

Chapter 3181: The Upper Realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Territory

A Celestial King could create Little Worlds anywhere, and they could hold living things as well.

When Duan Ling Tian had just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven, he had entered the Little World created by the Celestial King from the Blissful Sect. It was in that Little World that he had a fateful encounter with the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's Murong Bing.

'Everything has gone quite smoothly so far... In less than 100 years since I ascended here, I've already become a Celestial King. I have 900 years left to get stronger. I'm going to set a goal for myself today; I must stand at the pinnacle of this Devata Realm within 500 years. I'll have 400 years left after that to get even stronger so that I can enter the Divine Offering Realm to save Ke'er, Fei'er, and the others!'

After Duan Ling Tian casually tried to create a Little World, he destroyed it once he confirmed he could create another Little World.

"I'm a Celestial King now..." Duan Ling Tian rose to his feet after he opened his eyes. Although he had a taste of what it was like to possess the strength of a Celestial King in the past, it felt different now that the strength was his own and not granted by the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon.

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Half an hour later, Duan Ling Tian arrived at the backyard of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's backyard.

"Senior."

"You've broken through?" The old man was still fishing. He did not turn around to look at Duan Ling Tian, but it was obvious he knew Duan Ling Tian had broken through and become a Celestial King.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Not bad... You managed to break through in less than half a month. Although it's largely due to the Celestial Fruits, it wouldn't be so quick if you're not talented as well," the old man said, "You can continue comprehending the law of space over this period of time. If possible, try not to leave the Profound Nether Mansion before becoming a Ten Directions Celestial King. You've made many enemies, after all. Apart from the Blood Skull Gang, the Azure Green Mansion has also sent men to spy on our mansion; they're waiting to kill you if you leave the mansion."

"A Ten Directions Celestial King? How long must I stay in the mansion then?" Although Duan Ling Tian wanted to break through and become a Ten Directions Celestial King as soon as possible, he was only a One Basic Celestial King now. How long would it take before he became a Ten Directions Celestial King?

"With your talent in cultivation, you should be able to break through in 300 years," the old man replied.

"300 years?" The corner of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched. He was only almost 100 years old now. 300 years were too long a time to become a Ten Directions Celestial King! Naturally, he was aware that in Devata Realms, the higher one's cultivation base was, the more difficult it would be to break through.

To become a Ten Directions Celestial King from a One Basic Celestial King, most people would need more than ten times the time it took for them to become a One Basic Celestial King from the moment they cultivated.

The old man replied, "Well, it's just a conservative guess of mine. The Profound Nether Mansion will do all it can to help you become a Ten Directions Celestial King. We'll provide you with Celestial Fruits, Celestial Pills, and other resources to ensure you'll be able to become a Ten Directions Celestial King as soon as possible. If you're lucky, you might become a Ten Directions Celestial King in less than 300 years."

The old man continued to say, "At this point, the Profound Nether Mansion still has some resources that can boost your cultivation base. Naturally, these resources aren't limitless. I have sent the disciples of my disciples to look for Celestial Fruits and Celestial Pills that can help with your cultivation. In any case, you'll be able to become a Ten Directions Celestial King faster by staying in the Profound Nether Mansion than staying in the Su Clan. It's a long and slow process to become a Ten Directions Celestial King. There's nothing as heaven-defying as the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit that can instantly raise your cultivation base to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King."

Duan Ling Tian fell silent and pondered on the old man's words.

"Moreover, didn't you say you want to personally deal with the Blood Skull Gang? With your current strength, you'll only die if you go against them. From what I know, the Blood Skull Gang sent a Ten Directions Celestial King and two Nine Palaces Celestial Kings this time to assassinate you," the old man said.

"A Ten Directions Celestial King and two Nine Palace Celestial Kings?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow upon hearing these words. However, he was not worried. After all, he still had one use left in the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon that would grant him strength comparable to a One Basic Celestial Lord. With his comprehension of the law of space, he was confident he would be able to kill all the assassins.

Moreover, although one of the assassins was a Ten Directions Celestial King, Duan Ling Tian thought it was unlikely that the assassin had comprehended any profundity to the initial stage. In comparison, he had comprehended the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage. With that and the temporary strength of a One Basic Celestial Lord, he was certain he would be able to kill the three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang.

Therefore, Duan Ling Tian did not spare much thought for the assassins from the Blood Skull Gang. Instead, he was wondering if he really had to stay in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate until he became a Ten Directions Celestial King.

"Senior..." After taking a deep breath, Duan Ling Tian gave voice to the thoughts in his mind. "If I leave the Profound Nether Mansion to explore the Southern Heaven Territory, what are the chances of me coming across fortuitous encounters that will help me become a Ten Directions Celestial King faster?"

"You're naive!" The old man immediately put his fishing rod down as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He rose to his feet and turned around to look at Duan Ling Tian before he continued to say, "The cultivation resources that the Profound Nether Mansion will provide you can be considered a fortuitous

encounter as well! Even if you manage to safely leave the mansion's estate to gather cultivation resources, they won't be able to compare to the resources the mansion is able to provide you. If you need someone to spar with, I can always suppress my cultivation base to spar with you. You can choose if you want to sustain light scratches, to be severely injured, or incapacitated; I can do it all." A chilling smile appeared on the old man's face as soon as he finished speaking.

Chills ran up Duan Ling Tian's spine when he saw the old man's smile.

After a beat, the old man said, "This is the Southern Heaven Territory, not the Seven Upper Province... I can't speak with certainty for the Seven Upper Province, but I can tell you for sure that in the Southern Heaven Territory, your best option is to stay in the Profound Nether Mansion if you want to become a Ten Directions Celestial King in the fastest time possible."

The old man's words successfully wiped away Duan Ling Tian's doubt. After all, he knew his knowledge of the Southern Heaven Territory was lacking in comparison to the old man. After a while, he asked, "Senior, are you planning to send me to the Su Clan after I become a Ten Directions Celestial King?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"That's right."

Duan Ling Tian did not expect the old man would reply to him so candidly.

The old man explained, "Once you become a Ten Directions Celestial King, you can join the Su Clan and enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm... In the Southern Heaven Territory, it's almost impossible to become a Celestial Lord from a Celestial King; you'll need help or some sort of fortuitous encounter. Therefore, you can only hope to come across some fortuitous encounter in the upper realm to help you break through and become a One Basic Celestial Lord. If the middle realm is a stage for Celestial Dukes, then the upper realm is the stage for Celestial Kings in the Southern Heaven Territory... Regardless if you're from the Ten Major Clans, the Top Five Sects, or if you're a sectless cultivator, as long as your cultivation base meets the requirement, you'll be able to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm to look for fortuitous encounters."

With the old man's words, Duan Ling Tian gained knowledge of the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

"The only place in the Southern Heaven Territory that can possibly help you to become a Ten Directions Celestial King faster than the Profound Nether Mansion is the upper realm. However, the risks of entering the upper realm with your current strength are extremely high; it'll be akin to suicide if you enter now. For this reason, I didn't consider letting you enter the upper realm now; not until you're strong enough to protect yourself in there. However, if you manage to comprehend another profundity from the law of space to the initial stage, I will allow you to enter the upper realm even if you're only a Seven Stars Celestial King or an Eight Trigrams Celestial King."

Then, the old man looked at Duan Ling Tian intently and said, "For now, it's best you stay put in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened imperceptibly upon hearing the old man's words. He asked, "Senior, do you mean to say there are many Celestial Kings in the upper realm who have comprehended one profundity to the initial stage?"

Since Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the law of space's Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage, he could easily hold his ground against a Three Talents Celestial King or a Four Phenomena Celestial King. Naturally, if his opponents had comprehended a profundity to the initial stage as well, then he would be no match for them. This was the way things worked; when you had something that others did not, it would be your strength. However, if others possessed what you possessed, it would no longer be your strength.

The old man nodded. "That's right. Many disciples from the Ten Major Clans and the Top Five Sects have comprehended one profundity to the initial stage. Even if you've become a Ten Directions Celestial King now, your strength would only be considered comparable to second-tier disciples due to your comprehension of the law of space."

The old man's words were rather effective; Duan Ling Tian no longer felt as gungho as before. Initially, he had been rather confident of his strength. He was certain those below the stage of a Celestial Lord would not be able to harm him once he had become a Ten Directions Celestial King. How could he not feel disheartened after discovering that his strength would only be considered second-tier if he had only comprehended one profundity to the initial stage after becoming a Ten Directions Celestial King?

Nevertheless, it did not take long for Duan Ling Tian to regain his confidence. 'The pavilion master thinks it's acceptable as long as I manage to comprehend two profundities to the initial stage when I become a Seven Stars or Eight Trigrams Celestial King... He doesn't know I possess the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity from a Supreme Powerhouse who had mastered the law of space. With the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity, the speed of my comprehension is beyond anyone's imagination.'

Duan Ling Tian, who was persuaded by the old man's words, finally made up his mind. 'I'll stay in the mansion's estate for now. After comprehending another two profundities from the law of space to the initial stage, I think I'll be able to enter the upper realm even if I haven't become a Seven Stars or Eight Trigrams Celestial King at that time...'

Chapter 3182: Huan'er

Most of the people from the Profound Nether Mansion, including Qi Tian Ming, were unaware that Duan Ling Tian had already become a Celestial King so they were looking forward to Duan Ling Tian entering the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm again and continuing to maintain his spot at the top. They believed that with his strength, it would be easy for him to stay at the first place unless he was extremely unlucky. It was only natural that they were confused when Duan Ling Tian did not enter the middle realm even though half a month had passed since it opened again. Everyone was fervently discussing his absence from the middle realm this month.

"What's going on? Where's Senior Duan Ling Tian?"

"I hope he didn't leave the Profound Nether Mansion."

“That’s possible... Otherwise, he should have entered the middle realm by now.”

“Wasn’t Senior Duan hired by the Profound Nether Mansion? It’s not surprising that he left, right?”

“Rumor has it that he’s not hired by the Profound Nether Mansion. He came from the Simplicity Celestial Sect.”

“The Simplicity Celestial Sect from the Three Sects and Two Clans? Heavens! I didn’t expect Senior Duan Ling Tian to come from there.”

“I think the Su Clan might have brought Senior Duan back to the clan. Otherwise, it’s impossible that he still hasn’t entered the middle realm.”

Meanwhile, Qi Tian Ming could not hold back his curiosity and sent a message to Duan Ling Tian. “You don’t plan to enter this month?”

“Enter where?” Duan Ling Tian who was having a conversation with the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion received Qi Tian Ming’s message at this moment. For a moment, he did not understand what Qi Tian Ming was talking about.

“The middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm,” Qi Tian Ming replied.

