’s Base

Duan Ling Tian could tell the minute fluctuations were from the Formation that was inscribed on the Accumulative Point Jade. After he inscribed his name on the Accumulative Point Jade, he handed it back to the Profound Nether Mansion elder seated behind the counter.

After the elder verified Duan Ling Tian's name, he passed the Accumulative Point Jade back to Duan Ling Tian again.

When Duan Ling Tian dripped a drop of blood on the Accumulative Jade Point, the drop of blood quickly seeped into the Accumulative Jade Point. With that, the energy fluctuations grew stronger for a moment before they gradually calmed down.

'Duan Ling Tian.' The Profound Nether Mansion seated behind the counter racked his brain, trying to figure out Duan Ling Tian's identity. Was there a Duan clan among the ten major clans? No, he was certain there was no Duan clan among the ten major clans. Then, could he be from one of the top five sects? Alas, no matter how hard he tried, he did not find any information or clue regarding Duan Ling Tian.

While the Profound Nether Mansion elder's imagination ran wild, Qi Tian Ming looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "It's done. You can now enter the middle realm of the Southern Ancient Realm with your Accumulative Point Jade. However, are you certain you want to enter now?"

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian replied as they walked toward the stone platform where the Transporting Formation to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was located.

"When you're standing in the Formation, send your Celestial Origin Energy into the Accumulative Point Jade, and it'll send you to your destination. To be precise, it'll send you to the Profound Nether Mansion's base. You'll have to leave the base to enter the middle realm and accumulate points," Qi Tian Ming said through Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian nodded before he leaped onto the stone platform. He did not waste time and quickly sent his Celestial Origin Energy into the Accumulative Point Jade that he held in his hand. A streak of white light shot out from the Accumulative Point Jade into the stone platform and the Formation beneath his feet. The ground seemed to turn into liquid immediately. In the next moment, the ground beneath his feet seemed to have come to life as it shone with a dazzling white light that shrouded him.

After a brief moment, the white light gradually turned into mist. Duan Ling Tian was nowhere to be seen when the mist dissipated.

At this moment, another Profound Nether Mansion elder who was familiar with Qi Tian Ming curiously asked, "My lord, who's he for you to personally show him around?"

Before Qi Tian Ming left, he replied with a mysterious smile on his face, "You'll find out in the future."

...

"Is this the middle realm of the Southern Ancient Realm?" When Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes, he discovered he was in a vast valley. Apart from rows of crudely built buildings, he saw there was quite a number of people gathered outside those buildings. There were even some people who were sparring.

After a brief observation, he discovered they were all Ten Directions Celestial Dukes. Apart from that, based on the identity tokens hanging from their waists, he knew they were from the Profound Nether Mansion as well. However, unlike his outer court disciple identity token, their identity tokens were that of the inner court disciples.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian's arrival had attracted a few people's attention.

"A newcomer?"

"Who's he? I don't think I've seen him before..."

"I haven't seen him before either... I know all of the extraordinary Ten Directions Celestial Kings in the mansion so I'm sure he's not one of them."

"It's not surprising that you don't recognize him. Didn't you see the identity token hanging from his waist? He's an outer court disciple. How powerful can he be?"

"It's not just that... Have any of you discovered he's not even 100 years old?"

"Not even 100 years old?!"

Initially, only a few people paid attention to Duan Ling Tian. However, as the few people discussed among themselves, more and more people began to notice Duan Ling Tian. Even those who were in the midst of sparring stopped momentarily to look at him.

It was not difficult for extraordinary Ten Directions Celestial Dukes to become an inner court disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion. It was also for this reason that most Ten Directions Celestial Duke who entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were inner court disciples. It was rare for Ten Directions Celestial Dukes who were outer court disciples to enter the middle realm. After all, the outer court disciples were mostly ordinary and not very strong compared to the inner court disciples. If they entered the middle realm and encountered a powerful opponent, they might not even have time to shatter their Accumulative Point Jades before they were killed.

"What's an outer court disciple doing here?"

"Isn't he afraid of dying?"

Many of the Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the valley frowned as they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

The valley is the Profound Nether Mansion's base in the middle realm of the Southern Ancient Realm. Therefore, as Duan Ling Tian had discovered, everyone here was Ten Directions Celestial Dukes and inner court disciples of the Profound Nether Mansion.

At this moment, a relatively young inner court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion said with a frown, "Lad, this isn't a place where an outer court disciple like you should come."

"That's right! You should leave as soon as you can. If you run into Ten Directions Celestial Dukes from the other grade-six Celestial Mansions, you might not even have the opportunity to crush your Accumulative Point Jade to escape!" a middle-aged man chimed in, trying to persuade Duan Ling Tian to leave.

Duan Ling Tian had heard their conversations earlier so he knew these inner court disciples did not think much of him due to him being an outer court disciple. However, he was not bothered by their opinion. If he was bothered by such trivial matters, he would have lived so long in vain. In the end, he replied, "Thank you for the warning. However, since I've come, I have no intention of leaving."

Duan Ling Tian continued surveying his surroundings. He saw a stone platform in the center of the valley. He knew it had to be where the Transporting Formation that led back to the Profound Nether Mansion was located. Then, he looked beyond the boundary of the valley for a brief moment before he suddenly vanished into thin air and appeared 100 meters away. He disappeared again before appearing another 100 meters away.

In just a few seconds, Duan Ling Tian vanished from the inner court disciples' sight. Needless to say, they were shocked by Duan Ling Tian's movement technique. They could not even capture the slightest trace of his movement!

"This..."

"It seems like... It seems like he used the law of space's Teleportation Profundity!"

"The law of space? An outer court disciple comprehended the law of space?"

"If he comprehended the law of space's Teleportation Profundity, there's no way we wouldn't hear of it. Although there are a few outer court disciples who have comprehended the law of space, none of them has comprehended the Teleportation Profundity."

"Maybe he just comprehended it recently?"

