

Chapter 3161: False Alarm

“Old Qi!” Duan Ling Tian paid no attention to the eyes trained on him. He hastily sent a message to Qi Tian Ming, an inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion, as soon as he returned to Profound Nether Mansion’s estate. He quickly told Qi Tian Ming about the message he had received from Huang Jia Long, his good friend.

“The first Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect wants to lure you to the sect to kill you? Impossible! Give me a moment. I’ll ask that brat Bihai Mingfeng about this...” Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s message, Qi Tian Ming was perplexed.

Bihai Mingfeng was similarly perplexed when he received Qi Tian Ming’s message. Gongsun Wenqing, the first Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian? Feeling anxious, he quickly sent a message back to the Coupling Celestial Sect to enquire about what was happening.

“Duan Ling Tian left the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?” Gongsun Wenqing knew he had gone overboard when he heard that Duan Ling Tian had left the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm after receiving Huang Jia Long’s message. He immediately explained to Bihai Mingfeng that he was only testing Huang Jia Long. “Huang Jia Long is now my direct disciple. Tell Duan Ling Tian not to worry and to return to the middle realm. I have to say that boy really treats Duan Ling Tian like a brother.”

Bihai Mingfeng heaved a sigh of relief after discovering the truth behind the matter. He did not waste time and explained the matter to Qi Tian Ming.

“It’s just a false alarm. That bastard Gongsun Wenqing!” Qi Tian Ming instantly sent a message to reassure Duan Ling Tian and explained the matter to him.

“So it’s just a misunderstanding? The first Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect tested Jia Long before accepting him as his direct disciple?” Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, relieved upon hearing the explanation. At this time, he finally noticed the commotion in his surroundings.

“Duan Ling Tian, are you confident you’ll be able to maintain your current rank?”

“Duan Ling Tian, there are many people who haven’t made a move yet. Do you think you’ll be able to stay in the top ten?”

Although Duan Ling Tian managed to accumulate near 300 points and ranked fifth after spending only two days in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, the elders and the disciples of the Profound Nether Mansion knew it was mostly because he was lucky enough to come across the Fire Glaze Mansion’s base in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. They assumed he had only managed to eliminate Tan Yuan because he had caught Tan Yuan off guard. Otherwise, with Tan Yuan’s speed, he should be able to escape from Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, they felt that Duan Ling Tian might not be able to maintain his current rank or even stay in the top 10 for long.

“Maintain my current rank or stay in the top ten?” The corners of Duan Ling Tian’s lips curled up into a smile when he heard the words of the elders and disciples of the Profound Nether Mansion. He teleported into the Transporting Formation as he held his Accumulative Point Jade in his hand. Before he was transported to the middle realm, he said, “My goal is to rank first!”

Duan Ling Tian’s words echoed in the air, causing everyone to fall silent for a moment.

“His goal is to rank first? Isn’t he too ambitious?”

“Is it possible he’s still hiding his true strength?”

“Impossible! He’s not even 100 years old. If he’s really still hiding his strength, he’s a monster!”

“However, he sounds really confident! I can’t wait to see how he fares this month!”

“Unless he’s able to repeat his stunt at the Fire Glaze Mansion’s base a few times, it’s difficult for him to rank first.”

Only a few people took Duan Ling Tian’s words seriously. Most of them did not think it was possible for him to rank first, and a few thought he would only be able to rank at the top if he managed to replicate his success at the Fire Glaze Mansion’s base at other grade-six Celestial Mansions’ bases in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Apart from that, they believed Duan Ling Tian only managed to obtain so many points from the Fire Glaze Mansion because he had hidden his true strength and managed to catch the Fire Glaze Mansion disciples off guard. Now that everyone knew about this strength, they would be more cautious of him. Even if Duan Ling Tian managed to find another grade-six Celestial Mansion’s base, their disciples would not recklessly leave the base.

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In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Before entering the middle realm, Duan Ling Tian had already sent a message to Wan Qing Qing from the Martial Battle Mansion. Therefore, when he arrived near the Fire Glaze Mansion’s base, Wan Qing Qing was already waiting for him there.

“You’ve dealt with your affairs?” Wan Qing Qing initially thought Duan Ling Tian would require at least half a day to handle his matter. She was surprised to receive a message from Duan Ling Tian not long after she arrived at the Martial Battle Mansion’s estate.

“Yes, it was just a misunderstanding.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. He did not expect such a misunderstanding to occur. He was not surprised Huang Jia Long passed Gongsun Wenqing’s test. After all, he knew Huang Jia Long was trustworthy and loyal. Nevertheless, he was still moved by Huang Jia Long’s actions. Although they had a close relationship, they did not have much contact over the past few years. Both of them shared the sentiment; they did not want to disturb each other’s cultivation. Despite their lack of communication, he was pleased to discover their relationship remained strong.

Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian was certain there was a reason Gongsun Wenqing, the first Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, suddenly decided to accept Huang Jia Long as his direct disciple. Moreover, he was certain the reason had something to do with him. It could not be a coincidence that

Gongsun Wenqing suddenly decided to accept Huang Jia Long as his direct disciple on the day he ranked fifth in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Moreover, Gongsun Wenqing had even used him to test Huang Jia Long.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'I should ask Old Qi to accompany me to visit the Coupling Celestial Sect after I leave the middle realm. It's been a long time since I last saw Jia Long. A visit to the Coupling Celestial Sect will definitely help Jia Long's advancement in the sect.'

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing said with a sigh, "Duan Ling Tian, I only found out you eliminated the Fire Glaze Mansion's Tan Yuan and Mo Ping Zhi after I left the middle realm."

Wan Qing Qing might not realize her attitude toward Duan Ling Tian had thawed. Moreover, she treated him differently from others as well. Although she might be unaware of the changes, Duan Ling Tian could sense the shift in her attitude. She was no longer as aloof and indifferent as before.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and said, "Although it wasn't difficult for me to eliminate Tan Yuan and Mo Ping Zhi, if I didn't catch Tan Yuan off guard and he wasn't reckless, he would have been able to escape." He knew speed was his biggest shortcoming for now. It was the main reason he had wanted to work with Wan Qing Qing. After a moment, he said, "Let's go. I'll help you obtain points!"

Although Duan Ling Tian was certain he would be able to run into Tan Yuan and the others even without Wan Qing Qing's reminder, he would probably encounter them close to the Fire Glaze Mansion's base. At that time, with the joint attack from the Fire Glaze Mansion disciples and the close proximity of their base, it would be easy for Tan Yuan to escape him even though he was confident he would be able to eliminate Mo Ping Zhi and the others. Therefore, he credited Wan Qing Qing for his successful elimination of Tan Yuan. It was also for this reason that he was determined to repay her.

"You don't owe me anything. You could've eliminated them even if I didn't alert you to it." Wan Qing Qing knew the meaning behind Duan Ling Tian's words. She had been worried initially; she was not certain Duan Ling Tian would be able to deal with Tan Yuan and Mo Ping Zhi if they joined forces. After discovering what had happened, she knew she had been worried for nothing.

"In any case, if you didn't tip me off, I wouldn't have been able to eliminate Tan Yuan. There's no need for you to say anything else. I'm determined to repay you. Otherwise, you can forget about working together," Duan Ling Tian said adamantly as he shook his head.

"Thank you." Wan Qing Qing saw how determined Duan Ling Tian was so she no longer said anything. Inwardly, she felt grateful since she knew there was no need for Duan Ling Tian to repay her at all.

Chapter 3162: The Core Disciple of the Magic Cloud Mansion

Liu Ji, a disciple from the Han Qing Mansion, who was eliminated by Duan Ling Tian still held a grudge. His dissatisfaction did not vanish at all. He felt that Duan Ling Tian only managed to eliminate him because of his carelessness. Indeed, he was faster than Duan Ling Tian. He had comprehended two movement profundities from the law of wind, after all. Among the second-tier Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, he could be considered the fastest.

Moreover, at this point, most people considered Duan Ling Tian to be between the second and third tier.

After he had entered the middle realm, he accumulated many points this month. He was unaware of the commotions Duan Ling Tian had caused outside of the middle realm. Moreover, despite his strength, many of the disciples and higher-ups disliked him due to his withdrawn and indifferent personality. For this reason, no one informed him about Duan Ling Tian's recent achievement in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

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As time passed, people from other Celestial Mansions gradually grew less and less concerned about Duan Ling Tian.

After three days, Duan Ling Tian had dropped to seventh place. However, there was more than 100 points difference between the seventh and eighth place. Currently, Duan Ling Tian had gained 322 points. The points he had gained were just a fraction of the points he had gained in the first two days he entered the middle realm.