“Oh. I’ve already broken through and become a Celestial King. Do you think I can still enter the middle realm?” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“He’s already become a Celestial King?” Qi Tian Ming was shocked when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s reply. He did not expect this at all. He knew that Duan Ling Tian was able to become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke due to the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit. However, Duan Ling Tian had only become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke not too long ago, and yet, he had already broken through and become a Celestial King? He knew Duan Ling Tian’s recent breakthrough could not possibly have anything to do with Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit since the fruit could only help one become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke not a Celestial King.

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“Senior, I promise to stay in the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate for now. I’ll only consider leaving once I’m strong enough to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm,” Duan Ling Tian said to the old man.

The old man nodded in satisfaction upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. Then, as though he had just recalled something, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Recently, we discovered there’s a woman hanging around the estate; she might be a spy. Strangely, there seemed to be two people tailing her. She appeared soon after the three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang and the people from the Azure Green Mansion appeared. Could she be someone you know?” Since he could not figure out the woman’s identity, he could only ask Duan Ling Tian about it.

“A woman?” Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. “What does she look like?”

“She was wearing a veil and a hat so I couldn’t see her face at all,” the old man replied.

Upon hearing the old man's words, Duan Ling Tian's expression changed drastically. He was reminded of someone as soon as he heard the old man's words.

'Could it be Huan'er?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed imperceptibly. He looked at the old man and asked anxiously, "Senior, where's she now? She might be a friend whom I've been searching for for a long time now. Perhaps she had come to the mansion because she heard about me being here." His instincts told him there was a high chance that the woman was Huan'er.

"She's a friend of yours?" The old man cocked an eyebrow. Then, he raised his hand, and an energy swept out and shrouded Duan Ling Tian.

In just a blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian discovered they had left the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. They were moving so fast that his surroundings were just a blur.

After a moment, they began to slow down and came to a halt before the old man said, "There she is."

Duan Ling Tian hastily turned to look in the direction where the old man was looking. He saw a white-clad woman with a curvaceous body standing in the distance. Although she was wearing a hat and veil, one could easily tell she had an extraordinary bearing. He was familiar with the veil and the hat; after all, he had bought them for her.

"Huan'er!" Duan Ling Tian called out excitedly. He did not expect Huan'er to appear at the Profound Nether Mansion. When he finally saw that she was safe and sound, the burden in his heart lifted immediately.

"Don't reveal yourself first," the old man warned just as Duan Ling Tian was about to step forward, "There are two people hiding behind her. They seem to be Celestial Beasts. I've probed them with my Divine Consciousness, and it seems like they're from the Phantom Fox Clan."

Duan Ling Tian's expression changed again upon hearing the old man's words. The Phantom Fox Clan? He recalled what Huan'er's grandaunt had told him; before Huan'er became a Celestial Emperor, she should avoid meeting any members of the Phantom Fox Clan apart from her mother. Apart from that, her grandaunt had also said that if any of the members from the Phantom Fox Clan who did not bear the surname Du approached Huan'er, Duan Ling Tian should kill them. Otherwise, Huan'er would be in grave danger.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath before he asked the old man, "Senior, are you sure they're from the Phantom Fox Clan?"

"I'm almost 100% certain," the old man replied.

"Senior, please take me to them so I can ask for their names... If their surname isn't Du, please kill them before they use a Communication Celestial Talisman," Duan Ling Tian said in a solemn tone tinged with urgency.

The old man nodded, clearly willing to help Duan Ling Tian without asking any questions. After all, Duan Ling Tian was his last chance to avenge his father. Without Duan Ling Tian, the chances of him avenging his father were slim to none.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware that the former Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion from 30,000 years ago was the old man's father.

The old man's mother had been on the run that year and gave birth to him before she died. He knew about his origin because his mother had left him a Memory Celestial Talisman before she died. Driven by revenge and hatred, he successfully entered the Profound Nether Mansion and rose until his current rank, and yet, he was still incapable of killing the Clan Leader of the He Clan to avenge his parents. Duan Ling Tian's appearance had renewed his hope, therefore, as soon as Duan Ling Tian agreed to avenge his parents, he cherished Duan Ling Tian's life more than his own. Even if Duan Ling Tian wanted his life, he would gladly kill himself as long as Duan Ling Tian promised to avenge his parents.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The old man brought Duan Ling Tian with him and appeared in front of the two men who were tailing Huan'er.

The two men, a young man and a middle-aged man, were taken aback when they saw Duan Ling Tian and the old man suddenly appeared in front of them.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes glinted coldly as he asked in a low voice, "What are both of you doing sneaking around the Profound Nether Mansion's estate? Tell me your names and your background. If either one of you lies, I won't hesitate to kill you..."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, the two men's expressions turned grim. They could not see how Duan Ling Tian and the old man appeared. This indicated that Duan Ling Tian or the old man was much stronger than them.

The young man hastily said, "Sir, we're from the Phantom Fox Clan. My name is Zhang Qi Yu, and he's Zhang Li Zhong. We come in peace."

Their surnames were not Du!

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed immediately.

At the same time, the old man casually raised his hand.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Before Duan Ling Tian could react, a vine had already pierced the bodies of the two men.

Naturally, the two men had no time to react as well. Their smiles were still plastered on their faces after the vine pierced them.

'How powerful!' At this moment, Duan Ling Tian could sense the old man's profound power. Up until now, the old man was the strongest person he had encountered.

"Thank you, senior." Duan Ling Tian quickly thanked the old man as soon as he regained his senses. "Senior, the members of the Phantom Fox Clan might not know who killed them, but since they died near the Profound Nether Mansion's estate, will this bring trouble to the mansion?"

“The Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory isn’t a match for the Profound Nether Mansion. There’s no need to be afraid even if they come looking for trouble,” the old man replied indifferently.

Duan Ling Tian felt relieved upon hearing the old man’s words.

After that, the old man brought Duan Ling Tian with him and appeared near Huan’er who was currently looking at the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate.

“Huan’er!” Duan Ling Tian called out softly as his eyes gleamed with unconcealable excitement.

Chapter 3183: Huan’er’s Cultivation Base

“Huan’er!”

Although the white-clad woman’s back was facing Duan Ling Tian, one could see her body trembling slightly as soon as she heard Duan Ling Tian’s voice. She slowly turned around and saw a purple-clad young man standing near her. Although it had been years since she last saw him, he still remained the same.

“Brother Ling Tian? Am... am I dreaming?” Huan’er removed her hat and veil, revealing her beautiful face. As soon as she revealed her face, the surroundings seemed to dim in comparison.

Even the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion was slightly taken aback by Huan’er’s beauty. He had lived for almost 30,000 years, but this was the first time he had seen such a peerless beauty. ‘Such a beauty actually exists in this world?’

“Huan’er!” Duan Ling Tian could no longer hold back; he quickly made his way to Huan’er.

At the same time, Huan’er moved like a gust of wind toward Duan Ling Tian as well. She ran into his arms and hugged him tightly. Tears welled up in her eyes and rolled down her cheeks as she said, “Brother Ling Tian, Huan’er misses you very much...”

“I’ve missed you too.” Duan Ling Tian held Huan’er tightly and expressed the thought that he had hidden in his heart all this time. He had been worried out of his mind when Huan’er first left without a word. He felt incredibly relieved now that he saw Huan’er was unharmed.

About 15 minutes later, Duan Ling Tian pulled away slightly before he said, “Huan’er, promise me that you’ll never leave again without saying goodbye...”

“Brother Ling Tian, did you miss me while I was away?” Huan’er asked.

Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel distressed when he saw tear marks on her face. “Of course I’ve missed you! I was afraid you’d get into trouble. I searched for you for a long time, but I couldn’t find you. Where did you go?”

“If that’s the case, I didn’t leave in vain,” Huan’er said.

“How can you say that?” Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless by Huan’er’s words.

He recalled the words Huan'er left behind in a Celestial Talisman back then. The message read:

Brother Ling Tian, I'm leaving. Although I'm reluctant, I think it's best that I leave. Perhaps while I'm away, you'll miss me more, just like how you miss Sister Ke'er, Sister Li Fei, Sister Murong, and Sister Feng Tian Wu.

This was the reason that Huan'er had left. Up until now, he still thought Huan'er had behaved too immaturely. However, it was only natural since he knew she had a child-like behavior. She had never been exposed to the world until she met him. All he could do was blame himself for ignoring Huan'er's feelings.

"Huan'er, promise me you'll never leave again. When you left, I finally realized how important you are to me..." Duan Ling Tian coaxed gently. It was true that he only realized Huan'er's importance after she had left.

"Really?" A hint of excitement could be seen on Huan'er's face when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. She looked at him intently, clearly wanting confirmation.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Brother Ling Tian, Huan'er will never leave you again." Huan'er threw herself into Duan Ling Tian's arms again. For the longest time, she was unwilling to let go. Only when Duan Ling Tian told her they had company that she left his embrace with an embarrassed expression on her face.

Duan Ling Tian held Huan'er's hand and brought her to the old man. "Senior, this is Huan'er, she's my... sister."

"Sister?" The old man smiled knowingly. "Isn't she your lover?"

Duan Ling Tian was embarrassed when he heard the old man's words.

On the contrary, Huan'er was delighted. She said with a smile, "Old man, you speak really well! Are you from the Profound Nether Mansion as well?"

"Huan'er, where are your manners!" Duan Ling Tian gently admonished her.

"It's alright," the old man waved his hand and said, "It seems like this girl's not familiar with worldly affairs; it's only natural that she doesn't know much about etiquettes... However, why is she targeted by the members of the Phantom Fox Clan?" He had probed her with his Divine Consciousness but did not find anything out of the ordinary.

Huan'er was the only Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that appeared in the Phantom Fox Clan in the last million years. Since her cultivation base had improved, she could hide her aura. Only those stronger than Celestial Emperors would be able to discern her identity. However, members of the Phantom Fox Clan would be able to tell she was a fox; the more knowledgeable ones might even be able to tell she was a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

"Senior, it's a long story. I'll tell you all about it when we have the time." Duan Ling Tian did not intend to lie to the old man. After a beat, he asked, "Senior, there shouldn't be a problem for Huan'er to join the Profound Nether Mansion, right?"

“It’s not a problem at all... A Ten Directions Celestial Duke who’s under the age of 100. It seems like she’s monstrously talented just like you. Heavens!” The old man sighed emotionally.

With this, Duan Ling Tian finally learned Huan’er had already become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke! He had only successfully become a Ten Directions Celestial Dukes thanks to the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit, but that was clearly not the case for Huan’er.

‘It’s obvious the powers of a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox is remarkable if Huan’er didn’t run into any fortuitous encounter and raised her cultivation base by herself.’ Duan Ling Tian concluded that Huan’er’s cultivation base had risen so quickly due to her being a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

At this moment, the old man brought an exquisite box out.

Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded when he saw the contents of the box. He saw an Ice King Celestial Fruit and a Fire King Celestial Fruit, similar to the ones he had consumed previously.

By consuming the two fruits, a Ten Directions Celestial Duke could instantly break through and become a One Basic Celestial King in a short time.

Since Duan Ling Tian had consumed them before, he was aware of their efficacy.

Duan Ling Tian did not expect the old man to possess another pair of the Celestial Fruits. Were these Celestial Fruits so common now?

“Girl, since this is our first meeting, here’s a meeting gift for you.” After the old man closed the box, he presented them to Huan’er.

Huan’er did not immediately reach out to take the box. Instead, she looked at Duan Ling Tian for cues.

“Senior, these fruits are too valuable...” Duan Ling Tian said solemnly. Although he wanted Huan’er to consume the Celestial Fruits so she could become a Celestial King as soon as possible, he was too embarrassed to accept such a valuable gift. After a moment, before the old man could reply, he added, “Otherwise, we’ll accept these fruits, but I’ll owe you a favor...”

“Boy, it’s clear you want these fruits, but you’re still acting polite. This isn’t like you. Anyway, this is a gift for the girl. Her name’s Huan’er, right?” the old man said with a hint of impatience. He could clearly see Huan’er’s importance to Duan Ling Tian and her feelings for Duan Ling Tian. By giving her these Celestial Fruits, he knew Duan Ling Tian would feel even more grateful to him. Moreover, he genuinely liked Huan’er.

“Huan’er, since senior insists on giving the fruits to you, just accept it,” Duan Ling Tian said to Huan’er. At the same time, he made up his mind to repay the old man in the future.

“Thank you.” Huan’er thanked the old man and took the box. After that, she passed it to Duan Ling Tian, clearly intending to give it to him.

“Huan’er, keep it for yourself... The Celestial Fruits inside this box will help you to break through and become a Celestial King in a short time after you consume it,” Duan Ling Tian said, “A month ago, I’ve already consumed these Celestial Fruits and successfully became a Celestial King.” After he finished

speaking, he could not help but glance at the old man, wondering how many of these Celestial Fruits the old man had in his possession.

“Boy, I can read the thoughts in your mind... I only have two Ice King Celestial Fruits and two Fire King Celestial Fruits. I’ve given all of them to you,” the old man said.

Meanwhile, Huan’er’s eyes lit up when she heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, she did not expect these Celestial Fruits to be so powerful.

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After the old man brought Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er back to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate, he left Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er alone, returning to the backyard.

After the duo entered the room, Duan Ling Tian asked, “Huan’er, what happened over the past few years?” He was curious about how Huan’er had become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke so quickly.

After listening to Huan’er’s words, he learned that she had spent most of the time they were apart in closed-door cultivation. With that, she naturally broke through and became a Ten Directions Celestial Duke.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly shocked. ‘No wonder Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes are so rare that they only appear once in a million years. Her powers are heaven-defying!’

Based on how quickly Huan’er became a Ten Directions Celestial Duke without any external help, Duan Ling Tian was rather certain no one in the Spirit Overarching Heaven could compare to Huan’er’s cultivation speed.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian recalled another important matter. He asked, “Huan’er, did you comprehend any law yet?”

Huan’er nodded.

“What law did you comprehend?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously as his eyes brightened.

Chapter 3184: The Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan

“The law of space,” Huan’er replied.

“The law of space?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes widened in disbelief. He did not expect her to comprehend the same law as him. However, after a while, he thought it was not that surprising. The Phantom Fox Clan was known for being skilled in illusions. Moreover, as a rare Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that only appeared once in a million years, it was only natural that she would comprehend the law of space from the Four Supreme Laws.

“How many profundities have you comprehended?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Five profundities,” Huan’er replied.

“Five profundities?” Duan Ling Tian was no longer as shocked as he was earlier. After all, he had already comprehended seven profundities of the law of space and had even comprehended one of the profundities to the initial stage. He asked again, “Which profundities did you comprehend?”

“The Teleportation Profundity, the Distortion Profundity, the Restraining Profundity, the Magnetic Storm Profundity, and the Creation Profundity,” Huan’er replied honestly.

“The Magnetic Storm Profundity and the Creation Profundity?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes widened slightly. These were the two profundities from the law of space that he had yet to comprehend.

There were nine profundities from the law of space: the Space Elemental Profundity, the Teleportation Profundity, the Transportation Profundity, the Distortion Profundity, the Restraining Profundity, the Territory Profundity, the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, the Magnetic Storm Profundity, and the Creation Profundity.

“Huan’er, you’ve actually comprehended six profundities. You forgot about the Fundamental Profundity, the Space Elemental Profundity.” Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. He did not expect her to have comprehended six profundities, only a profundity short of the profundities he had comprehended. Then, he asked again, “Huan’er, did you comprehend any of the profundities to the initial stage?”

“Yes.” Huan’er nodded.

Despite being mentally prepared, Duan Ling Tian was still dumbfounded. “Which profundity did you comprehend to the initial stage?”

“The Creation Profundity,” Huan’er replied.

The Creation Profundity was an assistive profundity of the law of space. One could create countless spaces to confuse one’s enemies. It was rather similar to the effects of Illusory Formations.

‘Being a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, Huan’er has a slight advantage in regard to the Creation Profundity. That said, I didn’t expect her to improve so much in such a short time.’ Duan Ling Tian was shocked by Huan’er’s progress. At the same time, he felt relieved again when he thought about the two men who had been tailing Huan’er. Fortunately, they did not know she was a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Otherwise, they definitely would have attacked her instead of just tailing her.

During their journey back to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, Duan Ling Tian had asked the old man about the two men’s cultivation bases. He learned that one of them was a Seven Stars Celestial King and the other one was an Eight Trigrams Celestial King. If they were to attack Huan’er, she would not stand a chance against them at all.

‘Since they were tailing her, it’s clear they were suspicious of her even if they weren’t sure she’s a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. I wonder if they’d inform any of their members about this. It’d be troublesome if they did,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself worriedly. Little did he know, he had guessed right.

...

In the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory.

It did not take long for the Phantom Fox Clan to learn about the deaths of two of their members after the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion killed them. The deceased members were Celestial Kings; it was only natural that their Soul Pearls were kept in the clan. When their Soul Pearls shattered, the entire clan was shocked.

“Zhang Qi Yu and Zhang Li Zhong are dead... Before they died, they sent a message saying they met a woman whom they suspected to be a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.”

“A Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox? Is it the same Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that the clan leader in the Seven Upper Province had ordered our branch in the Southern Heaven Territory to keep a lookout for?”

“Is it true?”

“They weren’t sure; it was only a suspicion... However, considering their deaths, this matter is definitely not as simple as it seems.”

“I remember they said the woman’s a Ten Directions Celestial Duke even though she’s not even 100 years old, right?”

“A Ten Directions Celestial Duke who isn’t 100 years old? If that’s true, she’s probably a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox!”

“A person with such talents isn’t all that rare anymore. Haven’t you heard about the Ten Directions Celestial Duke who’s under the age of 100 from the Profound Nether Mansion? Moreover, it’s said that he has comprehended all nine profundities from the law of space. What’s even more shocking is that he has comprehended the law of space’s Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage!”

“Whatever it is, we should investigate that woman. Did Zhang Qi Yu and Zhang Li Zhong mention their whereabouts?”

“Yes, they seemed to be near the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate!”

“That’s where that genius from the Profound Nether Mansion currently lives!”

...

At this moment, three members from the Phantom Fox Clan were flying in the air.

A white-clad young man seemed to be the leader of the group. Although his hair and eyebrows were white, his appearance was that of someone in his early twenties. He was the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory and also a Celestial Lord. Therefore, despite his young appearance, he was highly respected. This could be seen from the attitude of the two old men who flew behind him.

Since the matter was related to the possible appearance of a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox and the deaths of two of their members, the branch leader had decided to personally investigate the matter.

The main branch of the Phantom Fox Clan was located in the Seven Upper Province of the Spirit Overarching Heaven, and the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory was only a branch clan.

Ten years ago, all branch clans of the Phantom Fox Clan had received orders from the clan leader of the main branch to search for a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

“Branch leader, why do you think the clan leader from the main branch is desperately searching for the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox? Based on my knowledge, in the past, whenever a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox appears in the clan, they will let it out to explore the world. Only when it has become a Celestial Emperor would it be allowed to return to the clan,” one of the old men asked.

“From what I heard, it seems like this Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox is from the Du Clan... Do you understand now?” the young clan leader said lightly.

The Phantom Fox Clan was further divided into three clans: the Zhang Clan, the Du Clan, and the Yuan Clan.

“Our Zhang Clan has always maintained a neutral stance, but the disputes between the Yuan Clan and the Du Clan have been going on for years... I wonder which clan will emerge victorious?” the other old man wondered out loud.

“It’s not our place to speculate about such matters. What’s important is for us to find out if the woman Zhang Li Zhong and Zhang Qi Yu met is a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. If she is, our branch clan will be handsomely rewarded once we report the matter to the clan leader of the main clan,” the young man said as his eyes gleamed brightly at the thought of the rewards.

Similarly, the two old men’s eyes brightened as well when they thought about the rewards they would receive if they found the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

...

Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware that the members from the Phantom Fox Clan were on their way to the Profound Nether Mansion, let alone the fact that the branch leader who was a Celestial Lord had personally come as well.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts. ‘Since Huan’er comprehended the law of space, she should be able to use the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity as well!’ He intended to share the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity with her. After all, as long as one kept the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity close, one would be able to see the law of space’s demonstration in one’s dreams.

After he tested to see if the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity would work on Huan’er since she was not human, he discovered that it worked for Huan’er. Therefore, he said, “Huan’er, since the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity can help you, you’ll sleep while I cultivate and vice versa.”

“Alright, I’ll listen to you, Brother Ling Tian.” Huan’er nodded obediently.

‘Huan’er is a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox; her innate talent and comprehension skills are incredibly high. With the Celestial Fruits given by the old man and the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity, her progress should be much faster than mine!’ Duan Ling Tian was certain of this. He was neither jealous nor disappointed. Instead, he was genuinely happy for Huan’er. Since they were together, it would only benefit him if Huan’er became stronger.

...

While Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er took turns to cultivate and sleep, the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion received news that the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan was coming for a visit.

The Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion had already told him he had killed two members from the Phantom Fox Clan so he was immediately alerted about the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan's visit.

Upon receiving this news, the old man, the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, was slightly surprised. His eyes flashed as he muttered to himself, "It seems like that girl isn't ordinary..."

After a moment, the old man said to the mansion master, "Meet him and find out what brings him here."

"Alright."

...

When the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion finally met the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan, he did not beat around the bush and asked with a smile, "Branch Leader Zhang, may I know what brings you to the Profound Nether Mansion? If I'm not mistaken, this is your first visit to the Profound Nether Mansion."