"Impossible! As one of the Four Supreme Laws, the law of space is naturally difficult to comprehend. Even the strongest outer disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion has only comprehended two profundities from the law of space. Even if he has comprehended the Teleportation Profundity, he wouldn't dare to step into the middle realm."

"That's right! I've seen that outer court disciple who comprehended two profundities from the law of space three months ago. He's just an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke. Therefore, I'm certain that the young man is not him. Let alone an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke from the outer court, even those outer court disciples who are Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes and Ten Directions Celestial Dukes wouldn't recklessly enter the middle realm if they have comprehended three profundities from the law of space."

Apart from being shocked by Duan Ling Tian's technique, they were also curious about his identity.

"I'll go and ask around..." One inner court disciple was so curious that he even returned to the Profound Nether Mansion through the Transporting Formation in the valley just so he could enquire about Duan Ling Tian.

After a moment, that inner court disciple returned to the valley again with a strange expression on his face. "When I asked around, I was told that the young man was personally brought here by Inspector Qi. It seems like he's a young master from a prominent family who's here to sightsee."

Upon hearing these words, the inner court disciples began to discuss among themselves again.

"A young master from a prominent family? So that's why he dares to come here despite being younger than 100 years old."

“Right! I almost forgot about it. I couldn’t sense the level of his Celestial Origin Energy, but there’s no way he’s a Ten Directions Celestial Duke.”

“You’re stating the obvious! How can he be a Ten Directions Celestial Duke when he’s not even 100 years old?”

“He dares to enter the middle realm even though he’s not even 100 years old? Where does he get his confidence from? It would be funny if he ends up dying here.”

All of the inner court disciples shook their heads. They were all of the opinion that the purple-clad young man was seeking death by coming to this place.

“Hey, I think we should tail him and see what happens... If he gets into trouble, we can save him. Imagine a young master from a prominent family owing us a debt of gratitude! He can’t be from an ordinary family since Inspector Qi personally brought him here,” an old man said with a hint of excitement. As soon as he finished speaking, he quickly headed toward the direction where Duan Ling Tian left.

A few others followed suit and left the valley as well.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware of the commotion he had caused in the valley.

After he left the valley, he continued using the Teleportation Profundity to travel. It did not take long before he arrived in a stone forest. He continued moving, and when he emerged from the other side of the forest, he was greeted by a vast and barren plain. He could see the stains of some dark substance on the ground. It was not difficult for him to tell that it was bloodstains.

“It seems like people have died here...”

Chapter 3126: A Crazy Fool

“It’s not surprising since we’re in a vast and barren plain; there’s nowhere to hide here. It’s inevitable that people from different grade-six Celestial Mansions would fight if they meet here.” Duan Ling Tian was not surprised to see the bloodstains on the ground. Due to the terrain, it became a deadly battlefield.

One could only obtain points in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm from opponents from different grade-six Celestial Mansions. Fellow members of the same sect could not obtain points from each other. For example, if a group of Profound Nether Mansion disciples surrounded Duan Ling Tian, and they crushed their Accumulative Point Jades, their points would not go to Duan Ling Tian even if he was in close proximity. This was to prevent fellow members from cheating their way to the top 20 ranks.

Naturally, people from different Celestial Mansions could make a deal to cheat the system, but it rarely happened. First of all, it was too risky. If they were caught, the punishment was death. Second, even if they took such a huge risk, success was not guaranteed. Nevertheless, this did not stop a few people from taking this risk once in a blue moon. As the saying went, ‘Fortune favors the bold’.

As Duan Ling Tian continued forward he saw a forested mountain up ahead. The mountain looked steep and perilous; it seemed like the perfect hideout. Since most of the people who entered the middle realm were Ten Directions Celestial Dukes, it was easy for them to avoid detection from other people's Divine Consciousness.

"First, it was a stone forest. Then, it was a vast and barren plain. Now, it's a forested mountain. It seems like these different terrains are deliberately created to simulate battlegrounds of all kinds." Different terrains had different advantages if one knew how to make use of them after all.

Duan Ling Tian suddenly came to a halt as his eyes flashed. It was as though he had discovered something.

Swoosh!

In the next moment, a figure flew out from one of the mountain peaks. In just a blink of an eye, the figure had appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian, blocking Duan Ling Tian's way, with a sinister gleam in his eyes.

When the figure appeared, Duan Ling Tian saw that it was a young man. Apart from that, he managed to see the identity token hanging from the young man's waist. From the identity token, he discovered the young man's name was Hong Ji, and he was an inner disciple from the Leaving Willow Mansion.

Similarly, Hong Ji saw Duan Ling Tian's identity token as well. His solemn expression vanished without a trace as he muttered to himself, "An outer court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion?" With this discovery, he raised his head and looked in the direction of the forest mountain as he shouted, "You can come out now! He's just an outer court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion!"

Swoosh!

As soon as Hong Ji finished speaking, another figure shot out from the place Hong Ji had appeared. The figure belonged to a young man as well, and based on his identity token, his name was Tong Qi Shan, and he was also an inner disciple from the Leaving Willow Mansion like Hong Ji.

"An outer disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion?" Tong Qi Shan, who also blocked Duan Ling Tian's path, raised an eyebrow as he studied Duan Ling Tian.

Then, Hong Ji asked, "Lad, what's an outer disciple like you doing here?"

"I'm here to compete for the rankings," Duan Ling Tian replied lightly.

"An outer disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion wants to compete for the rankings?" Tong Qi Shan's eyes widened, clearly stunned. Then, he asked, "Can you tell me how many points you've accumulated so far?"

Usually, Tong Qi Shan and Hong Ji would not waste time and would instantly attack their targets to prevent their targets from escaping. However, after discovering their target today was just an outer court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion, they did not think there was any risk of Duan Ling Tian escaping from them. Moreover, they did not have any intention of killing their opponents as long as they obtained the points. Therefore, if Duan Ling Tian crushed his Accumulative Jade Point to escape,

they would not mind it since the points would go to them anyway. So long as their opponents were willing to give up their points, they would not kill their targets if they had no grudge between them.

