

Chapter 3191: Entering The Upper Realm Of The Southern Heaven Ancient Realm

From the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's point of view, becoming a Three Talents Celestial King within thirty years was an amazing feat, but Duan Ling Tian felt that his progress was too slow.

'Even with the resources provided by the Profound Nether Mansion, it still took me thirty years to break through and become a Three Talents Celestial King. If things continue this way... don't tell me it's going to take me at least 200 years before I become a Nine Palaces Celestial King. What about when I want to break through and become a Celestial Lord? It would get increasingly difficult to break through once I become a Celestial Lord, let alone a Celestial Emperor. Moreover, although a Ten Directions Celestial Emperor is powerful and comparable to the Heavenly Emperors, it might not be enough to rescue Ke'er and the others from the Divine Offering Land.' With this thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian felt the weight on his shoulders grow heavier.

If Duan Ling Tian was given 10,000 years to raise his cultivation base, he would not be worried at all. However, as it was, he only had 900 years left; the time he had was too short. For this reason, he was determined to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm because it provided him with the chance to improve his strength tremendously.

'The upper realm holds rare fortuitous encounters that can't be found in the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects.' These were the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion's words to Duan Ling Tian a few years ago. Hence, he was more eager to enter the upper realm than to join the Ten Major Clans and the Top Five Sects. Although he was only a Three Talents Celestial King now, his comprehension of the law of space was remarkable. Therefore, he was confident he would be able to protect himself in the upper realm. Moreover, he would not be alone in the upper realm.

Before entering the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Heaven, the pavilion master solemnly reminded Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, "Remember to always be on your guard. Crush your Identity Jade Token if your life is at risk."

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly as he took Huan'er with him to enter the upper realm with the formation compass. Since the formation compass was tethered to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, they would enter the upper realm from the pavilion and would be sent out from the upper realm to the pavilion as well. Even if they crushed their Identity Jade Tokens, they would be sent out of the upper realm to the pavilion.

As Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were transported to the upper realm, everything went dark in their surroundings before light flooded their vision again.

Duan Ling Tian discovered he and Huan'er were now standing on a stone platform. When he looked up, he discovered the stone platform was rather vast.

As soon as the duo appeared, Huan'er began to attract the attention of a few Celestial Kings who had just arrived in the upper realm as well. They stared at her blatantly as though they were in a trance.

After all, it was almost impossible to find another woman who was as beautiful as Huan'er. How could ordinary men not be entranced by her beauty?

"Look at that beauty!"

At this moment, an ordinary-looking young man stepped forward and said, "Beauty, I'm Hong Man Qiu, a direct disciple of the Hong Clan, one of the Ten Major Clans in the Southern Heaven Territory. Why don't you leave this pretty boy behind and come with me instead?"

Alas, Huan'er did not even spare Hong Man Qiu a glance. Her gaze remained fixated on Duan Ling Tian from the beginning until the end. The smile on her face blossomed like flowers in spring as she looked at him.

Upon seeing Huan'er's smile, the men in the surroundings fell deeper into their trance. In just a few moments, a few more people tried to strike up a conversation with her. Similar to earlier, she ignored them completely.

With this, most people began to shift their attention away from the cold and aloof Huan'er to Duan Ling Tian.

"Boy, who are you? What makes you think you're deserving of this peerless beauty?"

"Boy, I'm a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, one of the Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory. What's your background? Which force are you from?"

The group of people glared at Duan Ling Tian resentfully as though they had great enmity with him even though this was their first meeting. Naturally, the source of their hostility was Huan'er.

"Idiots!" The corners of Duan Ling Tian's lips curved into a sneer as he swept his eyes across the group of people.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, the group of men was, naturally, infuriated. Since they were in the safe zone, no one dared to act recklessly in fear of triggering the killing Formation in the safe zone. After all, they would surely die a horrible death if they were killed by the killing Formation. For this reason, despite their boiling anger, none of them dared to attack Duan Ling Tian.