"It seemed like the incident at the Fire Glaze Mansion's base will be the highlight of Duan Ling Tian's time in the middle realm this month. It'd be difficult for him to gain as many points as he did before."

"In less than half a day, the person that ranked behind him managed to close the gap by more than 30 points. He's catching up to Duan Ling Tian."

"I wonder if Duan Ling Tian will be able to make it into the top 10 in the end..."

"Wan Qing Qing just appeared on the scoreboard two days ago, but she's already ranked in the top 30!"

"Over these few days, she's progressing much faster than Duan Ling Tian."

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian is not as lucky as Wan Qing Qing."

"Well, I don't know if he's stronger than Wan Qing Qing, but I know for sure Wan Qing Qing is faster than him. Her speed is among the fastest, after all."

Duan Ling Tian's progress was rather slow over the past few days while Wan Qing Qing was progressing rapidly. Therefore, she began to draw a lot of attention. Apart from the top six participants, she was now the participant with the fastest progress.

"It seems like those six will continue to occupy the top six positions this month."

The six participants occupying the top six places had been consistently ranking in the top six over the past few years. These people were Wang Tai from the Martial Battle Mansion, Ye Qiu Feng from the Dazzling Moon Mansion, Ximen Haoxuan from the Red Leaves Mansion, Zhuge Yunqi from the Vast Sky Mansion, and Gongsun Wuji from the Azure Green Mansion.

"They are too strong. It's impossible to displace them from the top six places."

"Initially, I thought Duan Ling Tian would be able to make it into the top six. However, based on the current situation, it seemed like I was too naive."

“Duan Ling Tian? He’s really strong, but he’s not strong enough to rank in the top six.”

“That’s right! In my opinion, it’s already an amazing feat if he’s able to rank in the top 10.”

...

In many people’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian’s outstanding performance was short-lived. Two days later, he slowly faded out of the minds of the people from various grade-six Celestial Mansions.

The people of the Profound Nether Mansion were of the opinion that it would be considered good enough if Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top 10, let alone the top six. After all, it had been almost a year since any disciple from the Profound Nether Mansion managed to rank in the top 20. They would be satisfied even if Duan Ling Tian only ranked in the top 20.

“It seems like Duan Ling Tian was just joking when he said that his goal was to rank first,” a Profound Nether Mansion disciple said with a sigh.

“Why did you take his words seriously? Do you think those six people are pushovers? Let alone those six people, Duan Ling Tian might not even be a match for Wan Qing Qing who’s been on the rise recently!” another disciple said as he shook his head.

Meanwhile, Qi Tian Ming, an inspector of the Nether Profound Mansion, was not surprised when he discovered Duan Ling Tian had dropped from fifth to seventh place. ‘I hope that boy will make it into the top 10...’ He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to rank in the top 6, he only wished Duan Ling Tian would rank in the top 10. After all, he did not think Duan Ling Tian could maintain his position at the fifth place due to the method he used to obtain those points.

...

In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Wan Qing Qing!” A middle-aged man in fiery-red long robes faintly smiled as he stared at the green figure in the distance. “I didn’t expect us to meet again.”

The green figure who was now standing across from the middle-aged man was none other than Wan Qing Qing, an inner court disciple of the Martial Battle Mansion.

“Yun Yan.” Wan Qing Qing was no stranger to the middle-aged man. He was Yun Yan, a core disciple of the Magic Cloud Mansion who was regularly ranked in the top ten. Before she entered the middle realm, she remembered seeing Yun Yan ranked at the 13th place.

Last month, she had fought Yun Yan. She had tried to use her speed to her advantage, but she could not gain an edge over him. She was faster, but he was stronger. In the end, both of them fought to a deadlock. For that reason, they gave up on fighting since they knew it would go nowhere.

“Two hours ago, I received a message saying your progress is only second to that group of six people. You weren’t even ranked on the scoreboard, but you’ve now entered the top 30,” Yun Yan said.

“I was just lucky,” Wan Qing Qing replied indifferently.

Yun Yan was not offended by her indifference. After all, the Martial Battle Mansion's Wan Qing Qing was famously known as an ice queen.

"Congratulations," Yun Yan said before he made a move to leave. Based on their fight last month, he felt it was unnecessary to fight with her. None of them could gain an advantage over the other, after all. He was certain Wan Qing Qing shared the same opinion as well. Therefore, he was surprised when Wan Qing Qing flashed and appeared in front of him, blocking his path.

Yun Yan frowned slightly as he said, "Wan Qing Qing, do you think you're capable of eliminating me? If your strength has improved, I'm willing to fight you. Otherwise, let's not waste our time here."

Last month, their battle lasted half a day; it ended up being a waste of time. Therefore, he had no intention of wasting his time this time around.

"My strength didn't improve..." Wan Qing Qing replied honestly.

"Then stop wasting my time." Yun Yan grew impatient. He had thought Wan Qing Qing had stopped him because she had grown stronger.

Swoosh!

As soon as Yun Yan finished speaking, a figure appeared out of nowhere like a ghost next to Wan Qing Qing. The figure belonged to a handsome purple-clad young man with sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes. Wan Qing Qing and the young man looked like a match made in heaven when they stood together.

Yun Yan narrowed his eyes, and his heart skipped a beat when he saw the purple-clad young man. 'No wonder she stopped me. She's joined forces with another person!' He had heard of Wan Qing Qing joining forces with Heng Feng, but he knew Heng Feng had been eliminated by Duan Ling Tian. He did not expect her to join forces with another person after Heng Feng was eliminated.

An ominous feeling rose in Yun Yan's heart. Since Wan Qing Qing was willing to join forces with this young man, he was certain the young man was not a pushover. His eyes instinctively shifted to the identity token hanging from the young man's waist. His eyes widened and his expression changed drastically when he discovered the identity of the purple-clad young man. "D-duan Ling Tian?!"

Over the past 10 days, most people in grade-six Celestial Mansions in the Southern Heaven Territory had heard about Duan Ling Tian. As a core disciple of the Magic Cloud Mansion, he had, naturally, heard about Duan Ling tian as well.

Yun Yan shifted his gaze back to Wan Qing Qing and said in disbelief, 'Wan Qing Qing, you've joined forces with Duan Ling Tian?'"

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'It's been two days. It's time for me to make a move.'

Duan Ling Tian had learned from Wan Qing Qing through Voice Transmission that Yun Yan was a regular in the top ten. He was rather strong, and Wan Qing Qing had been unable to eliminate him.

Chapter 3164: Encountering Liu Ji Again

Yun Yan's words shocked the members of the Magic Cloud Mansion.

"Wan Qing Qing is working with Duan Ling Tian?!"

"The Profound Nether Mansion's Duan Ling Tian?"

"Yun Yan, is it really Duan Ling Tian from the Profound Nether Mansion?"

A bitter smile appeared on Yun Yan's face when he heard all the questions. "Apart from the Profound Nether Mansion's Duan Ling Tian, who else in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm is capable of such a feat?"

The people on the scene inhaled sharply upon hearing Yun Yan's words.

"Wan Qing Qing is actually working together with Duan Ling Tian? Although Duan Ling Tian's speed is slightly slower than hers, he's strong enough to breach the defenses of the Martial Battle Mansion's Heng Feng!"

"In the past, Heng Feng's defenses were only considered second-tier in the middle realm... However, after he comprehended the law of earth's Defense Profundity, his defenses can be considered top tier!"

"That's right! Even then, Duan Ling Tian managed to breach his defenses!"

"Wan Qing Qing makes up for his shortcomings and vice versa... It's indeed smart of them to work together."

"Their combined strength is enough to threaten those six people."

For a moment, the elders and disciples of the Magic Cloud Mansion shifted their attention to the top six places on the scoreboard. The six people who occupied the top six spots had consistently maintained their ranks over the past few years. Over the years, there were people who joined forces, thinking they would be able to defeat the top six participants. Alas, none of them had succeeded. They wondered if this time Wan Qing Qing and Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat any one of the top six participants by joining forces and break their winning streaks? They were eager to see the outcome. After all, the top six participants were not only strong, but they were mysterious as well.

"I wonder how they hooked up... After all, Wan Qing Qing is from the Martial Battle Mansion while Duan Ling Tian is from the Profound Nether Mansion."

"What do you mean by hook up? They're working together!"

"I thought I heard Wan Qing Qing was working together with Heng Feng before Heng Feng was eliminated by Duan Ling Tian? At that time, Wan Qing Qing managed to escape. Maybe they decided to work together at that time?"

"I don't think so. When Duan Ling Tian was waiting outside the Fire Glaze Mansion's base, Wan Qing Qing was nowhere to be seen. Maybe they ran into each other later on and decided to join forces."