Duan Ling Tian replied, "This is my first time in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Both of you are the first and second people I've met from another Celestial Mansion."

"The Profound Nether Mansion's base is nearby... Did you just come from there?" Tong Qi Shan was speechless. Was this person before him a fool who was unafraid of death?

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"I didn't expect to meet a rookie... Lad, crush your Accumulative Point Jade and leave. You're lucky you met us. If you've met other people, it's likely that they'll kill you," Hong Ji said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. Clearly, he had no intention of fighting Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, he encouraged Duan Ling Tian to surrender his points and crush his Accumulative Point Jade to leave the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm through the Transporting Formation in the jade.

At this moment, Tong Qi Shan who had just probed Duan Ling Tian with his Divine Consciousness exclaimed in shock, "Not only are you an outer disciple, but you're not even 100 years old?"

"Not even 100 years old?" Hong Ji was stunned by Tong Qi Shan's discovery as well. "Lad, you're not even 100 years old, but you dare to enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm? Are you seeking death? Although not everyone who enters the middle realm is a cold-blooded killer, if you run into those who have a grudge with the Profound Nether Mansion, they definitely won't let you go!"

"Come on, crush your Accumulative Point Jade and leave... What's wrong? Don't tell me you want us to make a move?" Tong Qi Shan said helplessly when he saw Duan Ling Tian showed no signs of leaving. He grew a little impatient when he saw there was no response from Duan Ling Tian.

A wide smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face at this moment.

The duo was baffled when they saw Duan Ling Tian smiling. "Why are you smiling?"

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed imperceptibly as he said with a smile, "Both of you seem like nice people so I won't attack you. Crush your Accumulative Point Jades and leave."

Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian had gone to the one of the sites where the Transporting Formation to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was located, he had briefly looked through the scoreboard placed in the center of the yard. He could roughly remember the names of those who were ranked in the top 100, and he did not remember seeing Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan's names. With this, he determined the duo was not a threat to him even if they joined forces and attacked at the same time. Naturally, he knew there was a chance the duo was strong as well. Perhaps, they were late to enter the middle realm and had no time to obtain points to rank in the top 100. Even then, Duan Ling Tian was rather sure of his assumptions. After all, extraordinary Ten Directions Celestial Dukes would not work together with another Ten Directions Celestial Duke since it would not only taint their reputations, but they did not need the help as well.

"You're not going to attack us?"

“You want us to crush our Accumulative Point Jades?”

The duo from the Leaving Willow Mansion was dumbfounded when they heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. A strange expression appeared on their faces as they exchanged a look and communicated through Voice Transmission.

“Did he lose his mind?”

“An outer court disciple who’s not even 100 years old entering the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm... I won’t be surprised if he’s really crazy.”

“Based on his words, It seems like he won’t crush his Accumulative Point Jade on his own accord. It seems like we’ll have to force him to do it...”

“Let’s just attack. Hopefully, he’ll regain his senses and stop this nonsense once he’s defeated.”

In Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan’s opinion, it should be easy for them to deal with an outer court disciple who was not even 100 years old. Therefore, only Hong Ji made a move while Tong Qi Shan stood at the back.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Hong Ji cast three profundities from the law of metal as soon as he made his move. Dazzling golden saber rays appeared and formed a net as they swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not make a move at all; he remained standing in the same spot. In just a blink of an eye, Hong Ji’s attack was just a few inches away from him.

Upon seeing this, Tong Qi Shan was worried Hong Ji might accidentally kill Duan Ling Tian so he said in a low voice, “Go easy on him.”

In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, even if Hong Ji killed Duan Ling Tian, there would be no consequences. However, since the duo was of the opinion that Duan Ling Tian was a crazy fool who was not even 100 years old, Tong Qi Shan could not help but feel pity toward Duan Ling Tian, and as a result, he could not bear to kill Duan Ling Tian.

‘He’s... really weak...’ Hong Ji smiled helplessly as he prepared to withdraw his attack. However, at this moment, the dazzling golden sword rays flashed brightly for a moment before they began to dim. Upon seeing this, his eyes widened in surprise and horror. It seemed like it was too late for him to withdraw his attack!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The duo could only watch helplessly as the sword rays swept out like a hurricane.

Chapter 3127: Duan Ling Tian Attacks

However, the moment before the saber ray landed on its target, Duan Ling Tian suddenly vanished into thin air.

Hong Ji was so shocked when he saw Duan Ling Tian vanishing into thin air that he forgot to withdraw his attack. "What kind of technique is that?"

"There he is!" Tong Qi Shan exclaimed.

Hong Ji turned back to look and saw a purple figure standing about 100 meters away.

The duo from the Leaving Mansion Willow did not see Duan Ling Tian moving at all. When did he get behind them? It was as though he vanished and reappeared again in another spot.

"How did he end up there? Did you catch his movements?" Hong Ji asked Tong Qi Shan after he gulped.

"No, I didn't." Tong Qi Shan shook his head before he lowered his voice and said, "If I'm not mistaken, he had used the law of space's Teleportation Profundity earlier. The Teleportation doesn't consume one's Celestial Origin Energy and allows one to teleport to anywhere within a 100-meter radius at the rudimentary stage. The higher one's cultivation base is, the shorter the cooldown period between each use would be. Although the profundity doesn't use one's Celestial Origin Energy, its cooldown period relies on the level of one's Celestial Origin Energy." Based on his words, it was clear he had a certain level of understanding of the law of space's Teleportation Profundity.

"Teleportation Profundity?" Realization dawned on Hong Ji after he heard Tong Qi Shan's explanation. "No wonder we couldn't catch his movements. He really did vanish into thin air. However, isn't the Teleportation Profundity the hardest profundity to comprehend in the law of space? He's not even 100 years old, but he managed to comprehend the Teleportation Profundity?" After sending the Voice Transmission to Tong Qi Shan, he looked at the purple figure in shock again.