A core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect said indignantly, "Boy, if you have the guts, don't trigger the Invisibility Formation in your Identity Jade Token before you leave the safe zone!"

After entering the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Territory, everyone would be given an Identity Jade Token. Apart from the Transporting Formation that would be triggered once one shattered the Identity Jade Token, it also contained an Invisibility Formation that could only be triggered in the safe zone. This was to prevent one from being targeted as soon as one arrived in the upper realm when leaving the safe zone.

After the core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect threatened Duan Ling Tian, a few people chimed in one after another.

Duan Ling Tian did not pay any attention to these people and brought Huan'er to collect their Identity Jade Tokens. One could choose to engrave one's real name or fake name on the token.

“Duan Ling Tian.” Duan Ling Tian, naturally, had no plans of using a pseudonym so he engraved his real name on the token.

Similarly, Huan’er engraved her real name on the token as well. Although she was not formally educated, she knew how to write her name because of the memory she had inherited as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

After the duo dripped their blood on the Identity Jade Tokens, they felt a connection to their respective tokens immediately.

“Huan’er, let’s go.” Duan Ling Tian beckoned to Huan’er before they flew out of the safe zone.

No one knew how many safe zones there were in the upper realm. The location of the safe zones would change from time to time. As the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion had said before, they would have to return to this particular safe zone if they wanted to leave the upper realm without crushing their Identity Jade Tokens. Naturally, unless it was absolutely necessary, they would not crush their Identity Jade Token since doing so would cause them to lose their points and all their efforts would go to waste.

Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er leaving the safe zone without triggering the Invisibility Formation in their Identity Jade Tokens, the group of people watching them were stunned.

“Where did they get their courage from?”

“Even those powerful Ten Directions Celestial Kings wouldn’t be so bold, right?”

“Is it possible that they’re really powerful?”

“I don’t think I’ve seen them or heard of them before this. That woman is such a peerless beauty. If she has entered the upper realm before, there’s no way Ouyang Yu Wei, the true disciple from the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect, would be hailed as the most beautiful woman in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm!”

“That’s right! I’ve met Ouyang Yu Wei once and was stunned by her beauty. However, her beauty is slightly lacking compared to this woman.”

“Those two unknown people left the safe zone just like that? Aren’t they worried about being eliminated as soon as they leave the safe zone?”

“Perhaps, they’re just really confident of their strength.”

“They concealed their auras with some techniques so I can’t find out their cultivation bases.”

The safe zone that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were transported to was a vast stone platform suspended in the air. It was located in a place where the air was heavy and the ground was red, looking as though it had been stained by blood.

‘The middle realm isn’t a match for the upper realm at all... It’s obvious the former Southern Heaven Celestial Lord who created the realm expended a lot of effort when creating the upper realm,’ Duan Ling

Tian thought to himself. Although the middle realm was rather life-like, it was a far cry from the upper realm. In the upper realm, he could even feel the atmospheric pressure from the heavens and earth when he flew.

As Duan Ling Tian traveled and surveyed his surroundings, a sense of desolation swept over him. He felt as though he was in an ancient war ground.

At this point, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had traveled rather far away from the safe zone. It would take them quite a while if they wanted to return to the safe zone.

"Huan'er, there are people following us," Duan Ling Tian said at this moment.

After they had left the safe zone, Duan Ling Tian had sensed some people trying to probe him with their Divine Consciousness. Some of them were people who had just left the safe zone and some were from people who were lurking outside the safe zone. These people were like predators hunting for prey. Although some of them had stealthily followed the duo, none of them dared to recklessly make a move since they could not detect the duo's cultivation bases.

At this moment, a group of three men lurked in a corner as they watched the duo.

"Hey, that woman isn't even 100 years old!"

"Not even 100 years old?"

"It's true!"

The three men were shocked when they discovered Huan'er's age. They regained their senses when they heard a loud scoff ring in the air.