"I agree."

It did not take long before news of Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing joining forces spread from the Magic Cloud Mansion to the other grade-six Celestial Mansions.

It did not take long before the top six participants in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm also received word about Wan Qing Qing and Duan Ling Tian from the higher-ups from their respective Celestial Mansions.

...

In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

A lonely figure stood unmoving at the peak of a dangerous mountain ridge. The figure belonged to a handsome, tall, and well-built young man who was dressed in a long crimson robe. The wind flew against the robe, causing it to flutter in the air like blood rippling in the sky.

“Duan Ling Tian joined forces with Wan Qing Qing? Interesting...” The corner of his lips lifted up in a smirk as his eyes glinted.

”

Boom!

The sound of an explosion rang in the air. The surface of the calm lake was disturbed as a skinny figure shot out of the lake. The figure belonged to a good-looking young man who looked gentle like a scholar. A faint smile appeared on his face as he murmured, “Duan Ling Tian? Wan Qing Qing? I hope I run into them. I need some excitement after all.”

After he finished speaking, he left like a streak of light.

...

In the sky above a forest.

A figure descended domineeringly, frightening his opponent.

“Wang Tai, I surrender!”

Crack!

The frightened participant hastily shattered his Accumulative Point Jade.

“Hm?” The figure seemed divine as surging flames shrouded his body. He muttered to himself, “Junior Sister Qing Qing actually joined forces with the Profound Nether Mansion’s Duan Ling Tian?”

...

In a cave on the wall of a canyon.

A figure sat cross-legged with his eyes closed as though he was waiting for something or someone. The figure belonged to a young man dressed in a long grey robe. Strangely, despite his youthful experience, he had a head full of long white hair. Moreover, even his eyes were white.

Ding!

A soft sound rang in the air.

At some point, a coin had appeared in his hand, and he was flipping it.

After the coin landed accurately in his palm, he murmured, "It seems like I'm not fated to meet with Duan Ling Tian this month..."

He sighed softly before he closed his eyes again. It was clear he had no intention of leaving the cave.

...

"The Profound Nether Mansion disciple who killed Gongsun Jing teamed up with the Martial Battle Mansion's Wan Qing Qing?"

In the sky above a field of ice, a black-clad young man who was flying suddenly came to a stop when he received a message. His eyes narrowed as he scoffed. "Even if you join forces with Wan Qing Qing, it's useless. You'll definitely die if we meet! Since the Profound Nether Mansion treats Duan Ling Tian as their hope, I'll stomp out their hope."

His eyes shone with killing intent as he continued on his flight.

...

"It would be great if I ran into Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing. Otherwise, I'd be bored..." A swift figure flew in the sky above a mountain range. His eyes brightened when he received news of Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing working together. "It would be boring to run into those five people. It's not like they can eliminate me, and I can't eliminate them either... They're the only people I can fight without holding back. Who knows? Maybe I'll be able to fight unreservedly with Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing as well! How exciting! I really hope I'll run into them..."

...

Meanwhile, the Profound Nether Mansion was shocked when they received news about Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing's collaboration.

"Duan Ling Tian teamed up with Wan Qing Qing?"

"They eliminated the Magic Cloud Mansion's Wan Qing Qing... Why did Duan Ling Tian concede the points to Wan Qing Qing though?"

"As it turns out, this is the reason Duan Ling Tian's points stagnated over the past two days... He must have given the points to Wan Qing Qing."

"A hero always has a weakness for beauty... Even Duan Ling Tian isn't an exception!"

Most of the elders and disciples were of the opinion that Wan Qing Qing was taking advantage of Duan Ling Tian. Regardless, they did not say much. After all, it was Duan Ling Tian's choice. Moreover, even if he continued to concede points to Wan Qing Qing, his current achievement was more than enough to make the Profound Nether Mansion proud.

Meanwhile, Qi Tian Ming, an inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion, felt slightly exasperated when he heard this news. 'Is that lad infatuated with the Martial Battle Mansion's Wan Qing Qing?'

He was rather worried so he quickly sent Duan Ling Tian a message. “Lad, don’t forget your test! Wan Qing Qing isn’t human; who knows what intentions she harbors? It’s best if you can maintain a distance, lest she betrays you. Please don’t foolishly give up your points to her...”

...

In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Old Qi...” Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded when he received Qi Tian Ming’s message.

He smiled wryly and shook his head helplessly.

Qi Tian Ming was unaware that he had joined forces with Wan Qing Qing quite a while ago, and if it were not for her, he might not have been able to eliminate Tan Yuan. Due to her information, he had successfully eliminated Tan Yuan. Therefore, he owed her a favor. How could it be considered as him foolishly giving up his points to her?

Now that he had given her Yun Yan’s points, he no longer owed her. This also meant the subsequent points they obtained would be distributed per their agreement.

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing’s Voice Transmission rang in his ears. “Word has gotten out that we’re working together.”

Both of them usually maintained quite a distance when they traveled. However, their Divine Consciousness was linked. In case of an attack on either one of them, the other would be able to make a move immediately.

“That’s not unexpected,” Duan Ling Tian replied through voice transmission. At this moment, his eyes narrowed as he stared ahead. It was as though he had sensed something.

Swoosh!

A figure shrouded in green energy was flying in another direction. However, when it discovered Duan Ling Tian’s presence, it switched direction and made its way over to Duan Ling Tian immediately.

“Duan Ling Tian!” the figure called out coldly. Based on its voice, the figure clearly belonged to a man. His speed was faster than Duan Ling Tian but slower than Wan Qing Qing. His speed was considered second-tier in the middle realm with the likes of the Fire Glaze Mansion’s Tan Yuan and the Magic Cloud Mansion’s Yun Yan.

The man’s eyes shone with killing intent when he appeared, blocking Duan Ling Tian’s path. His voice was cold as he said, “Duan Ling Tian, you managed to eliminate last month by sneaking an attack. Today, I, Liu Ji, will kill you to clear my reputation!”

Chapter 3165: Futile Effort

“Liu Ji...” Duan Ling Tian recognized the man who suddenly appeared before him immediately. When he eliminated Liu Ji last month, he did not even need to borrow the strength of the Five Divine Elements. He had swiftly and easily eliminated Liu Ji with his own strength. Naturally, he knew the elimination was

so swift partly because Liu Ji had been careless. It was too late for Liu Ji when Liu Ji realized he had underestimated Duan Ling Tian.

“Liu Ji?” Wan Qing Qing had come to a halt in the distance when Duan Ling Tian stopped moving as well. Since she was standing far away and also because Liu Ji did not bother to scan his surroundings, he did not notice her presence.

“He wants to kill Duan Ling Tian?” She could hear the two men’s conversation even though she was standing far away. She was rendered speechless by Liu Ji’s words. Liu Ji was not even as powerful as she was, but he thought he could kill Duan Ling Tian? If she was capable of killing or defeating Duan Ling Tian, would Heng Feng even be eliminated?

“It seems like the rumors are true. Liu Ji doesn’t have the best character, and he’s not very popular in the Han Qing Mansion. News has already spread about us working together and eliminating the Magic Cloud Mansion’s Yun Yan, but it’s clear no one has informed him about it... Moreover, it seems like he’s also unaware that you’ve eliminated the Fire Glaze Mansion’s Tan Yuan...” Wan Qing Qing sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. She had come to this conclusion because she knew if Liu Ji were aware of all these things, he would not dare to act so arrogantly in front of Duan Ling Tian.

“I’d like to see how you’re planning to kill me.” Duan Ling Tian remained indifferent when faced with Liu Ji’s killing intent.

Duan Ling Tian’s indifference further enraged Liu Ji. “You won’t be as lucky this time around!”

As soon as Liu Ji finished speaking, he charged at Duan Ling Tian, shrouded in green energy, like a predator lunging at its prey.

Swoosh Swoosh! Swoosh!

Numerous wind blades appeared in the air immediately.

Liu Ji moved at top speed as he charged out with the wind blades. He had cast all the profundities from the law of wind he had comprehended in his first attack.

The wind blades fell on Duan Ling Tian like the rain.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian unhurriedly raised one of his hands.

A crisp sound rang in the air as a spatial tear appeared in front of the wind blades.

Swoosh!

A grey sword ray shot out and circled Duan Ling Tian as it pulsed with energy. Soon enough, a golden flame surged out and shrouded the grey sword ray.

At this point, the wind blades were less than 10 meters away from Duan Ling Tian. Although they were in Duan Ling Tian’s Space Territory that contained the law of space’s Distortion Profundity, it could not completely nullify the fierce wind blades. For a moment, it seemed as though the wind blades had the advantage as they continued to advance.