"He's really lucky! He must have comprehended the Teleportation Profundity as soon as he comprehended the law of space's Space Elemental Profundity. If his cultivation base is similar to ours, we can only dream about catching him. However, he's not even 100 years old so his cultivation base has to be lower than ours. As long as his Celestial Origin Energy is weaker than ours, we'll still be able to catch him even if he casts the Teleportation Profundity," Tong Qi Shan said confidently. His eyes flashed nearing the end of his sentence.

Hong Ji nodded. Then, he looked at the purple figure and said, "Lad, you're not even 100 years old and have comprehended the law of space's Teleportation Profundity. You really surprised us. However, if you think you're capable of escaping from us, you're too naive."

"Escape?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly startled when he heard Hong Ji's words. A faint smile appeared on his face as he said, "When did I say I want to escape? Since both of you have no intention of killing me, I'll go easy on both of you. Don't hold back when you attack." Toward the end of his words, his smile grew wider.

"Go easy on both of us?" Duan Ling Tian's words angered Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan. Not only was this outer court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion unappreciative of their good intentions, but he even said he was going to go easy on them? Was he daydreaming?

Hong Ji took a deep breath to suppress the anger boiling in his body. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and coldly said, "Lad, it seems like if I don't teach you a lesson, you'll never learn that there will always be people stronger than you in this world. Let me show you the difference between an outer court disciple

from the Profound Nether Mansion and an inner disciple from the Leaving Willow Mansion!” As soon as he finished speaking, golden light burst forth from his body, and he was bathed entirely in the dazzling golden light. Golden lightning bolts could be seen flashing around his body, giving him a formidable aura.

“The Metal Style Profundity?” Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He knew the profundity that Hong Ji had cast.

The Metal Style Profundity would shroud its user with the Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Metal Elemental Profundity. With that, the user’s strength, speed, and attack would be enhanced even if one did not use Celestial Origin Energy to attack.

“Lad, today I’ll teach you a lesson on behalf of your elders. A weakling like you shouldn’t be arrogant!” Hong Ji’s body seemed to flicker and transform into a streak of golden light that shot out like a shooting star falling across the sky.

Whoosh!

“The Piercing Profundity.” The streak of golden light shot out effortlessly with almost no resistance from the air. The resistance was only minute at best. This was because Hong Ji had cast the law of metal’s Piercing Profundity. As its name suggested, it could pierce through air and reduce its resistance to almost zero.

‘Hong Ji has cast five profundities from the law of metal so far... Before I used the Teleportation Profundity, he had attacked using the Metal Elemental Profundity, the Slashing Inches Profundity, and the Slicing Profundity. And now he’s using the Metal Style Profundity and the Piercing Profundity.’ With Duan Ling Tian’s current strength, it was not difficult for him to figure out the type of profundities Hong Ji had cast. Based on Hong Ji’s attacks and strength, he safely concluded that Hong Ji had only comprehended five profundities from the law of metal so far.

‘No wonder they’re working today... He has only comprehended five profundities from the law of metal.’ Duan Ling Tian shook his head before he cast the Teleportation Profundity again to dodge Hong Ji’s attack.

“This...” Tong Qi Shan’s expression changed drastically as he observed the battle from afar. “H-he’s also a Ten Directions Celestial Duke!”

Duan Ling Tian had used the Teleportation Profundity two times now. Moreover, the interval between each use was incredibly short. For this reason, Tong Qi Shan was certain that Duan Ling Tian was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for Duan Ling Tian to use the Teleportation Profundity consecutively!

“A Ten Directions Celestial Duke who’s not even 100 years old?” Chills ran up Tong Qi Shan’s spine when he thought about Duan Ling Tian’s age. Moreover, he knew there was no mistake about Duan Ling Tian’s age. After all, not even Celestial Emperors or the Divine Elements could hide a person’s age.

“Territory Profundity!” Duan Ling Tian suddenly appeared behind Hong Ji. At the same time, energy surged out of his body and shrouded the area within 100 meters of Duan Ling Tian at lightning speed. Then, the raging energy swept toward Hong Ji, leaving many dents on his armor.

“Restraining Profundity! Distortion Profundity!” Before Hong Ji could react, Duan Ling Tian cast another two profundities from the law of space.

The air around Hong Ji seemed to freeze at this moment, leaving him powerless. Then, energy generated from the distortion of space swept toward him, shattering his metal armor. Although he was shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s techniques, he did not lose focus. Under such circumstances, he knew he could not afford to be distracted.

“Break!” Hong Ji cried out. Golden light surged out from his body again, transforming into saber rays. He clearly intended to break out from his restraint using the saber rays’ penetrative force.

“Trying to break free of my Restraining Profundity?” Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. If he did not do anything, it was likely that Hong Ji would be able to free himself from the Restraining Profundity. At the critical moment, he quickly waved his right hand in the air.

In just a blink of an eye, the void in a corner of the area where Duan Ling Tian had cast Restraining Profundity suddenly tore.

Swoosh!

In just an instant, a grey sword ray shot out in the direction of Hong Ji’s golden saber rays.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The golden saber ray collided with the grey sword ray. However, the grey sword ray was quickly overwhelmed by the number of golden saber rays. Nevertheless, after a moment, another grey sword ray shot out from another crack in the void.

At the same time, the first crack in the void suddenly lengthened before it merged with the second crack in the void. With that, the crack grew bigger. In just a short moment, a gaping hole could be seen in the void as a pulling force began to pull the golden saber rays into the hole. With this, it did not take long before all the golden saber rays vanished after being pulled into the hole.

“T-territory Profundity? Restraining Profundity? Distortion Profundity? Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity?” Tong Qi Shan was stunned

Chapter 3128: Duan Ling Tian Cheated?

Duan Ling Tian scoffed.

After the golden saber rays were absorbed by the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, the Distortion Profundity caused the void to ripple violently.

When Duan Ling Tian stopped using the Restraining Profundity, Hong Ji was sent flying out.