Soon after, a figure appeared out of thin air and blocked Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's path.

Upon seeing the newcomer, the trio cried out in unison, "It's Jun Wang Cheng, the core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect!"

Chapter 3192: Huan'er Strikes

The Wind Thunder Dao Sect, one of the Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory, was a grade-five sect.

All of the core disciples in the Southern Heaven Territory's Ten Major Clans and Top Five Clans were prodigies. Most of them were Celestial Kings below the age of 200.

Jun Wang Chen, a Wind Thunder Dao Sect core disciple, was a little more than 100 years old, but he was already a Ten Directions Celestial King who had comprehended all nine profundities from the law of metal. Although he had not comprehended any of the profundities to the initial stage, his strength was not to be underestimated.

At the very least, the group of three men who were lurking in a corner would not dare to attack Jun Wan Chen even if Jun Wan Chen was unaware.

“Boy, I didn’t think you’d be so bold as to forgo triggering the Invisibility Formation when leaving the safe zone.” Jun Wang Chen sneered as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. He was also confident about leaving the safe zone without having to trigger the Invisibility Formation, but he was afraid Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er would discover his presence when he was tailing them so he had triggered the Invisibility Formation in his Identity Jade Token.

Once the Invisibility Formation had been triggered, due to the restrictions of the formation, one would not be able to attack. This prevented people from using it to launch sneak attacks. After removing the Invisibility Formation, the restrictions would only disappear after three breaths. During these three breaths, one would not be able to attack, but others would not be able to attack as well. The Invisibility Formation also served as an incredibly powerful defensive Formation. Normally, it would not be possible for ordinary Identity Jade Tokens to carry such powerful Formations. It was only possible because the tokens had a connection to the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Why should I be afraid?” Duan Ling Tian looked at the young man who blocked their path calmly. He had a slight impression of the young man; the young man was one of the people who were clamoring earlier in the safe zone. He vaguely remembered the young man say he was from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

“Remember that the person who kills you today is Jun Wang Chen, a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect. I’ll show this beauty that a weakling like you doesn’t deserve to stay by her side!” As soon as Jun Wang Chen finished speaking, his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the law of metal’s Metal Elemental Profundity surged out of his body. At the same time, he looked at Huan’er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian meaningfully. Alas, he discovered that she did not even spare him a glance from the beginning until the end. He could not help but feel defeated. With this, his anger rose. He glared at Duan Ling Tian as killing intent shone in his eyes, deciding to vent his anger on Duan Ling Tian. “I’m going to finish you off now!”

Jun Wang Chen moved as soon as he finished speaking. A sword appeared in his hand at the same time. Based on its aura, it was clear the sword was rather extraordinary.

‘A Royal Grade Celestial Sword?’ Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow when he sensed the sword’s aura.

Meanwhile, the onlookers in the surroundings discussed among themselves as they watched Jun Wang Chen charged toward Duan Ling Tian. Since they had never heard of Duan Ling Tian, they thought he was nobody. With this, they all thought Duan Ling Tian would definitely die.

“The purple-clad young man is doomed!”

“Although Jun Wang Chen is the weakest among the core disciples of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, he’s still a force to be reckoned with.”

“That’s right. In the upper realm, ordinary people can’t hope to defeat Jun Wang Chen.”

“Jun Wang Chen usually ranks in the top 100 so everyone knows he’s strong.”

At this moment, a cold but melodious voice rang in the air. “Anyone who wants to kill Brother Ling Tian has to die!”

The person who had spoken was none other than Huan'er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian. Her gentle gaze when she was looking at Duan Ling Tian turned frosty when she looked at Jun Wang Chen. The look in her eyes was so cold that it seemed like it could turn water into ice.

Swoosh!

Without any warning, Huan'er disappeared before she reappeared in front of Duan Ling Tian. Her Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the law of space's Space Elemental Profundity surged out.