Similarly, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan did not beat around the bush and replied, "Mansion Master Zhong, I came here because of our suspicion that two of our clan members were killed outside the Profound Nether Mansion's estate. I wonder if you know anything about this matter?"

"Is this true?" The mansion master feigned an astonished expression on his face. Then, he asked with a frown on his face, "But what were the members of the Phantom Fox Clan doing outside the Profound Nether Mansion's estate? Were they helping the Blood Skull Gang?"

"The Blood Skull Gang?" The branch leader's brows rose.

"There are three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang lingering outside our mansion's estate. Is it possible that your men had a conflict with the assassins?" the mansion master speculated out loud.

Chapter 3185: The Three Assassins from the Blood Skull Gang

"Three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang?" The Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan raised an eyebrow upon hearing the words of the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion. "Mansion Master Zhong, why do you allow the assassins from the Blood Skull Gang to linger outside of your mansion's estate?"

"There's nothing we can do since they haven't done anything wrong. Moreover, the Blood Skull Gang is one of the top assassin organizations in the Southern Heaven Territory; there's no need to offend them for no good reason," the mansion master replied.

“Are they here because of Duan Ling Tian?” the branch leader asked, “Your Profound Nether Mansion’s Duan Ling Tian is so remarkable that even I who seldom leave the Phantom Fox Clan has heard he’s a Ten Directions Celestial Duke who has comprehended all nine profundities from the law of space even though he’s not even 100 years old. Moreover, he has even comprehended the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage.”

“Branch Leader Zhang, it seems like you’re rather knowledgeable about Duan Ling Tian. However, your information is slightly outdated. Duan Ling Tian is no longer a Ten Directions Celestial Duke; he has had a breakthrough and is now a Celestial King,” the mansion master said with a smile.

“He’s broken through and become a Celestial King?” The branch leader was taken aback. After a while, realization dawned on him. “No wonder there’s no news about him entering the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Territory. I thought he just didn’t enter the middle realm because no one there is a match for him. I didn’t expect him to have become a Celestial King. Mansion Master Zhong, I wonder if I can meet him?” the branch leader asked with a glint in his eyes.

The two members from the Phantom Fox Clan who died outside of the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate had said they suspected a woman who was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke even though she was not even 100 years old to be a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Although the two deceased members said that it was a woman, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory could not help but suspect the monstrously talented Duan Ling Tian from the Profound Nether Mansion might be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. After all, the previous Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that appeared more than a million years ago was a man. It was obvious that he did not hear about Duan Ling Tian becoming a Ten Directions Celestial due to him consuming the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit. Otherwise, he would not have suspected Duan Ling Tian.

“He’s currently cultivating in the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. I’ll need to ask the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion if it’s convenient for him to come over,” the mansion master replied.

“The Imperial Tutor Pavilion?” The branch leader was shocked. “Has Duan Ling Tian become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion? Well, I guess I shouldn’t be so surprised. After all, with his innate talent and comprehension skills, he’s more than qualified to become the mansion’s Imperial Tutor.”

“Yes, he’s our mansion’s Imperial Tutor.” The Mansion Master nodded before he sent a message to the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Mansion to check if Duan Ling Tian was willing to meet with the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan.

...

“I’ll meet him.” Duan Ling Tian had just awoken from cultivation. He did not expect the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory would arrive at the Profound Nether Mansion so quickly. Moreover, the branch leader even wanted to meet him.

“There must be a reason why he wants to meet me.” Duan Ling Tian decided to meet with the branch leader since the branch leader was a potential threat to Huan’er. Who knew if he had to fight the branch leader in the future? This was a good opportunity for him to learn about his opponent.

...

Soon enough, an elder sent by the mansion master brought Duan Ling Tian to where the mansion master was entertaining the branch leader.

“Mansion Master,” Duan Ling Tian greeted the mansion master as he snuck a look at the three men standing at the sides from the corners of his eyes.

A young man with white hair and eyebrows was sitting while two old men flanked him like bodyguards.

“Duan Ling Tian, this is Branch Leader Zhang from the Phantom Fox Clan. He has heard many things about you so he’s curious about you and wants to meet you,” the mansion master said with a smile.

“Branch Leader Zhang,” Duan Ling Tian greeted after he shifted his eyes to the white-haired young man.

At the same time, the mansion master’s Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. “Duan Ling Tian, the fox is a cunning creature... You must be careful when you interact with Zhang Dong Nan, the branch leader.”

“Duan Ling Tian, I’ve heard a lot about you. After meeting you, I have to say you really do live up to your reputation as a peerless genius!” Zhang Dong Nan exclaimed enthusiastically as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. As soon as Duan Ling Tian arrived, he had already ascertained Duan Ling Tian was not a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. In fact, there was no trace of the aura of a Phantom Fox on him at all. If a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox had reached the stage of a Ten Directions Celestial Duke, it would be difficult for one to tell if one’s cultivation base was too low. However, this was not the case for him.

The Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion had sent a Voice Transmission to warn Duan Ling Tian because he was afraid Duan Ling Tian might unintentionally say something he should not in front of Zhang Dong Nan. He did not expect Zhang Dong Nan to converse casually with Duan Ling Tian. In fact, Zhang Dong Nan did not even bother to probe Duan Ling Tian at all. He found this rather baffling.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian found the situation rather strange as well. Zhang Dong Nan seemed genuine in his intention to know more about him.

About half an hour into their conversation, Zhang Dong Nan appeared to have recalled something before he said, “Ah, that’s right. Mansion Master Zhong, did the Profound Nether Mansion accept any new disciples recently? To be precise, did a white-clad lady who’s younger than 100 years old join the mansion recently?”

The mansion master replied, “There’s only one person who joined the Profound Nether Mansion recently, and that’s Duan Ling Tian. Branch Leader Zhang, you should be aware that the Profound Nether Mansion doesn’t accept disciples except when it’s recruitment time. Of course, this rule doesn’t apply to monstrously talented cultivators like Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, there won’t be an exception.”

Zhang Dong Nan nodded slightly. Then, he rose to his feet and bade farewell to the mansion master and Duan Ling Tian. Before he left, he looked at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully as he said, “Duan Ling Tian, do visit us if you have the time. There are many beautiful girls in the Phantom Fox Clan. Who knows you might meet your other half there...”

The corners of the mansion master’s lips curled into a disdainful smile. Naturally, he could tell that Zhang Dong Nan was trying to lure Duan Ling Tian into joining the Phantom Fox Clan with beauties. He was not worried about Duan Ling Tian being tempted since his grandmaster had already told him about

the peerless beauty whom the two deceased members from the Phantom Fox Clan were tailing. Over the past 30,000 years, his grandmaster had seen countless women. For his grandmaster to call a woman a peerless beauty, he had no doubt the woman was beautiful beyond words.

“Branch Leader Zhang, I’m a married man with a son and a daughter. I don’t seek affairs between men and women,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile.

Zhang Dong Nan continued to look at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully and said, “It’s only natural for capable men to have many wives and concubines. Take me for example, I’ve just recently married my 16th concubine.”

Zhang Dong Nan was clearly not discouraged by Duan Ling Tian’s refusal. He sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian before he left. “Duan Ling Tian, remember my words... Visit the Phantom Fox Clan when you have the time...”

Duan Ling Tian only smiled wryly upon hearing the Voice Transmission. Why did the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan suddenly turn into a matchmaker?

After Zhang Dong Nan left, the mansion master looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked curiously, “Duan Ling Tian, Zhang Dong Nan is here because of the death of his two men... I’m really curious. Who’s the woman next to you?”

“Mansion Master,” Duan Ling Tian shook his head and said, “It’s inconvenient for me to say anything because her identity is complicated. Please forgive me.” He knew with more people being privy to Huan’er’s identity, the more danger she would be in. Therefore, it was better if fewer people knew about her identity.

...

Outside of the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate.

Zhang Dong Nan and the two old men did not return to the Phantom Fox Clan immediately after they left the Profound Nether Mansion.

“Mansion Master Zhong said there are three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang lingering outside the estate. There’s a possibility they might have seen Zhang Qi Yu and Zhang Li Zhong,” Zhang Dong Nan said to the two old men as his eyes glinted, “Let’s split up and look for the assassins!”

“Understood!” The two old men took off upon hearing Zhang Dong Nan’s words.

Zhang Dong Nan was a Celestial Lord, and the two old men he brought with him were rather capable as well.

The two old men were Ten Directions Celestial Kings who had mastered a profundity to the initial stage. The duo was rather well-known in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm as well.

About 15 minutes later, Zhang Dong Nan received a message from one of the old men informing him that he had discovered the three assassins.

...

North of the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

A man was facing off against three men on the side of a towering mountain.

The three men were clad head to toe in black. A middle-aged man with a cold expression seemed to be the leader of the group.

At this moment, the middle-aged man's eyes flashed with fear as he looked at the old man in front of him.

"Situ Yu, I didn't expect you to be the one who accepted the mission. Your target isn't a simple person." The old man was clearly surprised when he saw the middle-aged man. Based on his words, it was clear he was familiar with the middle-aged man.

"Zhang Zhen Hai, what are you doing here?" Situ Yu, the middle-aged man, asked solemnly.

"Zhang Zhen Hai?" Upon hearing Situ Yu's words, the eyes of the two black-clad men standing behind him widened immediately.

If Duan Ling Tian were here, he would be able to recognize the two men standing behind Situ Yu. The two men were the assassins who were sent to the Jade Emperor to kill him previously.

Chapter 3186: A Clue from Leng Ye

Among the two Blood Skull Gang assassins who were sent to the Jade Emperor Heaven to kill Duan Ling Tian, one of them was Leng Ye, the assassin who had been lying in wait for Duan Ling Tian outside of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate. At that time, Duan Ling Tian had successfully escaped using a Wind Shadow Escape Talisman. He had always considered his failure to kill Duan Ling Tian outside of the Simplicity Celestial Sect's estate a huge disgrace; he felt humiliated. The humiliation he felt was further amplified when he had gone to kill Duan Ling Tian in the Jade Emperor but failed his mission again. Duan Ling Tian had escaped right under his nose twice!

This time, in order to ensure the success of the mission, apart from sending Leng Ye and the Nine Palaces Celestial King who had also gone to the Jade Emperor Heaven with him, the Blood Skull Gang also sent one of their elite assassins. This elite was none other than Situ Yu, the strongest assassins below those at the stage of a Celestial Lord in the Blood Skull Gang.

Situ Yu, the assassin from the Blood Skull Gang, was moderately well-known in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm since he had comprehended all nine profundities from the law of wind. He had even comprehended one profundity to the initial stage.

"Zhang Zhen Hai? He's the one who has comprehended all the profundities from the law of metal and has also comprehended the Light and Shadow Profundity to the initial stage, right?"