Hong Ji who was severely injured coughed up a mouthful of blood, and his face was as pale as a sheet of paper.

On the contrary, Duan Ling Tian was completely unscathed. He did not even look like he had gone through a fierce battle.

At this moment, Tong Qi Shan stepped forward and supported Hong Ji to his feet as he asked worriedly, "Hong Ji, are you alright?"

Since the duo from the Leaving Willow Mansion was working together in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, it meant that they had a good relationship. Now that Hong Ji was severely injured, how could Tong Qi Shan not feel worried? Nevertheless, he did not harbor any intention to seek revenge for Hong Ji. After all, he was slightly weaker than Hong Ji. Although Tong Qi Shan had also comprehended five profundities, if he fought with Hong Ji, at most, their fight would end in a draw if he used the law of earth's power defensive techniques. In terms of offense, he was no match for Hong Ji. After all, Hong Ji had comprehended five of the best profundities from the law of metal such as the Slashing Inches Profundity and Piercing Profundity, which were the two main offensive profundities from the law of metal. Normally, even if Hong Ji's opponents had comprehended more than five profundities, Hong Ji was still capable of defeating them.

It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to defeat Hong Ji with only five profundities from the law of space. Naturally, it would have been much faster if he had used six profundities.

After witnessing Duan Ling Tian's strength, Tong Qi Shan knew he was no match for Duan Ling Tian at all. After all, Duan Ling Tian had comprehended six profundities from the law of space. Apart from that, the law of space was much stronger compared to ordinary laws since it was one of the Four Supreme Laws. Even if Duan Ling Tian had only comprehended five profundities from the law of space and both of them joined forces to deal with Duan Ling Tian, at most, their fight would end in a draw. If Duan Ling Tian fought them one-on-one, with the Teleportation Profundity, there was no doubt that both of them would be soundly defeated by Duan Ling Tian.

"I'm fine... He's too strong. I couldn't retaliate at all," Hong Ji said with lingering fear. A hint of helplessness could be seen in the depths of his eyes as well. "Thank goodness we've never been the kind to kill indiscriminately. Otherwise, we would have died. If he didn't show mercy and hold back his strength, I would've died." His face turned even paler when he recalled his close brush with death.

"Let's get out of here." In the end, Hong Ji brought his Accumulative Point Jade out. He looked at it with a hint of reluctance before he crushed it. After a short moment, white mist rose from the crushed Accumulative Point Jade and shrouded Hong Ji. When the mist dissipated, he could no longer be seen.

Crack!

Tong Qi Shan followed suit and crushed his Accumulative Point Jade as well to leave the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Needless to say, the duo from the Leaving Willow Mansion silently committed the name they saw on the identity token hanging from the purple figure's waist to their memories: Duan Ling Tian.

After Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan left, five points were added to Duan Ling Tian's Accumulative Point Jade. With this, he now had six points in his Accumulative Point Jade. Each Accumulate Point Jade came with one point; this meant he had gained five points from Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan.

Hong Ji had accumulated three points, which meant he had obtained two points from his opponents. On the other hand, Tong Qi Shan had two points, which meant he had accumulated one point from his opponent. With these points and the one point Duan Ling Tian originally had, Duan Ling Tian now had six points.

'I remember the person who's ranked 100th only had four points. Those who ranked from the 89th to the 92nd place have six points. The person ranked 93rd has five points. If the ranking hasn't changed since then, I should be at the 93rd place now,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Naturally, the 93rd place was far from his ultimate goal.

After putting his Accumulative Point Jade away, Duan Ling Tian moved toward the forested mountain. In just a moment, he appeared 100 meters away. Then, he vanished and reappeared 100 meters further. In just a few moments, he disappeared from the perilous terrain of the forested mountain.

...

In the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

At this moment, on the three main islands, a commotion had broken out in the three sites where the Transporting Formations to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were located.

This was due to a new name that had appeared across the three scoreboards. Normally, a new name appearing on the scoreboards would not elicit any reaction. However, this name caused an uproar because there were three words behind the name: Profound Nether Mansion. The people from the Profound Nether Mansion were naturally curious since they had not heard of this name before. After all, this meant the new person on the scoreboard was a disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion.

"Duan Ling Tian?"

"Who's he? Since when did such a person appear in the Profound Nether Mansion?"

"Someone who's capable of ranking in the top 100 should be well known in the Profound Nether Mansion, right? After all, we know many powerful Ten Directions Celestial Dukes who didn't even make it into the top 100."

"Does anyone know him?"

The news of a disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion ranking in the top 100 was, naturally, good news. Although the ranking was not enough to benefit the Profound Nether Mansion, it proved that the Profound Nether Mansion had many strong members. Apart from benefiting the grade-six Celestial Mansions, the ranking of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm had also become a symbol of honor among the grade-six Celestial Mansions. The grade-six Celestial Mansion whose member ranked first or the grade-six Celestial Mansion with the most members ranking in the top 100 held great honor. Therefore, it was only natural that another disciple from the Profound Nether

Mansion ranking in the top 100 would draw the attention of the disciples in the Profound Nether Mansion.

“Duan Ling Tian? Why does this name sound so familiar?” An elder seated behind a counter in one of the Transporting Formation sites frowned. After a moment, his eyes lit up. “Isn’t he that young man whom Inspector Qi brought here today?” He was the person who had registered Duan Ling Tian and given Duan Ling Tian the Accumulative Point Jade earlier.

Then, he muttered to himself, “Duan Ling Tian... Could it be someone else with the same name?” The elder remembered Duan Ling Tian was not even 100 years old so he was not sure if the person who had ranked in the top 100 was the same person as the young man whom he had met earlier today.

“Let me check...” the elder muttered to himself. Since he was working in the site of a Transporting Formation, he had the authority to check the information of the disciples who entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. After checking, he discovered there was only one person with the name Duan Ling Tian who entered the middle realm today. This meant the person who ranked in the top 100 was the young man who had come with Qi Tian Ming earlier.