The onlookers did not think Huan'er would be able to defeat Jun Wang Cheng when they discovered her cultivation base, but they were still shocked by her cultivation base after they found out she was not even 100 years old.

"This beautiful woman is a Six Combos Celestial King?"

"Wait a minute! She's not even 100 years old. She's a Six Combos Celestial King who's not even 100 years old! Where did such a monstrous talent come from?"

"It's true! She's not even 100 years old!"

It did not take long before people began to sense the law that Huan'er had comprehended when she released her Celestial Origin Energy.

"She comprehended the law of space!"

At the same time, Jun Wang Chen frowned when he saw Huan'er shielding Duan Ling Tian. However, he laughed when he sensed her cultivation base. "A Six Combos Celestial King?"

Jun Wang Cheng was certain a Six Combos Celestial King was no threat to him at all, therefore, he did not take Huan'er seriously. It would be easy for him to toy with her. All of a sudden, he was pulled back to his senses. He discovered the space around him seemed to have frozen, and he seemed to be restrained.

"The law of space's Restraining Profundity? What's the big deal? I can easily break free of the Restraining Profundity cast by a Six Combos Celestial King!" Jun Wang Cheng waved his sword. A golden energy burst forth as he tried to break free.

Whoosh!

At the same time, Jun Wang Chen tried to break free, the air around him began to distort and thrum in order to stop him. Alas, it only stalled him for a moment before his energy surged out.

Boom!

When Jun Wang Chen's golden energy landed, the space distorted and thrummed, but the restraint did not break. His eyes widened, and his expression changed drastically. 'How's this possible? It's impossible for the Restraining Profundity cast by a Six Combos Celestial King to withstand this attack... unless... unless she has comprehended the Restraining Profundity to the initial stage!'

It was not difficult for the onlookers to arrive at the same conclusion that Jun Wang Chen did. They were, naturally, shocked by this discovery. When they looked at Huan'er again, a hint of wariness and solemnity could be seen in their eyes.

A Six Combos Celestial King who was not even 100 years old was already a monstrous talent, but she had also comprehended the law of space's Restraining Profundity to the initial stage?

Swoosh!

Now that Jun Wang Chen discovered Huan'er had comprehended the law of space's Restraining Profundity to the initial stage, he grew serious. He struck again; this time he struck with all his might. With this, he successfully broke free of the Restraining Profundity. No matter what, he was still a Ten Directions Celestial King. In terms of cultivation base, Huan'er was far inferior to him.

As soon as Jun Wang Chen broke free of the restraint, he saw a figure appear before him.

Huan'er who was standing in front of Jun Wan Cheng did not waste time and immediately created a Space Territory.

At the same time, three spatial tears appeared around Jun Wang Chen, surrounding him in the shape of a triangle. Before he could catch his breath after attacking with all his might to break free, a grey sword ray appeared in each of the spatial tears. The three grey sword rays shot toward him as though they could cut down everything that stood in their way.

Jun Wang Chen would have no problem repelling the three sword rays with his full strength. However, he had just used all his strength to break free of the restraint so it was impossible for him to exert all his strength again so soon. For this reason, he decisively put up his defenses. Soon enough, a golden light burst forth. His skin seemed to be plated with gold, making him look like a golden statue. At the same time, numerous golden energy barriers were erected around him, protecting him in all directions.

Despite putting up his defenses, Jun Wang Chen was slightly nervous. His expression kept changing as he looked at the grey sword rays. He thought to himself, 'She's also comprehended the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity to the initial stage? If her sword rays breached my first line of defense, I'll crush my Identity Jade Token...'

Jun Wang Chen's expression was solemn as he looked at the attacks from the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity. He was no longer as flippant as before.

Meanwhile, the onlookers were once again shocked. How could this beauty who was not even 100 years old be so heaven-defying?

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian sent a reminder to Huan'er through Voice Transmission. "Huan'er, use the Transportation Profundity!"