Upon seeing this, Liu Ji smirked. It was as though he could already see the scene of Duan Ling Tian dying.

“Go.” Despite the wind blades being in close proximity to him, Duan Ling Tian remained nonchalant. He waved his hand again as the grey sword ray shot out like a bolt of lightning.

Swoosh!

The golden flames surged angrily from the grey sword ray as it sailed in the air, looking immensely powerful.

Soon enough, it collided with the numerous wind blades. The two forces seemed to be at a stalemate for a brief moment. Then, the golden flames slowly dimmed, and the wind blades were completely destroyed.

Liu Ji’s eyes widened in shock, disbelief, and horror as he cried out, “Impossible!”

The grey saber ray continued on its flight toward Liu Ji as Liu Ji watched on helplessly. No matter how impossible it seemed, he could not deny the truth before his eyes. His energy surged as he mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Wind Elemental Profundity, trying to dodge the grey sword ray.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Liu Ji moved like the wind and narrowly escaped the grey sword ray. However, before he could catch his breath, his expression changed drastically. At this moment, he saw a figure appeared a few dozen meters away from him like a ghost.

It was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had teleported close to Liu Ji.

‘Restraining Profundity!’ Before Liu Ji reacted, Duan Ling Tian cast the law of space’s Restraining Profundity to confine Liu Ji.

“You think you’re able to restrain me? How funny!” Liu Ji quickly regained his composure despite being held captive in Duan Ling Tian’s space. He sneered as the green energy around him stirred before forming hundreds and thousands of wind blades.

As soon as the wind blades shot out, the outline of the invisible cage that held Liu Ji burned with a golden flame, illuminating its outline. The golden flames were translucent so Duan Ling Tian and Liu Ji could still see each other.

“It’s time to end this.”

As soon as the golden flames appeared on the edges of the space, Wan Qing Qing knew the fight was about to end. Therefore, she appeared next to Duan Ling Tian.

“Wan Qing Qing?!” Liu Ji was taken aback when he saw Wan Qing Qing appearing next to Duan Ling Tian. It seemed like she had no intention of attacking Duan Ling Tian at all. His expression changed drastically. It was not hard to figure out that Wan Qing Qing and Duan Ling Tian were working together.

The wind blades raged in the space Liu Ji was confined in. They attacked the prison ceaselessly.

Alas, even after Liu Ji exerted all his strength, the prison remained firm. Shock, disbelief, and fear flitted across his face. 'How is this possible?! How's Duan Ling Tian so powerful?'

If he had known Duan Ling Tian was so powerful, he would not have made a fuss when he saw Duan Ling Tian despite how much he hated Duan Ling Tian for eliminating him last month.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Liu Ji and said tonelessly, "Even the Fire Glaze Mansion's Tan Yuan couldn't break free, do you really think you'd be able to break free?"

"T-tan Yuan?" Liu Ji's body stiffened upon hearing these words. 'Y-you... You eliminated Tan Yuan?'"

The Fire Glaze Mansion's Tan Yuan usually ranked in the top ten on the scoreboard. The few times he had run into Tan Yuan, he was eliminated by Tan Yuan. Although his speed was not inferior to Tan Yuan's speed, Tan Yuan was stronger than him.

"Why are you so uninformed? Currently, almost everyone outside and possibly inside of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm knows about this... Did no one inform you about it? Do you not know that I currently have more than 300 points, and I rank 8th on the scoreboard?" Duan Ling Tian asked as he feigned surprise.

With every word Duan Ling Tian said, Liu Ji's face darkened even more. His attacks had unconsciously weakened as well.

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing chimed in, "I rank 7th at this moment. However, it's all due to his help that I'm able to rise so high. We even joined forces to eliminate the Magic Cloud Mansion's Yun Yan."

Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback that Wan Qing Qing had spoken up. After spending time with her, he knew she was a taciturn person. However, despite her cold demeanor, he knew she was a warm person inside. Even then, he did not expect her to speak up.

As soon as Wan Qing Qing finished speaking, Liu Ji stopped attacking immediately as he hastily brought out his Accumulative Point Jade.

Alas, before Liu Ji could shatter his Accumulative Point Jade and leave the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, a green figure shot toward him at a frightening speed.

Whoosh!

At this moment, it felt as though time stood still.

Before Liu Ji could shatter his Accumulative Point Jade, the green figure had snatched it away from him.

Swoosh!

Wan Qing Qing's afterimage had not disappeared when she appeared next to Duan Ling Tian again with Liu Ji's Accumulative Point Jade in her hands.

Before Wan Qing Qing revealed herself, Duan Ling Tian had already reminded her to keep a close eye on Liu Ji. He had instructed her to snatch Liu Ji's Accumulative Point Jade away if Liu Ji tried to shatter it. She was not confident she could stop Liu Ji in time from a distance so she had moved to stand next to

Duan Ling Tian. At this distance, she was confident she would be able to snatch the Accumulative Point Jade away before Liu Ji could do anything.

From the moment she appeared next to Duan Ling Tian, she had been watching Liu Ji closely. As soon as she saw Liu Ji bringing out his Accumulative Point Jade and was about to shatter it, she easily snatched it away from him!

Chapter 3166: Ximen Hao Xuan

Since Liu Ji no longer had his Accumulative Point Jade, he could no longer leave the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Heaven unless he returned to the Han Qing Mansion's base. However, how was he supposed to return to Han Qing Mansion's base when he was being restrained by Duan Ling Tian? Even if he was not restrained by Duan Ling Tian, how could he escape with Wan Qing Qing around? Wan Qing Qing's speed was superior to his, after all.

Liu Ji began to tremble, and his eyes widened in fear as he looked at his Accumulative Point Jade in Wan Qing Qing's hand.

"Let me give you one piece of advice..." Duan Ling Tian said evenly, "In your next life, before you seek revenge, it's best if you determine your opponent's strength first. Otherwise, you'll only end up dead!" A sneer appeared on his face when he finished speaking.

Swoosh!

The grey sword ray shot out again toward Liu Ji who was frightened to death. Before he could even contemplate kneeling and begging for mercy, he was already killed. His mouth was slightly open, and his eyes were filled with horror at the moment of his death.

Subsequently, Wan Qing Qing tossed Liu Ji's Accumulative Point Jade in her hand to Duan Ling Tian before taking a big step back.

The Accumulative Point Jade shattered, and the points in there went to Duan Ling Tian.

"Liu Ji actually managed to accumulate more than 60 points?" When Duan Ling Tian checked his Accumulative Point Jade, he discovered he now had 387 points. Before obtaining Liu Ji's points, he had 322 points. Therefore, it was clear he had obtained 65 points from Liu Ji.

'Liu Ji, you were really seeking death!' Wan Qing Qing thought to herself as she briefly looked at Liu Ji's plummeting body.

Throughout Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing's time in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm this month, none of the opponents they encountered harbored killing intent. For this reason, they did not kill their opponents when they eliminated them.

Even when Duan Ling Tian was eliminating so many people outside the Fire Glaze Mansion's base, he did not kill anyone. This was enough to prove he was not someone who killed without rhyme or reason.

Wan Qing Qing understood Duan Ling Tian's reason for killing Liu Ji. If Duan Ling Tian and Liu Ji's roles were reversed, Liu Ji would have definitely killed Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian who had collected Liu Ji's Spatial Ring called out, "Let's go!"

Currently, Duan Ling Tian had already been in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm for five days while Wan Qing Qing had been in there for seven days.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'I hope we'll run into one of the top six participants before Wan Qing Qing has to leave.'

In three days, Wan Qing Qing would be forcibly sent out of the middle realm. Duan Ling Tian was not certain he would be able to eliminate any of the top six participants without Wan Qing Qing's help.

As they continued on their journey, Wan Qing Qing reminded Duan Ling Tian, "Duan Ling Tian, although Liu Ji wasn't popular in the Han Qing Mansion, the Han Qing Mansion won't let the matter slide since you killed one of their inner court disciples."

"I, Duan Ling Tian, have always lived by one principle: I will never do anything that I'll regret," Duan Ling Tian replied, clearly not worried. It was as though he saw the Han Qing Mansion as a toothless tiger.

Wan Qing Qing could tell Duan Ling Tian was not feigning indifference, and her impression of him rose even more.

...

Meanwhile, the elders and disciples gathered in the sites of the Transporting Formations in various grade-six Celestial Mansions saw Duan Ling Tian, who was pushed down the scoreboard by Wan Qing Qing, rise from 8th place to 7th place again.

"Duan Ling Tian suddenly gained 65 points! Who did he eliminate this time?"