Leng Ye and the Nine Palaces Celestial King next to him exchanged a quick look and saw the shock in each other's eyes.

Zhang Zhen Hai was famous. Although the number of profundities he had comprehended and the number of profundities he had comprehended to the initial stage were similar to Situ Yu, he was undoubtedly stronger than Situ Yu. After all, Situ Yu was only human while Zhang Zhen Hai had many mysterious and amazing techniques available to him because of his identity as a Phantom Fox. Most importantly, he had defeated Situ Yu before in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Zhang Zhen Hai replied to Situ Yu, "I'm here with our branch leader." As soon as he finished speaking, he moved a few steps back and bowed as though he had sensed something.

In the next moment, a figure appeared out of thin air in front of Zhang Zhen Hai like a ghost. It was none other than Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan.

Whoosh!

As soon as Zhang Dong Nan appeared, another figure appeared behind him, next to Zhang Zhen Hai.

"Zhang Yun Ting?!" Situ Yu exclaimed in shock, and his eyes widened when he saw the old man who had just arrived.

"Zhang Yun Ting?" Similarly, the eyes of the two men standing behind Situ Yu widened as well when they saw the old men standing next to Zhang Zhen Hai.

Zhang Yun Ting's strength was on par with Zhang Zhen Hai, and he was equally as famous in the upper realm. Moreover, he was also a Phantom Fox like Zhang Zhen Hai.

"Didn't Zhang Zhen Hai say he came with his branch leader? The other old man is Zhang Yun Ting..."

"Then, this young man standing in front of them must be..."

Leng Ye and the Nine Palaces Celestial King exchanged a look as they communicated through Voice Transmission.

Meanwhile, Situ Yu who was standing in front of the two assassins respectfully greeted the white-haired young man, "Blood Skull Gang's Situ Yu greets Lord Dong Nan." As soon as he saw the young man, he knew the young man was the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan.

Upon seeing this, Leng Ye and the other assassin followed suit and respectfully greeted Zhang Dong Nan, "Greetings, Lord Dong Nan."

Faced with the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan, Leng Ye and the other assassin did not even have the qualifications to state their names.

"Situ Yu?" Zhang Dong Nan raised an eyebrow as he looked at Situ Yu curiously. "For the Blood Skull Gang to send you out, I wonder who's your target...."

Zhang Dong Nan was aware that Situ Yu was considered one of the top assassins in the Blood Skull Gang. He also knew Situ Yu was called the Celestial King Killer in the Southern Heaven Territory. Although there were quite a few Celestial Kings who could fight with Situ Yu on equal footing, there were extremely few people who could escape his assassination. Up until now, Situ Yu had never failed to kill all his targets who were below the stage of a Celestial Lord.

“Lord Dong Nan, my target isn’t a secret,” Situ Yu replied, “It’s the Profound Nether Mansion’s Duan Ling Tian!”

“Duan Ling Tian?” Zhang Dong Nan was slightly taken aback. “I know him... However, don’t you think it’s an overkill for the Blood Skull Gang to send you out on this mission?”

The Blood Skull Gang had sent Situ Yu out to kill a young man who had not even reached 100 years and had just become a Celestial King. Zhang Dong Nan could not help but feel the Blood Skull Gang was taking the matter too seriously.

“Lord Dong Nan, you might be unaware, but previously, Leng Ye, the Nine Palaces Celestial King behind me, failed in his attempt to assassinate Duan Ling Tian. Later, the Blood Skull Gang sent the two assassins behind me to the Jade Emperor Heaven, but they failed to find him.” Based on Situ Yu’s words, it was clear he was unaware that Leng Ye and the Nine Palaces Celestial King had, in fact, encountered Duan Ling Tian in the Jade Emperor Heaven and unintentionally let him escape.

Previously, Leng Ye and his companion had concealed their encounter with Duan Ling Tian in the Jade Emperor Heaven from the Blood Skull Gang to avoid punishment. After all, it was due to their carelessness that Duan Ling Tian was able to escape.

“Hmm?” A small hint of surprise could be seen on Zhang Dong Nan’s face. “They went to the Jade Emperor Heaven to assassinate Duan Ling Tian? Is Duan Ling Tian from the Jade Emperor Heaven?”

Situ Yu shook his head as he said, “No. He was only visiting the Jade Emperor Heaven. Lord Dong Nan, you must have heard about the reincarnated Celestial Emperor who was plotting to get his hands on the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruits in the Jade Emperor Heaven, right?”

“You mean to say Duan Ling Tian is the reincarnated Celestial Emperor?” Zhang Dong Nan cocked an eyebrow. Indeed, he had heard this news back then, but he did not confirm its authenticity.

“No.” Situ Yu shook his head. “Duan Ling Tian went to the Jade Emperor Heaven to snatch the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruits from the reincarnated Celestial Emperor. That’s how he became a Ten Directions Celestial Duke in such a short time and managed to comprehend the law of space.”

“So he consumed the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit?” Zhang Dong Nan said in surprise, “No wonder. I was wondering how a human boy managed to accomplish so much before the age of 100. As it turns out, he had consumed the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit.”

After a moment, Zhang Dong Nan seemed to recall something so he asked, “I heard the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit only allows one to comprehend seven profundities of a law at most, right? How did he manage to comprehend all nine profundities from the law of space? Moreover, he has also comprehended the law of space’s Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage.”

“I’m not sure. Perhaps, his innate talent and comprehension are high to begin with,” Situ Yu replied. From the beginning until now, he had been respectful and careful when he spoke to Zhang Dong Nan.

“Hm.” Zhang Dong Nan nodded slightly. Then, he looked at Situ Yu and finally asked, “Have you seen these two people near the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate recently?” As he spoke, he waved his hand and pointed at the space next to him.

Two life-like figures appeared immediately.

If Duan Ling Tian were present, he would have recognized the two men. The two men were none other than the two Phantom Foxes he had caught tailing Huan’er. He had asked the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion to kill the two men.

“I’ve seen them.” Situ Yu nodded when he saw the images of the two men. “A while back, we saw them following a white-clad woman. However, since we have no conflict of interest, we didn’t pay attention to them.”

“They’re from my Phantom Fox Clan. They’re dead and last seen near the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate. I suspect someone killed them outside of the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate.” As Zhang Dong Nan spoke, his expression was so cold that it felt as though the temperature in the surroundings had plummeted.

Upon hearing Zhang Dong Nan’s words, the expressions of the three assassins from the Blood Skull Gang changed drastically.

“Lord Dong Nan, although we saw them, we didn’t make a move against them.”

“Lord Dong Nan, we can swear we have nothing to do with their deaths.”

At this time, Leng Ye and the other assassin cried out anxiously one after another. The duo could tell Zhang Dong Nan had come looking for them because Zhang Dong Nan suspected they had something to do with the deaths of his men.

Unlike the duo who had lost their composure, Situ Yu quickly regained his senses and said honestly, “Lord Dong Nan, the Blood Skull Gang only kills when we receive a job or if someone provokes us. We don’t kill for no reason. Moreover, our Blood Skull Gang doesn’t accept jobs targeting the Phantom Fox Clan’s members.”

“Mmm, that’s what I think as well.” Zhang Dong Nan nodded lightly. The cold expression on his face disappeared as he said, “You said they were following the white-clad woman... Do you know why they were outside of the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate?” His instincts told him the two men’s deaths had something to do with the white-clad woman who was possibly a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

“We really don’t know,” Situ Yu shook his head and said, “That woman only stayed outside the estate and looked at it as though she was waiting for someone...”

“It seemed like she was waiting for someone?” Zhang Dong Nan narrowed his eyes. “Does this mean she has an acquaintance in the Profound Nether Mansion?”

“Well, if she’s not waiting for someone, then I can’t think of any reason for her to be there,” Situ Yu said.

“Do you know what she looks like? Did you have a good look?” Zhang Dong Nan asked again.

"I didn't pay much attention. Moreover, her face was concealed by a bamboo hat and a veil so I didn't see her face. All I know is she wore a white robe, and she had an elegant bearing." Situ Yu shook his head.

"Lord Dong Nan!" Leng Ye suddenly cried out at this moment as though he had just recalled something.

"Hmm?" Zhang Dong Nan looked at Leng Ye skeptically.

"Lord Dong Nan, I've read all the information regarding Duan Ling Tian that the Blood Skull Gang had collected. I remember reading that Duan Ling Tian came from the borderland of the Southern Heaven Territory. At the borderland, it's said that he was accompanied by a white-clad woman wearing a bamboo hat and a veil."

Chapter 3187: Crisis

"Are you sure?" Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan, narrowed his eyes as soon as Leng Ye finished speaking.

"Yes, Lord Dong Nan." Leng Ye nodded confidently. "Lord Dong Nan, if you don't believe me, you can't investigate this matter. In the borderland's Six Southeast Regions, Duan Ling Tian has quite a bit of fame. There are many people who knew he was accompanied by a peerless beauty. Whenever they went out, she would always wear a veil and a bamboo hat. It's not difficult to guess that she wore the veil and the hat to hide her beauty to avoid attracting unnecessary trouble."

"Good. I'll investigate this matter. Follow me back to the Phantom Fox Clan. If the matter is as you've described, I won't treat you unfairly." After a brief pause, Zhang Dong Nan's gaze on Leng Ye turned frosty as he continued to say, "However, if I discover that you lied to me... Don't even think about leaving the Phantom Fox Clan alive..."

Upon hearing these words, Leng Ye did not seem nervous. He said calmly, "Lord Dong Nan, I have no objections about following you to the Phantom Fox Clan. However, you'll have to inform our organization first."

"I have a way to contact your vice leader; I'll inform him of this matter so you don't have to worry about it," Zhang Dong Nan said indifferently. Then, he nodded at Situ Yu before he and the two old men brought Leng Ye back with them to the Phantom Fox Clan.

Situ Yu remained silent when Zhang Dong Nan brought Leng Ye away. He knew it was pointless to say anything. After all, he did not have the capability to stop Zhang Dong Nan. Let alone Zhang Dong Nan, he was not even capable of stopping the two old men from the Phantom Fox Clan in a direct fight. The techniques from the Phantom Fox Clan were too mysterious. He had exchanged blows with Zhang Zhen Hai before. Although their cultivation base, Celestial Weapons, and the number of profundities they had comprehended were almost the same, Zhang Zhen Hai had the upper hand due to the Phantom Fox Clan's innate Divine Ability.

After a while, Situ Yu finally said to the remaining assassin standing behind him, "Send a message to Vice Leader Chen and inform him of this incident."

The assassin nodded and promptly did as he was told.