Duan Ling Tian could figure out Jun Wang Chen's intention just by looking at Jun Wang Chen's eyes. Jun Wan Chen was clearly unafraid; it was not difficult to figure out that he planned to escape by crushing his Identity Jade Token. How could he allow someone like Jun Wang Chen to escape?

As soon as Huan'er received Duan Ling Tian's Voice Transmission, she cast the Transportation Profundity and changed the positions of the grey sword rays. She transported the grey sword rays behind Jun Wang Chen's outer layer of defenses.

"No!" Jun Wang Chen cried out. He did not have time to retrieve his Identity Jade Token and crush it. He could only watch as the three grey sword rays breached his defenses.

A translucent armor appeared on Jun Wang Cheng before the grey sword rays landed on him. This was clearly the work of a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. Unfortunately, three grey sword rays easily destroyed its defenses as well.

With this, the grey sword rays pierced Jun Wang Chen's body and disappeared into thin air.

The onlookers inhaled sharply as they watched Huan'er kill Jun Wang Chen.

"How terrifying! Is... is she really just a Six Combos Celestial King?"

Chapter 3193: Ranked In The Top 100

Jun Wang Chen was a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect. His cultivation base had reached the level of a Ten Directions Celestial King, and he also possessed a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. However, he was killed by a woman who was not even 100 years old in just a few breaths!

"Using the law of space's Transportation Profundity, she bypassed Jun Wang Chen's outer defenses by transporting the grey sword rays behind the barriers. I bet Jun Wang Chen didn't expect that at all!"

"He didn't even have time to crush his Identity Jade Token to leave the upper realm!"

"Jun Wang Chen definitely took a risk by waiting to crush his Identity Jade Token. He could have crushed his token as soon as the woman cast the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity."

"Well, he took that risk and paid with his life!"

Most of the onlookers felt that Jun Wang Chen died because he was reckless.

At this moment, the onlookers were looking at the white figure solemnly. Although the other person was just a Six Combos Celestial King, she had comprehended two profundities from the law of space to the initial stage. They had witnessed her casting the Restraining Profundity and the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity that had been comprehended to the initial stage.

Meanwhile, after killing Jun Wang Chen, Huan'er quickly collected his Spatial Ring. Then, she returned to Duan Ling Tian's side and presented the ring to Duan Ling Tian. Apart from that, she also presented Jun Wang Chen's Royal Grade Celestial Sword and purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon to Duan Ling Tian. "Brother Ling Tian!"

After Duan Ling Tian put the two Celestial Weapons away, he claimed ownership of the Spatial Ring by dripping his blood on it. He took a look and discovered mountains of Celestial Crystals, medicinal herbs, and some strange pieces of metal in the ring.

'Hm? Is this the Wind Shadow Escape Talisman?' Soon after, Duan Ling Tian discovered two Celestial Talismans in the ring. The talismans were similar to the one Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, had given him in the past. He discovered the strength of the two talismans he just found were as powerful as the one he used in the past.

'If Jun Wan Cheng had used the Wind Shadow Escape Talisman to escape, Huan'er wouldn't have been able to kill him... Well, he probably thought it would be a waste to use the talisman in the upper realm when he could just crush his Identity Jade Token to escape. Moreover, if he did not wait and had crushed his token earlier, he wouldn't have died.' If Duan Ling Tian did not remind Huan'er to use the Transportation Profundity, Jun Wang Chen would have definitely escaped. Using the Transportation Profundity was the only way to kill Jun Wang Chen before he could crush his Identity Jade Token.

Duan Ling Tian continued thinking to himself, 'Since six months ago, Jun Wang Chen was ranked in the top 100. If I'm not mistaken, he was ranked 92nd with 59 points before he died. Now that Huan'er killed him, she'll directly enter the top 100 and take over his place...' Then, he confirmed Huan'er's ranking by checking her Identity Jade Token. With the default 1 point in the token, she now had 60 points after killing Jun Wang Chen.