Upon discovering this, the elder mumbled to himself, clearly in shock and disbelief, “He just entered the middle realm less than two hours ago, right? In such a short time, he managed to obtain six points?”

The elder told another elder about his discovery before word of this spread like a wildfire at the sites of the three Transporting Formations.

“Hey, word has it that Duan Ling Tian is the young man who came with Inspector Qi earlier today!”

“The young man with Inspector Qi? Didn’t he just arrive roughly an hour ago? Moreover, he’s not even 100 years old, right?”

“That’s right. He’s not even 100 years old, but he somehow managed to obtain six points and made it to the top 100 less than two hours after he entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm... Is this even possible?”

“It’s impossible! Let alone the Profound Nether Mansion, I don’t think there’s a Ten Directions Celestial Duke younger than 100 years old in the history of the Southern Heaven Territory. Moreover, for him to rank in the top 100 so quickly, apart from being a Ten Directions Celestial Duke, he also has to comprehend powerful profundities. How’s it possible for someone below the age of 100 to achieve all these things?”

“I agree... If that young man is Duan Ling Tian, then, he must have bribed the disciples from other Celestial Mansions to give him their points!”

“He must have cheated!”

Chapter 3129: The Leaving Willow Mansion

A group of elders and disciples from the Profound Nether Mansion discussed this matter fervently among themselves before they concluded Duan Ling Tian, an outer court disciple, who had only entered

the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm less than two hours ago must have cheated. Otherwise, how could a young man who was not even 100 years old make it into the top 100?

“Is that why Inspector Qi brought him here? However, what’s the point if he only ranks in the top 100? Shouldn’t Inspector Qi bring someone who can rank in the top 20 if he intends on cheating?” someone speculated out loud.

“There’s only a few days left before the ranking is reset. Isn’t it too late for him to cheat his way into the top 20?”

“Not necessarily... If there are enough people from other Celestial Mansions in the middle realm, it’s possible for him to rank in the top 20.”

“You have a point. It seems like Inspector Qi found external help to raise the Profound Nether Mansion’s ranking into the top 20.”

“Since when did the Profound Nether Mansion need to resort to cheating to rank in the top 20?”

Most elders and disciples from the Profound Nether Mansion could not help but sigh. In their opinion, the Profound Nether Mansion did not need to stoop so low just to rank in the top 20.

Naturally, there were others who held different opinions as well.

“It doesn’t make sense to me that the mansion would seek someone who’s less than 100 years old for help... If that’s the case, wouldn’t it be easier to ask Senior Zhou Hong Jie to get those from other Celestial Mansions to give him their points? Why would they expend so much effort just to recruit a weak lad who’s not even 100 years old.”

“However, if he weren’t brought here to cheat, how did such a young lad rank in the top 100 in such a short time?”

“Well, there’s a possibility he encountered two opponents who were fighting and took advantage of the situation to defeat the two opponents when they were greatly weakened from their battle...”

“That’s not entirely impossible... Maybe he’s just really lucky...”

“Well, we’ll be able to tell if he’s just lucky or if he’s cheating based on his points. If his points increase, he has to be cheating. Otherwise, his points should stay as they are.”

“If I were him, I would have left immediately. He’s not even 100 years old, what kind of strength could he possess? Anyone in the middle realm could easily kill him!”

In the end, most people felt that If the Profound Nether Mansion really wanted to cheat, they could have sent Zhou Hong Jie, the strongest Ten Directions Celestial Duke in the mansion. Although Zhou Hong Jie had not ranked in the top 20 for almost a year now, he was only a few points away from entering the top 20. The more they discussed the matter, the more they were convinced that Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top 100 due to a stroke of good luck.

Nevertheless, these people still kept an eye on Duan Ling Tian’s name on the scoreboard to see if his ranking would improve. Even if it was all due to luck, it was still impressive that he managed to obtain six

points in less than two hours after he entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Moreover, this was unprecedented in the Profound Nether Mansion.

...

In the Leaving Willow Mansion's estate.

The Leaving Willow Mansion was a six-grade Celestial Mansion that had equal status with the Profound Nether Mansion in the Southern Heaven Territory.

There were two Transporting Formations to the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm in the Leaving Willow Mansion's estate.

In one of the Transporting Formation sites, a pitiful-looking figure appeared before another figure appeared next to it. The two figures' sudden appearance drew the attention of the elders and disciples of the Leaving Willow Mansion. Most of them seemed to recognize the two figures.

"Hong Ji? Tong Qi Shan?"

"Hong Ji, Tong Qi Shan, based on your conditions, it seems like both of you left by crushing your Accumulative Point Jadess, right?" a middle-aged disciple asked, clearly surprised.

Tong Qi Shan nodded as he supported Hong Ji to stabilize his footing. "We surrendered this time."

"When both of you work together, even those who ranked at the bottom of the top 100 might not necessarily be a match for both of you... The person who managed to make both of you yield has to be extraordinary. Who was it that made both of you surrender?" an old disciple asked.

"I've never heard of him until today," Tong Qi Shan said with a bitter smile, "His name is Duan Ling Tian." Then, after glancing at the scoreboard, he added, "After obtaining our points, he has now made it into the top 100 on the scoreboard."

'93rd... Although he has just entered not too long ago, with his strength, there's no problem for him to make it into the top 50 if he's lucky enough to meet people in there...' Tong Qi Shan thought to himself. Since he had witnessed Duan Ling Tian's strength, he knew Duan Ling Tian was more than capable of ranking in the top 40 or top 50. However, due to it being the end of the month, Duan Ling Tian had to depend on luck to see if he could meet people in there.

Upon hearing Tong Qi Shan's words, the elders and disciples from the Leaving Willow Mansion shifted their eyes to the scoreboard.

"Duan Ling Tian?"

"There it is! 93rd place!"

"He's a disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion? I've never heard of him before. Since when did such a person appear in the Profound Nether Mansion?"

"I know every single Ten Directions Celestial Dukes who are powerful in the Profound Nether Mansion... However, I've never heard of him."