The Blood Skull Gang had more than one vice leader. Situ Yu was not sure which vice leader Zhang Dong Nan was acquainted with. In the end, he decided to report the matter to Chen Yuan Shan, one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang. This was because Chen Yuan Shan was currently in charge of overseeing the mission regarding Duan Ling Tian.

...

Meanwhile, Zhang Zhen Hai who was behind Zhang Dong Nan could not help but say, "Lord Dong Nan, if Leng Ye is telling the truth then that woman should be with Duan Ling Tian in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate at this moment..."

Zhang Yun Ting chimed in, "Moreover, it's likely the Profound Nether Mansion is responsible for the deaths of our two men!"

"Regardless, all these are just speculations without evidence. Don't tell me you think we can just charge into the Profound Nether Mansion without any evidence?" Zhang Dong Nan said indifferently.

Upon hearing these words, the two old men fell silent.

Zhang Dong Nan continued to say, "There are many six-grade Celestial Mansions under the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory, but the only grade-six Celestial Mansion that makes me wary is the Profound Nether Mansion." He paused for a moment before he said, "My father once told me there's a powerful hidden Celestial Lord in the Profound Nether Mansion whose strength is almost comparable to a titled Celestial Lord. In fact, his strength is comparable to some of the leaders of the ten major clans."

Upon hearing Zhang Dong Nan's words, Zhang Zhen Hai, Zhang Yun Ting, and even Leng Ye widened their eyes in shock and fear.

It should be known that the leaders of the Ten Major Clans were all powerful Celestial Lords. Ordinary Celestial Lords could not hope to compare to them. How could they not be shocked and frightened when they heard that the Profound Nether Mansion might have a powerhouse with such strength?

Zhang Dong Nan said, "It's said that the hidden powerhouse is the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion. In terms of seniority, he should be the grandmaster of the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion."

"The Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion?" Zhang Zhen Hai's eyes widened as he said, "Branch leader, if I'm not mistaken, didn't the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion say earlier that Duan Ling Tian is now the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion? Doesn't this mean Duan Ling Tian is under the protection of that hidden powerhouse?" His eyes were filled with apprehension and wariness when he spoke.

"You've only thought about it now?" Zhang Dong Nan shook his head. "Not to mention we don't have evidence, even if we have evidence, it won't make a difference. To put it bluntly, the Profound Nether Mansion has no need to fear our Phantom Fox Clan at all. Even the combined forces of three branches of the Phantom Fox Clan might not be enough to threaten the Profound Nether Mansion..."

As the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory, Zhang Dong Nan was well aware of the Profound Nether Mansion's strength. He knew the Profound Nether Mansion was one of the strongest forces in the Southern Heaven Territory under the fifth grade. Naturally, there were not many people who were aware of this fact.

"The Profound Nether Mansion is so strong, and yet, the Azure Green Mansion dares to oppose them?" Zhang Yun Ting asked. He had heard about the conflict between the Profound Nether Mansion and the Azure Green Mansion after all.

"Indeed, there's enmity between the two grade-six Celestial Mansions, and their members would fight upon meeting each other. However, have you heard of any strong elites from either mansion dying? The conflict is merely a trivial matter. Do you think the hidden powerhouse from the Profound Nether Mansion would stoop so low and get involved in such petty matters?"

Zhang Yun Ting nodded. Indeed, how could a powerful elite comparable to titled Celestial Lords deign to intervene in such small matters?

Upon hearing the conversations between the members of the Phantom Fox Clan, Leng Ye felt chills running up his spine. He did not know the Profound Nether was so frightening. 'The Profound Nether Mansion is so... strong? Their pavilion master's strength is even comparable to some of the leaders of the ten major clans? Moreover, Duan Ling Tian is now the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion?' He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to have such an identity.

Leng Ye continued thinking to himself as cold sweat appeared on his forehead, "If we had killed Duan Ling Tian outside of the Profound Nether Mansion's estate, wouldn't the pavilion master retaliate once he finds out about it? I have to inform the vice leader about this. We have to thoroughly investigate this matter before we make a move. I'm sure vice leader knows about the hidden powerhouse of the Profound Nether Mansion..."

...

When Chen Yuan Shan, one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang, received Leng Ye's message, his expression changed drastically.

"What? Duan Ling Tian is now the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion? Based on what the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan said, it seems like that old man is still in the Profound Nether Mansion? It... it seems like we have to put the matter of assassinating Duan Ling Tian on hold... I'll have to inform the leader about this and let him decide how we should proceed..."

...

Before Chen Yuan Shan left to look for the Leader of the Blood Skull Gang, he hurriedly sent a message to the remaining two assassins hiding outside of the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

Situ Yu and the other assassin were shocked when they received the message asking them to not make a move even if Duan Ling Tian left the Profound Nether Mansion alone. They could not help but wonder about what happened.

...

In the Profound Nether Mansion's Imperial Tutor Pavilion.

After Duan Ling Tian returned from the residence of the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion, he continued cultivating. With the help from the Celestial Fruits and Celestial Pills given to him by the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, his cultivation speed was incredibly fast.

When Huan'er woke up, she returned the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity to Duan Ling Tian so he could comprehend the law of space while sleeping.

The duo repeated this cycle as time continued to pass.

...

After half a month, Huan'er completely absorbed the efficacy of the Ice King Celestial Fruit and the Fire King Celestial Fruit and smoothly became a One Basic Celestial King.

'As expected of a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Not only is her cultivation speed fast, but she absorbed the efficacy of the Celestial Fruits just as quickly.' Duan Ling Tian sighed emotionally upon discovering Huan'er's breakthrough after he had woken up.

Duan Ling Tian was about to resume his cultivation when he suddenly received a message from the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion.

"Duan Ling Tian, I just received news regarding the Phantom Fox Clan. Upon his return to the clan, Zhang Dong Nan sent some of his men to the borderland of the Southern Heaven Territory. Does this have anything to do with the woman next to you?"

'The borderland?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed into slits when he heard the message. 'Seems like the branch leader knows something... I'm sure this has something to do with the Blood Skull Gang.'

It was not difficult for him to guess how the Phantom Fox Clan found out about his connection to the borderland.

His eyes flashed with killing intent as he muttered to himself, "If I knew this would happen, I should have let the pavilion master kill those three assassins!"

After a moment, he finally replied to the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion, "Mansion master, my companion and I came from the borderland."

"Do you want to send someone to kill the members of the Phantom Fox Clan who are heading to the borderland? Since the branch leader sent them there, he must be privy to some information and sent his men there to verify the information," the mansion master asked. It was clear that Duan Ling Tian only needed to say the word, and he would send people to deal with the members of the Phantom Fox Clan.

"There's no need for that," Duan Ling Tian replied to the mansion master's message, "Let them investigate. Even if we kill their men, they'd only send more men to investigate the matter..."

Although Duan Ling Tian appeared outwardly calm, inwardly, he was feeling a sense of crisis.

'The Blood Skull Gang really investigated my background thoroughly. Since they even investigated the borderland, they must know about Huan'er. The three assassins lingering outside the estate must have seen her when she was outside the estate as well... As long as the Phantom Fox Clan questions those three assassins, they would surely find out that Huan'er's with me now. I'm afraid at this moment Zhang Dong Nan already knows that Huan'er is in the Profound Nether Mansion.'

Chapter 3188: Nian Tian and Xue Nai

After Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath, he left his room in search of the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion to confirm that the Profound Nether Mansion was capable of stopping the Phantom Fox Clan. Although the pavilion master had said the Profound Nether Mansion had no need to fear the Phantom Fox Clan, he was not sure if the pavilion master had said that only to uphold the mansion's prestige. He was not certain about the Profound Nether Mansion's status in the Southern Heaven Territory so he thought it was better to confirm the matter again with the pavilion master.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian saw the pavilion master, he bluntly asked, "Senior, I'm afraid the Phantom Fox Clan might come to the Profound Nether Mansion for Huan'er soon. Is the mansion capable of protecting her?"

The old man who was unaware of the current situation asked, "What's going on?"

"The Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan must have obtained some information from the assassins of the Blood Skull Gang lurking outside the estate. Otherwise, he wouldn't have sent his men to the borderland," Duan Ling Tian said after he had recounted what happened to the old man.

The old man asked, "Why are the members of the Phantom Fox Clan so persistent about finding Huan'er? What's the branch leader after?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. "Senior, I'm afraid it's inconvenient for me to say much... I only want to know if the Phantom Fox Clan comes knocking on the Profound Nether Mansion's door, is the mansion capable of protecting Huan'er?"

"So this is what you're worried about?" The old man shook his head. "Didn't I say the Phantom Fox Clan won't dare to act boldly in front of the Profound Nether Mansion? Do you doubt my words?"

"It's not that I doubt your words, I just want to be certain." Duan Ling Tian was slightly embarrassed. After all, he did come looking for the old man out of doubt. Nevertheless, he felt relieved after hearing the old man's words. He did not think the old man was lying.

"Don't worry. Even with the combined forces of two branches from the Phantom Fox Clan, they're no match for the Profound Nether Mansion!" A hint of contempt flashed in the old man's eyes when he spoke. It was clear he did not think much of the Phantom Fox Clan. He continued to say, "Rest assured. All you need to do is to focus on improving your cultivation base as fast as you can. As long as I'm in the Profound Nether Mansion, there's no need for you to worry."

"Thank you, senior," Duan Ling Tian sincerely thanked the old man before he returned to his room to cultivate.

After Duan Ling Tian left, the old man's eyes glinted as he murmured to himself, "It seems like that woman is the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that the Clan Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Seven Upper Province is looking for. I remember the clan leader even spread the word in the black market and offered to reward anyone who could provide clues about the woman's whereabouts. The rewards offered are tempting even to someone like me. Alas, since I've decided to bet on that kid, I'll have to see through that decision..."

After a moment, the old man returned to sitting by the lake and continued to fish as though nothing had happened.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's family and friends who had left the Divine Offering Land were all separated and sent to different mundane realms. All of them had different encounters, but only a few of them came across fortuitous encounters. Nevertheless, most of their cultivation bases had improved. This was because they had been absorbing the Heaven and Spirit Energy in the Divine Offering Land. In the mundane realms, there was no one whose cultivation speed was as fast as theirs.

...

In the Purple Spike Realm, one of the many mundane realms in the Colossal World.

"Aunt Xue Nai, hurry up and leave! I'll distract these people!" a teenager said anxiously to the woman next to him. He was handsome with sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes.

At this moment, they were hovering among the stars in the surroundings of a planet.

"Nian Tian, you have to leave! If something happens to you, how am I going to face Brother Ling Tian and Sister Fei'er in the future?" The woman who had spoken was so beautiful that the stars seemed to dim in her presence.

The teenager and the woman were none other than Duan Nian Tian and Han Xue Nai. They were among the people whom Xia Jie rescued and sent out from the Divine Offering Land. Both of them were sent to the same mundane realm, but Han Xue Nai only met Duan Nian Tian later.