"Look! Han Qing Mansion's Liu Ji has disappeared from the scoreboard!"

"Liu Ji? It is Liu Ji again?!"

"That's right! Liu Ji was eliminated by Duan Ling Tian last month as well, right?"

"Yes. Liu Ji is really unlucky! To think he encountered Duan Ling Tian again. Moreover, he ran into Duan Ling Tian who has teamed up with Wan Qing Qing."

After Liu Ji was eliminated last month, he made no secret about his desire to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian. In fact, even people from other grade-six Celestial Mansions knew about his intention to seek revenge. Just as Liu Ji had hoped for, it seemed like he was able to meet Duan Ling Tian. Alas, the result was the same; he was still eliminated by Duan Ling Tian like last month.

Soon enough, news spread from the Han Qing Mansion.

"I just received word from Han Qing Mansion... Not only was Liu Ji eliminated, but he's dead as well! Duan Ling Tian killed him!"

"Although Duan Ling Tian eliminated many disciples from the Fire Glaze Mansion at their base, he didn't kill any of them, right?"

“That’s right. Apart from Liu Ji, Duan Ling Tian had only killed one other person in the middle realm. That person’s from the Azure Green Mansion. However, that’s not much of a surprise since the Profound Nether Mansion and the Azure Green Mansion are hostile toward each other. The disciples from those two mansions who meet each other would usually fight to the death.”

“Liu Ji was cruel by nature. He had been furious that Duan Ling Tian had eliminated him last month. I wouldn’t put it past him to try to kill Duan Ling Tian. Duan Ling Tian most likely killed him because he tried to kill Duan Ling Tian.”

“Isn’t that obvious? Duan Ling Tian didn’t kill him when he eliminated him last month. Why would he kill Liu Ji now for no reason?”

Although the people from the other grade-six Celestial Mansions were not familiar with Duan Ling Tian, based on his past actions, they knew he was not someone who would kill without reason.

In fact, even those from the Han Qing Mansion shared similar opinions. Nevertheless, by killing Liu Ji, Duan Ling Tian had firmly pitted himself against the Han Qing Mansion. Therefore, if they met him in the future, they would not be friendly to him even if they had no intention to fight to the death with him.

...

Time passed as the rankings on the scoreboard kept changing. Even the names in the top ten kept changing, especially the ninth and the tenth place. However, the seventh and eighth place remained unchanged; they were firmly occupied by Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing respectively.

Nevertheless, their points kept increasing as time passed. At this point, there was a difference of almost 100 points between the eighth and ninth place. Apart from that, the difference between the sixth and ninth place was almost 200 points.

“Duan Ling Tian, the points of the person who’s ranked 6th is far ahead of you, and they’re increasing faster than yours... I can only stay here for another day. If we still don’t run into any top-ranking participants, I’m afraid your ranks won’t be able to rise any more this month,” Wan Qing Qing said.

Two days had passed since Duan Ling Tian killed Liu Ji. This meant that Wan Qing Qing had already spent nine days in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Heaven. She would be sent out even if she was not eliminated after ten days.

Although Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing encountered several people in the past two days, their opponents were not top scorers. They were not even ranked in the top 50.

“The point difference between you and the person in sixth place is 196 points.” Wan Qing Qing was privy to this information because she was constantly informed about the changes of the scoreboard.

“196 points?” Duan Ling Tian frowned. Over the past two days, his points had grown from 380 to 435, and yet, there was still such a big gap between him and the person in sixth place?

“That’s the biggest gap for you. In fact, the current person in the first place only has 266 points more than you. The top six participants usually don’t have a big gap between their points. This has been the case over the past few years. Any one of them could take the first spot; it depended more on their luck than their strength at this point.”

'My points are 196 points behind the sixth place but only 266 points behind the first?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes glinted. Similarly, it seemed like he had to depend on luck to improve his rank as well. If he was unlucky and did not encounter anyone, he would be stuck in 7th place.

When they were passing through a mountain range, a voice rang out. "Wan Qing Qing?"

The distant voice seemed to draw closer and closer as it continued to say, "Then, that person next to you should be Duan Ling Tian, right?"

Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing stopped moving immediately and looked in the direction of the voice. They saw a handsome young man flying toward them.

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing said, "It seems like we're rather lucky after all. He's Ximen Hao Xuan, a core disciple of the Red Leaves Mansion!"

Chapter 3167: Ximen Hao Xuan Strikes

A figure stopped Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing above a mountainous terrain before sizing Duan Ling Tian with great interest.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian could feel the person in front of him quickly probing him with his Divine Consciousness.

"You're really less than 100 years old! Duan Ling Tian, are you really from the Southern Heaven Territory?" the handsome young man exclaimed as he looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously.

"Sort of," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"Sort of?" Ximen Hao Xuan, the green-clad young man who was a core disciple of the Red Leaves Mansion, frowned slightly upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply. His curiosity seemed to deepen even more as he said solemnly, "Be clear with your words..."

"I can explain in detail, but first, crush your Accumulative Point Jade and leave. After that, you can come to the Profound Nether Mansion to look for me, and I'll explain it all to you," Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile on his face.

"Ridiculous!" Ximen Hao Xuan shook his head. "Well, we'll just have to see if teaming up with Wan Qing Qing makes you strong enough to claim my points!"

Duan Ling Tian was only casually responding to Ximen Hao Xuan earlier. He, naturally, knew it was impossible for Ximen Hao Xuan to give up his points for the sake of curiosity.

The atmosphere turned tense as soon as Ximen Haoxuan finished speaking.

At the same time, Wan Qing Qing's Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears, "Duan Ling Tian, Ximen Hao Xuan didn't comprehend any of the Five Elemental Laws or their derivative laws like the law of ice and thunder. He didn't comprehend any of the Four Supreme Laws as well..."

After listening to Wan Qing Qing's words, Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly, 'Could he have comprehended the law of destruction?'

The law of destruction was rather unique. It was not derived from the Five Elemental Laws nor was it one of the Four Supreme Laws. Unlike the Five Elements Laws, but similar to the Four Divine Laws, it could not be comprehended through Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities. Certainly, it was much easier to comprehend compared to the Four Supreme Laws. In fact, the comprehension difficulty was similar to the Five Elemental Laws. Strength-wise, it was more powerful than the Five Elemental Laws. Only the law of thunder and ice, which were known as the two most powerful Elemental Laws, could compare to it.

Duan Ling Tian recalled the information about the law of destruction that he had come across when he was in the Simplicity Sect's library. 'The law of destruction is born when one is extremely focused on offensive techniques... For example, sword cultivators, saber cultivators, and rod cultivators who are incredibly focused on offensive techniques have a high chance of comprehending the law of destruction...'

With these thoughts in mind, Duan Ling Tian's expression grew solemn as he looked at Ximen Hao Xuan. After all, based on their incredible focus on offensive techniques, it could be seen that those who were capable of comprehending the law of destruction had an incredibly strong will. How could they be ordinary?

"Duan Ling Tian, shall we make a bet?" Ximen Hao Xuan suddenly asked.

"What bet?" Duan Ling Tian asked as his eyes lit up. He was clearly very interested.

"If I manage to eliminate you and Wan Qing Qing, you have to tell me about your origin. If you manage to eliminate me, I'll give you a Floating Image Pearl that contains the battle of two Celestial Kings who had comprehended nine profundities from the law of space. What do you think?" Ximen Hao Xuan did not waste time and immediately stated the stakes of the bet.

"A Floating Image Pearl that contains the recording of the battle between two Celestial Kings who had comprehended nine profundities from the law of space?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as soon as he heard Ximen Hao Xuan's words. A Floating image Pearl like that was very useful to him. It would be able to help his comprehension of the Transportation Profundity and the other two profundities from the law of space. For this reason, he did not hesitate to reply, "Okay."

"Good! You're very straightforward!" Ximen Hao Xuan laughed heartily upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply. Then, he said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, no matter who's eliminated, I'll visit the Profound Nether Mansion in the future to have a drink with you. I hope you won't refuse me."

"Alright," Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile. He had a rather good impression of Ximen Hao Xuan based on his character.

"Based on your team composition, I assume Wan Qing Qing is in charge of distracting or restraining me while you attack, right? Just to be safe, I won't wait for you to strike first," Ximen Hao Xuan said before he quickly made the first move.

Whoosh!

Ximen Hao Xuan stirred up a gust of wind as he shot toward Duan Ling Tian like a fired arrow.

When Ximen Hao Xuan charged toward Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian could feel a sharp and fierce aura from Ximen Hao Xuan as though Ximen Hao Xuan was not human but a sharp weapon instead.

Swoosh!