“Where did he come from? Since he’s capable of defeating Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan, it’s impossible that none of us has heard of him before!”

After discussing among themselves for a while, the group of elders and disciples discovered none of them had heard of Duan Ling Tian before. Therefore, they turned to look at Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan for answers.

An elder asked Tong Qi Shan, “Tong Qi Shan, to be able to make both of you surrender, he must have comprehended six profundities at least, right?”

Tong Qi Shan nodded. His expression was solemn as he said, “Not only did he comprehend six profundities, but the six profundities are from the law of space!”

Silence descended after his words fell.

Six profundities of the law of space? The law of space was the toughest law to comprehend among the Four Supreme Laws. Even in the Leaving Willow Mansion, there was only one person who comprehended more than six profundities from the law of space. That person was an elder with a high status, a Celestial Lord of the Leaving Willow Mansion! However, according to Tong Qi Shan, just a mere disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion had already comprehended six profundities from the law of space?

“Tong Qi Shan, are you sure? I’ve never heard of any Ten Directions Celestial Duke in the Profound Nether Mansion who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space...” a disciple said skeptically.

“Let alone six profundities from the law of space, I don’t think I’ve heard of any outstanding Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended the law of space. Tong Qi Shan, are you sure you’re not mistaken?” another elder asked skeptically.

Swoosh!

As the crowd looked at Tong Qi Shan with doubtful expressions on their faces, Tong Qi Shan raised his hand and brought a pearl out.

“Floating Image Pearl!”

The crowd’s eyes lit up when they saw the Floating Image Pearl that was laying in Tong Qi Shan’s palm.

Swoosh!

After Tong Qi Shan sent his Celestial Origin Energy into the Floating Image Pearl, the recording of the battle earlier began to play in front of the elders and disciples of the Leaving Willow Mansion. There were two figures in the recording. One of them belonged to Hong Ji, a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who had comprehended five profundities from the law of metal. The other figure belonged to an unfamiliar purple-clad young man.

“Hong Ji is attacking!”

In the recording, the crowd saw Hong Ji charging toward Duan Ling Tian with his body seemingly protected by a layer of metal. His net of golden saber rays seemed capable of destroying everything that

stood in its path. To their surprise, at the critical moment, Duan Ling Tian suddenly vanished into thin air like a ghost before reappearing 100 meters away from Hong Ji.

An elder exclaimed in shock, "That's the law of space's Teleportation Profundity!"

"The law of space's Teleportation Profundity?"

The crowd was stunned upon seeing this. It was widely known that among the profundities from the law of space, the Teleportation Profundity was the most difficult to comprehend.

At this moment, a disciple's eyes widened as he cried out, "Look at his identity token! He's an outer disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion!"

Chapter 3130: Shocking Two Celestial Mansions

"An outer court disciple of the Profound Nether Mansion?!"

After the observant disciple from the Leaving Willow Mansion finished speaking, the group of elders and disciples from the Leaving Willow Mansion shifted their eyes to the identity token hanging from Duan Ling Tian's waist immediately. True enough, it was just as the observant disciple had pointed out, the purple-clad young man's identity token indicated that he was an outer court disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion. The difference between the identity tokens of outer court disciples from grade-six Celestial Mansions was very slight so all of them easily recognized the identity token hanging from the purple-clad young man's waist.

"This Duan Ling Tian... is only an outer court disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion?"

The crowd was stunned by this discovery.

At this moment, the recording showed Duan Ling Tian dodging Hong Ji's preemptive strike before he teleported next to Hong Ji and struck. In just a few breaths, Duan Ling Tian had easily nullified Hong Ji's attacks by absorbing them into the spatial tear.

After that, the crowd saw Hong Ji flying out, looking severely injured.

The crowd's eyes widened and they inhaled sharply when they saw Duan Ling Tian defeating Hong Ji as though it was as easy as taking a stroll in the park. When did outer court disciples in the Profound Nether Mansion become so strong?

A knowledgeable elder said, "Territory Profundity, Restraining Profundity, Distortion Profundity, Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, Teleportation Profundity, and Space Elemental Profundity... He really comprehended six profundities from the law of space!" He sighed before he continued to say, "To think the Profound Nether Mansion has such an extraordinary character..."

"Is the Profound Nether Mansion stupid? Why would they let someone like that be an outer court disciple?" another elder cursed out loud.

There was no doubt if the Leaving Willow Mansion had such an extraordinary character, let alone the position of an inner disciple, it would not be difficult for him to become a core disciple. It was widely

known that those who entered the middle realm Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were younger than 1,000 years old. There was no doubt someone who was less than 1,000 years old and had comprehended six profundities would be cherished in the Leaving Willow Mansion. Such an extraordinary character was almost unheard of in grade-six Celestial Mansions after all.

“I feel the Profound Nether Mansion is deliberately provoking us... Aren’t they trying to show that their outer court disciple is capable of defeating our mansion’s inner court disciples?”

“I agree. How’s it possible for an outer court disciple to possess such strength?!”

“The Profound Nether Mansion really hid quite deeply. I’ve never heard about such a character among their ranks... However, it won’t be long before the outer court disciple’s name becomes renowned.”

The elders and disciples present on the scene were convinced that the Profound Nether Mansion was trying to provoke the Leaving Willow Mansion! Perhaps, that was why they made someone with such strength an outer court disciple. Ordinarily, how could someone with such strength become an outer court disciple?

When the discussion between the elders and disciple died down slightly, Tong Qi Shan speculated out loud, “It’s possible that he’s just an external help.”

“What do you mean?”

Everyone shifted their attention to Tong Qi Shan immediately.

Tong Qi Shan asked, “Based on the recording shown by the Floating Image Pearl, how old do you think he is?”

“I’m not sure.”

Most people shook their heads. How could they tell someone’s age based on a recording from a Floating Image Pearl? Moreover, a young appearance did not mean the person was young. There were some 10,000-year-old old men who could take on the appearance of a seventeen or eighteen-year-old if they so wished.