A few years had passed, and Duan Nian Tian had grown from a naive child to a teenager.

"Aunt Xue Nai..." Before Duan Nian Tian could finish his sentence, a gust of wind swept toward them from afar.

"There's no need for both of you to continue talking because none of you will be able to escape."

A group of 30 people surrounded the duo in just an instant.

The leader of the group was an old lady. She was holding a crooked crutch and riding a strange beast that seemed to be a mix between a tiger and a lion.

"Grandma, why are you wasting your breath talking to them? Since they kill Qi'er, they should pay with their lives!" a middle-aged man dressed in luxurious robes standing next to the old man said. He glared at Duan Nian Tian and Han Xue Nai fiercely. The duo had killed his only son after all.

Duan Nian Tian looked at the middle-aged man and scoffed before he said, "We wouldn't have attacked your son if he didn't pester my aunt. He deserves to die!" A hint of anger could be seen on his child-like face when he spoke.

"Nian Tian, let's not waste energy talking to them. Since they came looking for a fight, let's give them a fight!" Han Xue Nai said coldly before energy surged out of her body. As soon as she raised her hand, a brilliant ice blade shot out and instantly killed three men who were standing nearby. Her expression remained unchanged as she killed the three men. She did not feel guilty at all for taking their lives due to their despicable behavior.

"Kill her!" the old lady said angrily as she pointed at Han Xue Nai.

The middle-aged man, whose son was killed, and the remaining people charged toward Duan Nian Tian while the old woman charged toward Han Xue Nai.

The old woman was the strongest among everyone present, followed by Han Xue Nai and the middle-aged man.

Han Xue Nai was suppressed by the old woman.

Although Duan Nian Tian was no weaker than the group of people, he was not a match for the middle-aged man.

With that, Han Xue Nai and Duan Ling Tian quickly fell into a disadvantageous position.

"Die!" the middle-aged man said icily as energy shot out from his fingers like silk threads toward Duan Nian Tian.

"Nian Tian!" Han Xue Nai cried out anxiously. She suffered a blow from the old woman as she deflected the middle-aged man's attack on Duan Nian Tian. Although she managed to save him in the nick of time, she was heavily injured. At this moment, it seemed as though her life was about to come to an end.

"Nian Tian, are you alright?" Han Xue Nai asked worriedly despite her heavy injuries. Her face was pale, and her eyes were brimming with anxiety.

Since Duan Nian Tian and Han Xue Nai's backs were facing each other, Duan Nian Tian was not aware of her serious injuries nor did he see her pale face.

The old woman said with a sneer, "You can't even protect yourself, but you want to protect that brat?"

"Today's the day you die, brat!" the middle-aged man said coldly as he looked at Duan Nian Tian as though Duan Nian Tian was a dead man walking.

However, Duan Nian Tian did not seem to hear his words. At this moment, his eyes were focused on something in the distance as though something had caught his attention.

Upon seeing this, the middle-aged man followed the direction of Duan Nian Tian's gaze and saw a purple-clad woman approaching them from a distance.

The purple-clad woman was a peerless beauty with a curvaceous figure. Her long and silky hair fluttered in the air even though there was no wind. Purple lightning bolts could be seen flashing in the purple energy that shrouded her body at this moment.

Meanwhile, Han Xue Nai who had seen the purple-clad woman as well exclaimed in shock, "Sister Fei'er?"

"Mother?" Tears brimmed in Duan Nian Tian's eyes when he saw the familiar figure.

The purple-clad woman was none other than Li Fei. For years, she had been searching the entire Purple Spike Realm for Duan Nian Tian. It was only recently that she had found clues that finally led her to her son who was facing a life-or-death situation.

"Mother! Leave at once!" Duan Nian Tian's expression changed drastically as he urgently sent a Voice Transmission to his mother. He knew his mother's strength was on par with his at most. If Han Xue Nai, who was stronger than him, was not a match for the old lady, how could his mother be a match for the old lady?

Similarly, Han Xue Nai sent a Voice Transmission to Li Fei, urging her to leave. "Sister Fei'er, hurry up and leave!" At the same time, she no longer looked at Li Fei, pretending she was not familiar with Li Fei.

Li Fei, who was hovering in the air, finally shifted her eyes away from her son and Han Xue Nai to the group of people. Her gaze turned frosty immediately.

At the same time, everyone felt the surroundings' temperature drop. It felt as though winter had arrived.

Li Fei said, "All of you... go to hell!"

Chapter 3189: The Purple Spike Supreme Celestial

The expressions of the old lady and middle-aged man changed drastically. Although the purple-clad woman had yet to attack, they could tell she was far stronger than them based on the sudden drop in temperature.

"Your Excellency..." the old woman began to say.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before the old woman could finish speaking, purple streaks of lights shot across the night sky like meteors toward the old woman. She quickly moved to dodge the attacks. If she was slightly distracted, there was no doubt she would die!

"Argh!"

"Spare me!"

"No!"

At the same time, miserable cries rang one after another. The cries only subsided when the purple streaks of lights disappeared.

The old woman looked at the group of people she had brought here only to discover everyone, including the middle-aged man, had died.

"I'm sorry I'm late," Li Fei said before she vanished into thin air and reappeared next to Duan Nian Tian. Then, she looked at Han Xue Nai who was standing behind Duan Nian Tian and said, "Xue Nai, thank you for taking care of Nian Tian over these years." After she finished speaking, she brought out a bottle of pills and passed it to Han Xue Nai before she continued to say, "These medicinal pills will cure your injuries, take it."

"Sister Fei'er..." Han Xue Nai was slightly stunned as she accepted the bottle of pills from Li Fei. She could not figure out how Li Fei, who used to be weaker than her, had become so formidable within a few years. Her powers seemed to have exceeded the peak of what one could achieve in the mundane realms.

"Mother..." Duan Nian Tian was similarly shocked by his mother's strength. Now that a few years had passed, he thought his cultivation base had caught up to his mother. He did not expect his mother would suddenly become so strong!

"Mother?" The old lady was shocked when she heard Duan Nian Tian addressed Li Fei as mother.

'I have to run!' Without any hesitation, the old woman turned around to escape. Her beast had been killed by the streaks of purple lights so she could only depend on herself to escape. However, how could she successfully escape?

Li Fei scoffed softly as she looked at the old woman's back icily. Then, she extended her hand in the old woman's direction.

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, a gigantic translucent arm appeared and caught the old woman before bringing the old woman to Li Fei. Then, it turned into a purple rope and tied the old woman up.

"You hurt my sister and tried to kill my son... Do you really think you'll be able to get away with it?" Li Fei asked as her voice grew colder by the second.

"Your Excellency, if you spare me, I'll give you everything that my clan and I own." The old lady trembled as she pleaded for her life. Her face was as pale as paper.

"I have no interest in your possessions," Li Fei said tonelessly as a streak of purple light shot out from the tip of her finger. Just as easy as it was to snap one's finger, she destroyed the old woman's cultivation base.

"Argh!" The old woman screamed. She tried to mobilize her energy to staunch the bleeding but found that she could not muster up any energy. She glared at Li Fei resentfully as she shouted, "You! How dare you destroy my cultivation base! I won't let you get away with this even if I become a ghost! You'll pay for this!"

“I’m not even afraid of you, why would I be afraid of your ghost?” Li Fei sneered. “Come find me once you become a ghost. I’ll make sure to destroy you again!” As soon as she finished speaking, another purple streak of light shot out and severed the old woman’s leg.

The old woman screeched in pain as Li Fei continued to sever her limbs.

Chills ran up Duan Nian Tian’s spine as he watched this. However, he was moved because he knew his mother was venting on his behalf.

On the other hand, Han Xue Nai remained calm. After all, if she had Li Fei’s strength, she would have done the same to the old woman as well.

At this moment, the old woman’s anger seemed to have vanished without a trace. She lay in a pool of her own blood as she cried out miserably, “Please... I beg you... Please grant me a quick death.”

Li Fei looked at the old lady indifferently and said, “Don’t beg me, beg my son.”

The old lady looked at Duan Nian Tian and hastily pleaded, “I beg you... Please...”

Duan Nian Tian, who was only a teenager, could not bear to see the old lady suffer so he persuaded his mother to quickly end the old woman’s life.

Once the dust had settled, Duan Nian Tian threw himself into his mother’s arms. His eyes reddened as he called out, “Mother!”

“Look at you, you’re all grown up now. Your Aunt Xue Nai is going to tease you if you start crying now.” Li Fei patted Duan Nian Tian’s back as she hugged him. She caressed his head and continued to say, “In just a blink of an eye, you’re already taller than me...”

After the mother and son reunited, Han Xue Nai could not help but ask, “Sister Fei’er, how did you become so powerful?”

“I’ve inherited the legacy from the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial,” Li Fei said.

“The legacy of the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial?”

Upon hearing Li Fei’s words, Han Xue Nai and Duan Nian Tian’s eyes widened in shock. Since they were also accidentally sent to the Purple Spike Realm, a mundane realm, they had naturally heard about the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial. Even the Purple Spike Realm was named after the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial. With this, one could see what kind of existence the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial was in this mundane realm. According to rumors, in the past, the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial was one of the strongest Celestials in the Devata Realms before she returned to her hometown in the Purple Spike Realm and left her legacy there.

“Mother, a few years ago, I heard that someone had inherited the legacy of the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial... As it turns out, it was you!” Duan Nian Tian looked at his mother in amazement. He did not expect the person who inherited the legacy to be his mother.

“Congratulations, Sister Fei’er!” Han Xue Nai congratulated Li Fei as soon as she regained her senses.

“To be honest, I was only chosen because I was near the site of the legacy when I came to the Purple Spike Realm. If it were you who appeared near the legacy, you would have been chosen too.” Li Fei was modest. She knew she was only chosen because she had absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Divine Offering Land.

Initially, Duan Nian Tian and Han Xue Nai did not understand Li Fei’s words. Realization only dawned on them after Li Fei explained everything to them.

“Mother, even so, the fact that you appeared near the legacy shows that you’re fated with the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial,” Duan Nian Tian said with a grin. He was delighted his mother chanced upon such a fortuitous encounter. After all, he knew his mother was under a lot of pressure all these years because the other women his father was with were stronger than his mother. Whether it was his Aunt Ke’er or Aunt Tian Wu, their cultivation bases were extraordinary compared to his mother’s cultivation bases. Now, his mother would no longer feel pressured.

“Nian Tian is right.” Han Xue Nai agreed with Duan Nian Tian.

At this moment, Li Fei suddenly looked in the distance and said, “All of you can come out now.”

In the next moment, four figures suddenly appeared out of thin air. The four figures belonged to four extraordinarily beautiful women. The most eye-catching thing about them was they looked identical. However, despite their similar appearances, their aura, bearing, and the embroideries on their robes were different.