Ximen Hao Xuan's body seemed as flexible as a snake. However, when he drew close to Duan Ling Tian, he suddenly stiffened. In just a blink of an eye, a black energy surged out and transformed into a huge energy sword that shrouded him. Then, he waved his right hand lightly before a black sword ray with a destructive aura and terrifying sword intent shot toward Duan Ling Tian. With this one strike, heaven and earth seemed to tremble.

In the past, Duan Ling Tian had obtained the legacy of a sword powerhouse, Feng Qing Yan, in the mundane realm, the Saint Province Realm. For this reason, he was quite an accomplished swordsman. Although he could not compare to Ximen Hao Xuan, he could sense the strength of Ximen Hao Xuan's attack.

The ferocious black sword ray shot out in the sky as though it could tear the void open.

Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine when he saw the fierce sword ray headed his way. With just a thought, he teleported away with the law of space's Teleportation Profundity.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian reappeared 100 meters away from Ximen Hao Xuan's back in just an instant. His robes fluttered in the air as he quickly created a Space Territory with the Territory Profundity. The air in the territory thrummed and rippled immediately.

"No wonder the Teleportation Profundity is known as an unpredictable movement profundity. It's truly impossible to guard against!" Ximen Hao Xuan did not seem surprised that his attack missed. After all, Duan Ling Tian would be unworthy of his fame if he could not even dodge his first strike.

"Watch out for my next attack!" Ximen Hao Xuan's body trembled briefly as the black energy around him expanded. At the same time, a terrifying aura rolled out from his body.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Countless black sword rays rose from the black energy that shrouded Ximen Hao Xuan and began to revolve around him. The terrifying aura that he emitted grew even more fearsome. At this moment, it felt as though he could destroy everything that stood in his way.

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing scoffed softly. Ximen Hao Xuan's attack was so fast that she almost did not have time to react. Her expression turned cold when she realized Ximen Hao Xuan had completely disregarded her and was only focused on attacking Duan Ling Tian.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Wan Qing Qing stood in the center as a gust of cold and biting wind raged around her before it swept toward Ximen Hao Xuan. At the same time, an emerald energy surfaced on her skin; it was her Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the law of wood's Wood Elemental Profundity.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The wind whistled as the emerald energy transformed into vines as thick as an adult's arm. The vines shot toward Ximen Hao Xuan, clearly intending to restrain him.

"Wan Qing Qing, you can't restrain me." Ximen Hao Xuan smiled indifferently as he looked at the countless vines that were shooting toward him from all directions. At the same time, the black sword rays around him shot out as well.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before the green vines could draw closer to the black sword rays, the green vines were destroyed. However, after the green vines were destroyed, more green vines appeared and shot toward Ximen Hao Xuan from the back.

"It's useless." Ximen Hao Xuan did not seem bothered by Wan Qing Qing's attacks at all. With a casual wave of his hand, a sword that was formed from his Celestial Origin Energy and the law of destruction's Fundamental Profundity, the Destructive Elemental Profundity, appeared out of thin air.

Whoosh!

Ximen Hao Xuan waved the sword nonchalantly and cut down the green vines. In just a blink of an eye, the vines withered and turned yellow.

At this moment, spots of emerald energy rained down dazzlingly. They landed on the chopped withered vines and seemed to give them life again. In just a second, the vines reconnected. After that, the vines continued shooting toward Ximen Hao Xuan and circled him before forming a cage of vines that trapped him inside.

Chapter 3168: More Than 1,000 Points!

"Neat trick!" Although Ximen Hao Xuan was trapped in the green vines formed by emerald energy, he was clearly not nervous at all. Although Wan Qing Qing's restraints were powerful, they were not enough to trap him. He could easily break them within a few breaths with his full strength. He knew this move consumed a lot of Wan Qing Qing's strength, and she would not be able to use this move again in a short time. At that time, he could easily eliminate her.

At the moment Ximen Hao Xuan was about to break free of the restraints, a figure appeared in the cage. In fact, the cage formed from the vines had blocked off all light so he could not see anything outside. However, due to his Divine Consciousness, he was conscious of what was happening in his surroundings.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaffected by the cage of vines. For this reason, he could easily teleport into the cage with the law of space's Teleportation Profundity.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian appeared, Ximen Hao Xuan could feel the space around him distorting as energy from the Space Territory swept over him. Nevertheless, his Celestial Origin Energy that had been

boosted with the Destruction Elemental Profundity surged, turning into black sword rays, The black sword rays spun around him at top speed, keeping the Space Energy at bay.

“So the rumors are true after all... Speed is your shortcoming,” Ximen Hao Xuan said bluntly, exposing Duan Ling Tian’s plan, as he looked at Duan Ling Tian, “You’re planning to use Wan Qing Qing to restrain me so you can attack me...”

“It’s still not too late for you to crush your Accumulative Point Jade... Otherwise, you might suffer external injuries!” Duan Ling Tian said in response. Once he attacked, Ximen Hao Xuan would not have time to unleash his full strength to fight since Ximen Hao Xuan would need time to break free of Wan Qing Qing’s restraints. He was certain the impact of their attacks would not be able to destroy Wan Qing Qing’s vines in a short time. However, if he can’t defeat Ximen Hao Xuan quick enough, the vines would certainly be destroyed. Wan Qing Qing had also told him she would need to recuperate for half a day before she could use this move again. Therefore, he knew he only had one shot at Ximen Hao Xuan.

“Divine Chaos Earth... To be safe, please lend me your strength!” In order to defeat Ximen Hao Xuan as soon as possible before Ximen Hao Xuan had a chance to exert all his strength, Duan Ling Tian decided to seek help from the Chaos Divine Earth.

The Chaos Divine Earth scoffed upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. “Boy, you finally remember me. Although I might not be as great a help as the Profound Divine Metal or the Chaos Divine Fire in terms of offensive strength, it’s still comparable to offensive profundities at the rudimentary stage.”

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Deafening booms rang from within the cage of vines at this moment.

Wan Qing Qing was drenched in sweat as time passed, trying to maintain the cage of vines with all her might. Not only was the sound thunderous, but the strength was incredibly powerful as well. After only four breaths, her face had already turned pale from the overwhelming stress. “Just a few breaths have passed, but the shockwave of their attacks is already taking a toll on me. Moreover, Ximen Hao Xuan’s attacks aren’t even directed at me... If this continues, I can only hold on for another six breaths...”

At this moment, Wan Qing Qing grew anxious when she realized she had underestimated the shockwave from Ximen Hao Xuan and Duan Ling Tian’s attacks. Just the shockwave alone was comparable to Ximen Hao Xuan actively trying to break her restraints. She gritted her teeth and tried her best to hold on. She was so focused on maintaining the cage that she had no time to communicate with Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission or even pay attention to her surroundings. She knew the cage would be destroyed if she was even slightly distracted. She thought to herself bitterly, ‘As it turns out, even if we joined forces, it’s still not enough to eliminate Ximen Hao Xuan.’

Although Wan Qing Qing did not doubt Duan Ling Tian’s strength, she did not think he would be able to defeat Ximen Hao Xuan within six breaths. With Duan Ling Tian’s strength, he would need, at least, ten breaths to eliminate Ximen Hao Xuan even if Ximen Hao Xuan did not exert all his strength or utilize speed, which was one of his specialties.

Naturally, Wan Qing Qing’s speculation was based on her understanding of Duan Ling Tian and Ximen Hao Xuan’s strength. She had been eliminated by Ximen Hao Xuan once so she was familiar with his strength.

“Hm?” After five breaths passed, Wan Qing Qing was shocked to discover the shockwave assaulting her vines seemed to have disappeared. The crushing pressure that was bearing down on her had disappeared as well.

Wan Qing Qing was about to extend her Divine Consciousness to check what was going on in the cage when a voice rang from within the cage. “Thank you for showing mercy.”

The words sounded sincere.

“This voice...” Wan Qing Qing’s eyes brightened when she realized the voice belonged to Ximen Hao Xuan. She quickly withdrew the vines and saw two figures standing in front of her.

Duan Ling Tian seemed unharmed. Although his robes were slightly torn, there was no wound on him.

On the other hand, Ximen Hao Xuan had more than ten wounds on his body. The wound on his chest, in particular, looked terrible. If it had gone several inches deeper, he would have lost his life.

“Don’t forget our bet!” Duan Ling Tian said as he looked at Ximen Hao Xuan.

“Don’t worry, I will personally bring it to you,” Ximen Hao Xuan said after he caught his breath. He did not look like he had a close brush with death as he smiled at Duan Ling Tian as though nothing had happened.