“Well, since he’s able to enter the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, he can’t be over 1,000 years old... In any case, a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space before reaching 1,000 years old is more than qualified to become a core disciple! It’s impossible for him to be an outer court disciple!”

“That’s right! Someone like that should be a core disciple. However, he’s not even an inner court disciple; he’s just an outer court disciple! How preposterous! It’s clear the Profound Nether Mansion is trying to provoke us!”

“In the Southern Heaven Territory’s history, there’s only a handful of characters who have comprehended so many profundities from the law of space before reaching the age of 1,000. Who would’ve thought one would appear in the Profound Nether Mansion?”

Upon hearing the discussion in his surroundings, Hong Ji who had been keeping quiet all this time could not help but say in a self-mocking tone, “Younger than 1,000 years old?”

At this time, the recording was playing on a loop since Tong Qi Shan had not withdrawn his Celestial Origin Energy from the Floating Image Pearl.

The crowd shifted their attention to Hong Ji as soon as he spoke. They were naturally curious.

“Not only is Duan Ling Tian a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space...” Hong Ji looked at the purple-clad young man in the recording as he solemnly said, “... but most importantly, he’s not even 100 years old!”

“He’s not even 100 years old?!”

“Not even 100 years old?”

The entire place was as silent as a graveyard at this moment. It was so quiet that they would have heard a needle falling on the ground.

“H-hong Ji... Tong.... Tong Qi Shan, are you sure you’re not mistaken? He’s not even 100 years old?” a disciple asked with an expression of disbelief on his face.

Tong Qi Shan said with a shrug, “I know it’s unbelievable, but it’s a fact. Hong Ji and I have confirmed it. It wasn’t difficult for us to investigate his age. There’s no doubt he’s younger than 100 years old!” He knew the crowd would have a hard time believing his words. After all, there was a difference between seeing it with your own eyes and hearing about it from someone else. If he were in their shoes, he would never believe it if someone had told him of a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who had comprehended six profundities from the law of space before reaching the age of 100.

At this moment, Hong Ji called out to Tong Qi Shan, “Let’s go.”

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, the duo left.

It was just as Tong Qi Shan had expected. When the crowd regained their senses, they were skeptical of his words.

In the Southern Heaven Territory, there had never been a Ten Directions Celestial who had comprehended six profundities, from the law of space no less, before reaching the age of 100. However, these people were now told such a character had appeared in the Profound Nether Mansion, and he was only an outer court disciple. How could they believe such words?

Someone scoffed. “They’re just pretending to be mysterious. Do they really think we’ll believe them?”

“However, there’s no reason for Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan to lie, right?”

“It doesn’t matter. Unless I witness it with my own eyes, I refuse to believe the purple-clad young man from the Profound Nether Mansion is not even 100 years old!”

“Me too!”

Even after Tong Qi Shan and Hong Ji had left, the excitement did not die down. The elders and disciples from the Leaving Willow Mansion began to crush their Communication Celestial Talisman one after another to relay this news.

It did not take long before almost everyone in the Leaving Willow Mansion heard about the Profound Nether Mansion's Ten Directions Celestial Duke who had comprehended six profundities from the law of space. Most importantly, such an extraordinary character was only an outer court disciple in the Profound Nether Mansion! Needless to say, no one repeated Hong Ji and Tong Qi Shan's claims of the outer court disciple being younger than 100 years old.

This news shocked quite many people in the Leaving Willow Mansion.

There were a few elders who had good relationships with elders from the Profound Nether Mansion. Upon receiving this news, they did not hesitate to send Communication Celestial Talismans to their counterparts in the Profound Nether Mansion to enquire about such an extraordinary character.

"Old He, the Profound Nether Mansion really hid their strength deeply... Your mansion has a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space, but he's only given the position of an outer court disciple! Is your mansion trying to provoke everyone?"

"Big Brother Li, do you know Duan Ling Tian, an outer court disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion?"

...

In the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

The elders who received messages from their counterparts in the Leaving Willow Mansion were dumbfounded.

"Duan Ling Tian? An outer court disciple? He's a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space before reaching the age of 1,000?"

"Are you joking? I haven't even heard of such a character in the Profound Nether Mansion... If there's someone like that, I would've heard about it!"

When the Profound Nether Mansion elders received the replies from their counterparts in the Leaving Willow Mansion, they learned that Duan Ling Tian was ranked 93rd on the scoreboard of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Curious, all of them made their way to the sites of the Transporting Formations closest to them.

When the elders finally saw Duan Ling Tian's name on the scoreboard, they were bewildered.

"There's really... such a person in our mansion?"

Soon enough, the discussions in the surroundings entered the elders' ears. They heard people saying Duan Ling Tian had gotten lucky and took advantage of two greatly weakened opponents who had battled each other and defeated them. It was clear they believed that was the reason Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top 100.

At this moment, one of the elders who had received news from his counterpart in the Leaving Willow Mansion stepped forward and said, "You're wrong! Duan Ling Tian didn't rely on luck to rank in the top 100! A good friend of mine from the Leaving Willow Mansion just informed me that their inner disciple, Hong Ji, was severely injured by Duan Ling Tian. After Duan Ling Tian injured Hong Ji, Hong Ji

surrendered by crushing his Accumulative Point Jade. His friend, Tong Qi Shan, followed suit and surrendered as well... That's how Duan Ling Tian obtained five points in one go."

The other elders who had received news from the Leaving Willow Mansion spoke up one after another as well.

"That's right! My friend in the Leaving Willow Mansion has seen the recording from a Floating Image Pearl that showed Duan Ling Tian injuring Hong Ji. Moreover, he could be seen using six profundities from the law of space!"

"Where did Duan Ling Tian come from? As an elder of the Profound Nether Mansion, I've never heard of such a person before!"

"A Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended six profundities from the law of space before reaching the age of 1,000... How can he only be an outer court disciple?"

Upon hearing these elders' words, silence descended on the three sites of the Transporting Formations in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.