From the left, the woman wore a robe that was embroidered with plum blossoms. The woman next to her had orchids embroidered on her robes. Meanwhile, the third and fourth women had bamboo leaves and chrysanthemum embroidered on their robes respectively.

“Young master,” the four women greeted and bowed in unison as soon as they appeared. Based on their tone, it was obvious they were filled with reverence and respect for Li Fei.

“Since I’ve found them, I can return to the Devata Realm with all of you now. However, I want to bring my son and my sister along,” Li Fei said to the four women. Then, she introduced Duan Nian Tian and Han Xue Nai to the four women.

The four women were sent by the Purple Spike Supreme Celestials to the mundane realm to wait for the person who would inherit the legacy. They were responsible for bringing the successor of the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial back to the Devata Realm.

Duan Nian Tian said with a sigh, “Unfortunately, we don’t know where Si Ling and the others went. Otherwise, we can bring them with us.”

“If I’m not mistaken, only three of us were sent to the Purple Spike Realm. The others should be in other mundane realms,” Han Xue Nai said.

“That’s right. That’s why I plan to leave after finding both of you,” Li Fei said. She sighed before she continued to say, “I didn’t expect to find both of you together. This saves us a lot of time and energy.”

“Sister Fei’er, is it convenient for you to bring us to meet the Purple Spike Supreme Celestial?” Han Xue Nai asked hesitantly.

“My master will be delighted to meet both of you. Moreover, since your innate talent and potential are comparable to mine, I’m sure she’ll be willing to accept both of you as disciples,” Li Fei said. It was clear she was confident about her son and Han Xue Nai’s ability.

At this moment, Duan Nian Tian said in a soft voice, “Father... Father must be in one of the Devata Realms as well, right?”

Upon hearing Duan Nian Tian’s words, Li Fei and Han Xue Nai fell silent immediately. A familiar purple figure appeared in their minds immediately as they recalled memories of the past.

Chapter 3190: Thirty Years Later

Thirty years later.

Thirty years were not considered long in Devata Realms. In fact, some powerful Celestials would enter closed-door cultivation for a couple of decades and centuries or even more.

In the Imperial Tutor Pavilion of the Profound Nether Mansion.

Now that thirty years had passed, Duan Ling Tian was already more than 100 years old. His aura from when he was younger seemed to have disappeared. “Senior.”

For the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion who had lived for more than 30,000 years, thirty years passed in just a blink of an eye. He had lost sense of time a long time ago.

“Is it possible for me to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm without joining the Su Clan? I remember you said everyone’s free to enter the upper realm as long as they meet the realm’s requirement of being below the stage of a Celestial Lord,” Duan Ling Tian bluntly asked.

The old man nodded. “That’s right.”

“How do I enter the upper realm?” Duan Ling asked again.

“As long as you have a formation compass, you’ll be able to find and enter the upper realm,” the old man replied.

“Senior, do you have the formation compass?” Duan Ling Tian asked hopefully as his eyes lit up upon hearing the old man’s words.

“Why do you ask?” the old man asked with a frown on his face, “Are you thinking of entering the upper realm now?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I want to see if I’ll be able to chance upon any fortuitous encounter in the upper realm. The chances should be quite high since the Southern Heaven Celestial Lord expended so much effort to maintain the realm.”

“What’s your current cultivation base?” The old man’s frown deepened. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to say he wanted to enter the upper realm now. Only thirty years had passed since Duan Ling Tian had entered closed-door cultivation. At that time, Duan Ling Tian was only a One Basic Celestial King. In his opinion, even with the resources provided by the Profound Nether Mansion, Duan Ling Tian should

now be a Two Forms Celestial King at most. It was possible that Duan Ling Tian had not even broken through and become a Two Basic Celestial King.

“I’m now a Three Talents Celestial King,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

The old man was shocked. “Y-you’ve broken through and become a Three Talents Celestial King?”

Duan Ling Tian knew the old man was skeptical so he released his aura into the surroundings. Normally, his aura would be concealed by the Profound Divine Metal if he did not deliberately release his aura. Therefore, he knew the old man could not sense his aura.

After a moment, the old man said with a sigh, “Even if you’ve broken through and become a Three Talents Celestial King, your current strength isn’t enough for you to survive in the upper realm... Unless you’ve comprehended...”

Before the old man finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian cast a series of profundities from the law of space.

The old man exclaimed, “Boy, your talent is insane!” When he finally regained his composure, he raised his hand and brought out a formation compass. “This is the formation compass to the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. You can use it to enter the upper realm. Remember, in order to return, you must use the same Transporting Formation that you were sent to when you enter the upper realm.”

The formation compass looked no different from an ordinary compass except that it was slightly larger and had holes on it that were meant for Celestial Crystals.

The old man waved his hand, and the holes were soon filled by Celestial Crystals that shone dazzlingly under the sun.

Based on the old man’s actions, it was clear he no longer objected to Duan Ling Tian entering the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Are you planning to enter the upper realm alone or you planning to bring Huan’er along?” the old man asked. Over the past thirty years, Huan’er would occasionally join Duan Ling Tian to accompany the old man while he fished in the backyard whenever they emerged from closed-door cultivation. He had taken a liking to her pure and innocent nature and treated her like his granddaughter.

The old man favored Huan’er so much that sometimes Duan Ling Tian felt the Huan’er was even more important to the old man compared to him.

“I’m planning to enter the upper realm with Huan’er,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“That girl... What’s her cultivation base now?” the old man asked.

“She’s a Six Combos Celestial King now.” Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. Even he was shocked by Huan’er’s cultivation speed.

Both of them had consumed the same number of Celestial Fruits, and over the last thirty years, the number of Celestial Pills and cultivation resources that Profound Nether Mansion provided him were

shared equally as well. And yet, after thirty years, his cultivation base was three stages lower than Huan'er's cultivation base. However, in terms of comprehending the law of space, his progress surpassed hers. Although she had also used the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity to comprehend the law of space, she was unable to comprehend the law of space as quickly as him. He wondered if it had something to do with Huan'er not being human.

"Six Combos Celestial King?" The old man was dumbfounded. He had lived for more than 30,000 years, and yet, he had never heard of anyone in the Southern Heaven Territory who managed to become a Six Combos Celestial King from a One Basic Celestial King within thirty years. Even in the Seven Upper Province, someone like Huan'er who managed to break through and become a Six Combos Celestial King from a One Basic Celestial King was as rare as a phoenix and a unicorn. How heaven-defying!

The old man thought to himself, 'It seems like there's no doubt that girl is a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that the Phantom Fox Clan in the Seven Upper Province is looking for.' He was sure of this now that he found out Huan'er had become a Six Combos Celestial King from a One Basic Celestial King within thirty years. That was the only reason she had such heaven-defying cultivation speed. Moreover, he figured out the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory was after Huan'er because they would be handsomely rewarded by the Clan Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan, which was also the main clan that was located in the Seven Upper Province, if they found her. The rewards were even greater than the rewards that were posted on the black market. One could just imagine how great the rewards the Phantom Fox Clan would receive were when even the old man himself was tempted by the inferior rewards posted on the black market.

"How's her comprehension of the law of space?" the old man asked again after a while. The level of shock when he saw the profundities from the law of space that Duan Ling Tian had cast earlier was equal to the shock he felt when he learned of Huan'er's cultivation base.

After Duan Ling Tian told the old man about Huan'er's comprehension of the law of space, the old man sighed. "Although her cultivation speed is heaven-defying, she can't compare to you in terms of comprehension skills. After taking everything into account, I'd say Huan'er's abilities are almost on par with yours." He would have been impressed by Huan'er's comprehension of the law of space if he did not see Duan Ling Tian's demonstration earlier.

After a brief moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man and asked, "Senior, can you tell me more about the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?"

"The upper realm is..." The old man began to patiently explain what he knew about the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm to Duan Ling Tian.

The upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was different from the lower and middle realm since it was open to everyone in the Southern Heaven Territory. As long as one was in the Southern Heaven Territory and one possessed the formation compass, one would be able to enter the upper realm. There were scoreboards in the upper realm, and unlike the middle realm that was refreshed once a month, the scoreboards in the upper realm would be refreshed once a year.

"When you enter the upper realm, you'll first be transported into a safe zone. Similar to grade-six Celestial Mansions' bases in the middle realm, participants are not allowed to fight in the safe zone. Anyone who fights in the safe zone will be killed by the killing Formation in the safe zone. Not even the

most powerful Ten Directions Celestial King would be able to survive the killing Formation in the safe zone since it was set up by the Southern Heaven Celestial Lord,” the old man explained.

Duan Ling Tian shuddered upon hearing these words. He could imagine how powerful the killing Formation that was cast by a titled Celestial Lord was.

The old man continued to explain, “In the safe zone, you can collect your Identity Jade Token... After engraving your name and dripping your blood on the Identity Jade Token, it will be yours until the year has ended, and it’s time for the scoreboard to be refreshed. Those who rank in the top 10 will be led to a secret realm where the Southern Heaven Celestial Lord left his treasures. There are Royal Grade Celestial Weapons, purely defensive Royal Grade Celestial Weapons, and rare and valuable Celestial Fruits and Celestial Pills that the Profound Nether Mansion can’t provide you with in there. This is the reward for those who rank in the top 10. For those who rank 11th to the 30th place, they would be led to a grade-two realm. Finally, the remaining people who rank in the top 100 would be led to a grade-three realm as a reward. The treasures hidden in the grade-two and grade-three secret realm aren’t necessarily inferior to the treasures in the grade-one secret realm. However, the two lower realms are much more dangerous than the grade-one realm. Based on this, you can probably guess that the grade-three secret realm is the most dangerous one out of three secret realms. The grade-three realm has many tests one would have to pass in order to obtain the treasures. Moreover, in order to pass the test, it would require at least 30 people to work together. In comparison, as long as you’re strong enough, one person is enough to pass the tests in the grade-one secret realm. Apart from the secret realms, you can naturally find treasures and fortuitous encounters in the upper realm as well. Otherwise, those who aren’t strong enough to rank in the top 100 wouldn’t continuously try their luck and enter the upper realm. The treasures will appear according to the Illusory Formations. You can take the treasure if you’re the only person who chances upon it. However, if more than one person finds the treasure at the same time, needless to say, you’ll have to fight for it.”

The old man paused for a moment to let Duan Ling Tian digest the information before he began to explain again, “Apart from that, just like the middle realm, you can crush your Identity Jade Token to escape from your opponents and to avoid being killed. You’ll be transported out to the same place you entered. If you want to leave without crushing your Identity Jade Token, you’ll have to return to the safe zone you were transported to when you first entered and leave through the Transporting Formation there.”

With this, the old man concluded everything he knew about the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.