“I’ll be waiting for you.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“There’s no need for you to wait... I’ll ask my junior uncle to bring me to the Profound Nether Mansion once I leave the middle realm. By the time you leave the middle realm, I should be in the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate,” Ximen Hao Xuan said. Since he was a core disciple of the grade-six Red Leaves Mansion, there were people notifying him of the changes on the scoreboard. Therefore, he knew when Duan Ling Tian had entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm and could roughly estimate when Duan Ling Tian had to leave.

“Let’s drink when we meet,” Ximen Hao Xuan said with a smile before he crushed his Accumulative Point Jade.

After Ximen Hao Xuan was sent out of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Duan Ling Tian took out his Accumulative Point Jade. He was incredibly curious about his current points.

Ximen Hao Xuan had consistently ranked in the top six over the past few years in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Moreover, he was also ranked first a few times.

Before Duan Ling Tian eliminated Ximen Hao Xuan, Ximen Hao Xuan, naturally, ranked above him. He knew Ximen Hao Xuan was ranked in the top six, but he did not know Ximen Hao Xuan’s exact rank. After all, the point difference between those people who were ranked in the top six was very small so their ranks changed easily.

“How many points?” Wan Qing Qing was equally as curious as Duan Ling Tian.

“1207!” Duan Ling Tian said with a grin.

Wan Qing Qing fell into a daze when she saw Duan Ling Tian grinning from ear to ear. This was the first time she had seen him smiling so happily. When she regained her senses, she discovered she was blushing. Then, she hurriedly congratulated him, "Congratulations! With your current points, you'll surely rank first on the scoreboard. Based on my knowledge, it has been twelve years since anyone has accumulated more than 1,000 points in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm!"

She continued to say with a smile, "By now, those people outside the middle realm and those from the Red Leaves Mansion must be shocked. I bet no one expected you to be capable of eliminating Ximen Hao Xuan."

...

Just as Wan Qing Qing had said, when everyone from the Red Leaves Mansion saw Ximen Hao Xuan who had been transported out of the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, they were dumbfounded!

Chapter 3169: Duan Ling Tian Ranks First!

Ximen Hao Xuan was a core disciple of the Red Leaves Mansion. He was the strongest disciple below the stage of a Celestial King in the mansion. In fact, those who were below the stage of a Celestial King in grade-six Celestial Mansions in the Southern Heaven Territory did not dare to say they were capable of eliminating Ximen Hao Xuan. For this reason, the elders and disciples of the Red Leaves Mansion were in disbelief when they saw him.

"Senior Ximen, what happened?"

"Senior, did those in the top six join forces to eliminate you?"

Since Ximen Hao Xuan and the other five Celestial Dukes began to consistently rank in the top six, he had never been eliminated.

"It's true that I was eliminated by two people who joined forces, but they're not any of those five people," Ximen Hao Xuan replied calmly when faced with the people who were looking at him in shock and disbelief.

Then, he turned to look at the scoreboard and thought to himself with a faint smile on his face when he saw the name ranked at the top, 'It seems like he'll rank first this month. What an interesting character...'

Ximen Hao Xuan did not seem dissatisfied with his elimination at all. He was convinced by Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing's combined forces even though he knew Wan Qing Qing would not have been able to restrain him so easily if he was not careless. Nevertheless, with Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing joining forces, he knew it would be a matter of time before Wan Qing Qing managed to restrain him anyway.

He continued thinking to himself, 'Unless I can improve my speed to another level, I'm no match for them if they work together... Among the other five people, perhaps, only Zhuge Yun Qi is a match for them...'

Meanwhile, the members of the Red Leaves Mansion followed Ximen Hao Xuan's gaze and looked at the scoreboard as well. As expected, there was an uproar when they saw the newest change on the scoreboard.

"Look, the scoreboard has changed!"

"What?"

"The person who was ranked first has been pushed down to the second place by Duan Ling Tian!"

The elders and disciples from the Red Leaves Mansion were shocked to see the person who ranked first was not among the six Ten Directions Celestial Dukes who consistently ranked in the top six over the past few years. Instead, Duan Ling Tian from the Profound Nether Mansion was currently ranked first! None of them had expected this.

A disciple who regained his senses first cried out, "I understand Senior Ximen's words now. As it turns out, it's Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing who eliminated him, not the top five Ten Directions Celestial Dukes!"

"Although I thought of the possibility of Duan Ling Tian being a match for the six strongest Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the middle realm after joining forces with Wan Qing Qing, I didn't expect him to eliminate Senior Ximen!"

"That's right! Since they're capable of eliminating Senior Ximen, there's no doubt they're capable of eliminating the other five Ten Directions Celestial Dukes as well!"

"Isn't that obvious? After all, Senior Ximen's strength is not inferior to the other five!"

The group of elders and disciples felt more at ease when they arrived at the conclusion that Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing were capable of eliminating the other five strongest Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the middle realm as well. They could only lament Ximen Hao Xuan's bad luck for encountering the duo.

...

Similarly, there was uproar in the other grade-six Celestial Mansions in the Southern Heaven Territory.

"Duan Ling Tian made it to first place?"

"Is this real?"

"Heavens! Is Duan Ling Tian a monster? It's only his second time in the middle realm, but he has already made it to the top!"

"Apart from that, he has accumulated more than 1,000 points! If nothing out of the ordinary happens, he should be able to maintain his rank until the end of the month!"

"Gongsun Wu Ji who had dropped to second place has slightly more than 700 points. To surpass Duan Ling Tian, he'll need to eliminate Wan Qing Qing. It won't help him to eliminate those who are ranked below her."

...

Meanwhile, the people from the Profound Nether Mansion were, naturally, ecstatic when they saw the new changes on the scoreboard.

“I didn’t expect that I would live to see the day when a Celestial Duke from our mansion manages to rank first in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm!”

Most of the elders and disciples were greatly moved. Their eyes were slightly red as they looked at the first name on the scoreboard. This was a glorious moment for the Profound Nether Mansion after all. Regardless if Duan Ling Tian was just hired help or not, there was no changing the fact that the Profound Nether Mansion was now ranked first on the scoreboard.

“Unbelievable! Duan Ling Tian actually made it to the top! Gongsun Wu Ji from the Azure Green Mansion has slightly more than 700 points now. If he wants to climb back to the top, he’ll have to eliminate Wan Qing Qing!” a disciple said excitedly.

After Ximen Hao Xuan was eliminated, Wan Qing Qing had risen from eighth place to seventh place. All those who ranked behind her had risen one place as well.

“Eliminate Wan Qing Qing? Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing definitely worked together to eliminate Ximen Hao Xuan. Do you think Gongsun Wu Ji is capable of eliminating Wan Qing Qing with Duan Ling Tian by her side?” another disciple said confidently.

“Time’s running out for Gongsun Wu Ji. The only way for him to return to the top is to eliminate Wan Qing Qing.”

“If I’m not mistaken, he entered the middle realm earlier than Ximen Hao Xuan!”

“He seems to be the first among the six to enter the middle realm. For this reason, he has a slight advantage over the others.”

Many of the elders and disciples thought it would be difficult for Gongsun Wuji to encounter people who had accumulated many points.

“Seems like Duan Ling Tian’s rank for this month is secure!”

“Amazing!”

“Duan Ling Tian is our hero!”

As news of this continued to spread in the Profound Nether Mansion, even elders and disciples who did not usually concern themselves with rankings in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were excited. After all, it had been a few thousand years, at least, since the Profound Nether Mansion was ranked first!

...

Meanwhile, a heavy and gloomy atmosphere seemed to loom over the Azure Green Mansion’s estate.

At this moment, Gongsun Wuji who had just been sent out of the middle realm because his time was up appeared in the Transporting Formation. ‘Fortunately, I’m at the top when I left the middle realm. I

wonder if any of those five would be able to surpass me this month...’ Since he had just arrived, he was unaware that Duan Ling Tian had already risen to first place after eliminating Ximen Hao Xuan.

At the same time, the disciples in the surroundings were fervently discussing the new changes among themselves.

“I didn’t expect Senior Gongsun would lose the first spot.”

“Damn it! Duan Ling Tian wouldn’t have been able to eliminate the Red Leaves Mansion’s Ximen Hao Xuan if he didn’t join forces with Wan Qing Qing! Senior Gongsun wouldn’t have dropped a place as well!”

“I wouldn’t feel unresigned if any of the five strongest Ten Directions Celestial Dukes took first place. However, I feel very unresigned that Duan Ling Tian took first place!”

Upon hearing the conversations in his surroundings, Gongsun Wu Ji’s expression turned unsightly. He quickly looked at the scoreboard and discovered he was now ranked second. Duan Ling Tian was now ranked first with more than 1,000 points after eliminating Ximen Hao Xuan. With these points, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian’s rank would be unshakeable this month.

‘Duan! Ling! Tian!’ Gongsun Wuji’s eyes burned with killing intent as he looked at the first name on the scoreboard.

...

In the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

In just a blink of an eye, a day had passed.

“In another 15 minutes, I’ll be transported out of the middle realm. You should leave as well. It’s impossible for anyone to surpass your points now,” Wan Qing Qing said to Duan Ling Tian.

After eliminating Ximen Hao Xuan, Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing had encountered a few other people. He had ceded all the points to her. With the points, Wan Qing Qing’s rank was rather stable. This was the highest rank she had achieved in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm after all these years.

Chapter 3170: The Supreme Powerhouse Divinity

After Wan Qing Qing left the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Duan Ling Tian returned to the Profound Nether Mansion’s base. Just as she had said, he was confident he would remain in first place for the month with his current points. He could have stayed in the middle realm to accumulate points, but he knew it was unlikely for him to be able to gain a huge number of points at this point in time. Therefore, it was better for him to save time and leave the middle realm as well.

When Duan Ling Tian returned to the base, a group of Ten Directions Celestial Dukes greeted him respectfully and even addressed him as their senior. Since they knew Duan Ling Tian had made it to the top, they, naturally, admired the young man who was not even 100 years old. Their enthusiasm was not dampened by their assumption that he was just hired by the Profound Nether Mansion to help them.

Swoosh!

When Duan Ling Tian arrived at one of the sites of the Transporting Formation in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate, many people were already gathered to wait for his arrival.

Hundreds and thousands of eyes shifted to Duan Ling Tian as soon as he arrived, and everyone began to cheer.

"Senior Duan Ling Tian, you're really amazing for obtaining more than 1,000 points!"

"Senior Duan Ling Tian, you'll definitely remain at the top this month with the points you've accumulated!"

"Senior Duan Ling Tian, you're my idol!"

A group of disciples from the Profound Nether Mansion clamored for Duan Ling Tian's attention. Their eyes were shining brightly when they looked at him.

Some female disciples even boldly propositioned him.

"Senior Duan Ling Tian, I like you!"

"Senior Duan Ling Tian, do you have a cultivation partner?"

Although Duan Ling Tian had expected a certain degree of attention, he did not expect the Profound Nether Mansion disciples to be so enthusiastic, especially the female disciples. He found it slightly difficult to accept. When did women become so bold?

At this moment, an elder stepped forward and blocked the group of clamoring disciples. "Duan Ling Tian, I can't believe you eliminated the Red Leaves Mansion's Ximen Hao Xuan!"

"I was just fortunate." Duan Ling Tian faintly smiled. "I couldn't have eliminated Ximan Hao Xuan without Wan Qing Qing's help."

"In the past, many people had tried working together to ruin the winning streak of the six strongest Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the middle realm. However, you and Wan Qing Qing are the only ones who have succeeded. There's no need for you to be humble," the elder said with a smile.

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly and politely rejected an invitation by a group of elders before he left the transportation site. After he left, he sighed in relief. The elders were enthusiastically recommending their daughters and granddaughters to him, clearly eager for him to become their son-in-law. He made his way to Qi Tian Ming's residence where he was temporarily staying.

"Old Qi!"

"You're back early." Qi Tian Ming was rather surprised when he saw Duan Ling Tian. "Don't you have two more days before your days in the middle realm are up this month?"

"Wan Qing Qing has left so it's meaningless for me to stay. It'd be better for me to leave early so I can continue comprehending the law of space," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"That makes sense. After all, with your score, your rank at the top is secure." Qi Tian Ming had already learned about Duan Ling Tian ranking first the day before and had sent him a congratulatory message.

"I can't believe you really manage to rank first." Before Duan Ling Tian entered the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Qi Tian Ming did not place much hope in Duan Ling Tian ranking first even if he waited outside the Fire Glaze Mansion's base. Moreover, there were those six monsters who stood between him and the first place. Those six Ten Directions Celestial Dukes were so strong that nobody could move them from their places over the past few years. Although he had learned about Duan Ling Tian joining forces with Wan Qing Qing, he still did not think Duan Ling Tian stood a chance.

"We were just lucky," Duan Ling Tian said. After his encounter with the Red Leaves Mansion's Ximen Hao Xuan, he dared not underestimate the six strongest Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. He knew if he were to go against them on his own, he would not be able to eliminate them. Naturally, they would not be able to eliminate him as well. After all, their speed was much faster than his. Even with the help from the three Divine Elements, it would be difficult for his attacks to land. At most, he would be able to defend against their attacks. In order to eliminate them, he would have to master the Teleportation Profundity and the Transportation Profundity from the law of space.

"It doesn't matter if it's due to luck. The important thing is you manage to rank first this month," Qi Tian Ming said with a smile. Then, his smile waned suddenly as he said, "Alas, there's no guarantee you'll be able to work with Wan Qing Qing again next month since you don't know if you'll be able to meet her in the middle realm... Moreover, there's no one in our mansion who has speed comparable to hers..." Although he did not witness Duan Ling Tian and Wan Qing Qing's battles, it was not difficult for him to deduce that Wan Qing Qing's speed played a big part in Duan Ling Tian's success. Otherwise, why would Duan Ling Tian join forces with her?

"If you manage to work with someone as fast as Wan Qing Qing every month, it won't be difficult for you to pass the test and become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion," Qi Tian Ming said with a sigh. He still found it difficult to accept the insurmountable task that the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion had set for Duan Ling Tian who was not even 100 years old!

"There's always a solution to a problem. We'll deal with it when the time comes." Contrary to Qi Tian Ming, Duan Ling Tian was rather optimistic. "Old Qi, I want to visit the Coupling Celestial Sect, are you free to take me there?"

"Are you planning to meet your friend?" Qi Tian Ming knew Duan Ling Tian had a good friend named Huang Jia Long who joined the Coupling Celestial Sect due to a misunderstanding that happened previously.

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Sure, I'll take you to the Coupling Celestial Sect."

Qi Tian Ming did not waste time and immediately brought Duan Ling Tian with him, leaving the Profound Nether Mansion for the Coupling Celestial Sect.

...

With Qi Tian Ming's speed, it only took them three days and two nights to arrive at the Coupling Celestial Sect.

As one of the ten inspectors of the Profound Nether Mansion, it was only natural that the first and second Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect personally greeted them upon their arrival.

“Senior Uncle Qi.”

The First and Second Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect were lower in rank, therefore, they had to address Qi Tian Ming as senior uncle.

“This must be Duan Ling Tian, right?” The first sect leader, Gongsun Wenqing, smiled and looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“Yes, he’s Duan Ling Tian.” Qi Tian Ming nodded.

“Duan Ling Tian, you’ve achieved a remarkable feat. Based on my knowledge, it’s been years since someone from the Profound Nether Mansion managed to rank first in the middle realm of the Profound Nether Mansion. You surely made the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion proud!” Gongsun Wenqing said amicably.

“Sect Leader Gongsun, you flatter me. I’m actually here to look for Jia Long,” Duan Ling Tian said.

“I’ve already sent him a message to summon him over.”

Just a few moments after Gongsun Wenqing finished speaking, Huang Jia Long arrived.

Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Long exchanged a hug as soon as they met.

Meanwhile, Qi Tian Ming and the two sect leaders tactfully retreated to give the duo some time alone.

“Brother Duan, my master told me you’re ranked first in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm this month! How amazing!” Huang Jia Long said excitedly. “From what I know, the middle realm is a stage for Ten Directions Celestial Dukes. My master said you must have consumed the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit. Is it true?”

“That’s right.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“The Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit helped you comprehend the law of space as well?” Huang Jia Long asked.

Duan Ling Tian did not notice the slight changes in Huang Jia Long’s expression when Huang Jia Long asked this question. Huang Jia Long’s eyes shone brightly as though he had something in mind at this moment.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Come with me!” Huang Jia Long beckoned to Duan Ling Tian and led him deeper into the Coupling Celestial Sect’s estate.

Since Huang Jia Long was the direct disciple of the first Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, it was only natural that his cultivation place was located deep in the estate where the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was most abundant.

Duan Ling Tian followed Huang Jia Long and entered his room.

Swoosh!

Huang Jia Long extended his Divine Consciousness to investigate the room before he extended his hand in front of Duan Ling Tian. Soon enough, a diamond-shaped black stone appeared in his palm.

At this moment, the Profound Divine Metal, the Chaos Divine Flame, and the Chaos Divine Earth cried out in unison, "The Supreme Powerhouse Divinity!"