Someone checked their Identity Jade Token at this moment and cried out, "Look! There's a new name in the 92nd place. It's that woman, Huan'er!"

"Not only is she a Six Combos Celestial King and comprehended two profundities from the law of space to the initial stage before the age of 100, but she's also a peerless beauty with a perfect figure! Even the geniuses from the Seven Upper Province aren't as heaven-defying as her, right?"

"So terrifying! I don't think I have ever met a Six Combos Celestial King as terrifying as her!"

At this time, Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er, "Huan'er, take a look at your ranking through your Identity Jade Token..."

Since there were no scoreboards for the upper realm outside of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there was no way for the people outside to know the rankings in the upper realm. The only way they could find out about the rankings was if the people inside sent them a message to tell them about it through Celestial Talismans. Unlike the middle realm, Celestial Talismans, along with Celestial Weapons, were permitted in the upper realm.

Apart from that, once a participant left the upper realm, they would not be able to see the rankings through their Identity Jade Tokens as well.

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Jun Wang Chen was a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, one of the Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory, after all. Naturally, it did not take long before news of his death in the upper realm spread.

Although there were no other disciples from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect present when Huan'er killed Jun Wang Chen, there were many who had acquaintances in the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

"Brother, I need to tell you something! Your Wind Thunder Dao Sect's core disciple, Jun Wang Chen, is dead!"

“Brother Tian, your Wind Thunder Dao Sect’s core disciple, Jun Wang Chen, was killed by a woman called Huan’er. She’s not even 100 years old!”

“Senior Sister Qin, Senior Brother Jun Wang Chen is dead!”

Messages were sent one after another to the disciples from the Wind Thunder Sect.

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Duan Ling Tian was unaware that news of Jun Wang Chen’s death had spread. Even if he was aware, he would not care.

To enter the upper realm was to risk one’s life, after all. Jun Wan Cheng died because he was not strong enough. Everyone understood this. Could the Wind Thunder Dao Sect demand the Profound Nether Mansion to hand him over to them? Of course not. As one of the Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory, how could they do something so embarrassing? They could not openly seek revenge; at most, they could only send more of their disciples into the upper realm to avenge Jun Wang Chen.

After Huan’er saw her points and ranking, she said, “Brother Ling Tian, this is really easy! I’ve already entered the top 100 after killing one person!” Based on her tone, it was clear she thought it was easy to make it onto the scoreboard.

Duan Ling Tian knew Huan’er was unaware of how things worked in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm so he explained to her patiently, “Huan’er, it’s only easy because the unlucky guy you killed earlier already possessed 59 points. Since half a year had passed since the upper realm opened, this means you obtained all the points he had accumulated for six months.”

Realization finally dawned on Huan’er. “I see... Does this mean I’ll gain more points if I can kill a few more unlucky guys like him?”

“Well, yes... However, there are less than 100 people in the upper realm who have more points than him at this moment,” Duan Ling Tian said. After a moment, he called to Huan’er, “Let’s go, Huan’er... We’ll make our way to the edge of the realm and see if we can find anything there.”

As Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er made their way to the opposite direction of the safe zone, everyone in the surroundings fell silent as the duo walked past them. Some people even forgot that they had triggered the Invisibility Formation in their Identity Tokens so they held their breaths when the duo walked past them. They only heaved a sigh of relief when the duo disappeared from their sight. Then, they began to discuss among themselves again. Most of them were curious about Huan’er.

In the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there were many ordinary Celestial Kings who chose to join forces with others to gain more points. Naturally, they would only team up with close friends or those they trusted. Otherwise, there was no guarantee they would not be betrayed. At this moment, all these people who gathered together fervently speculated among themselves.

“Have you ever heard of this woman?”

“I’ve never heard of her. In fact, I’m very sure this is the first time her name has appeared on the scoreboard in the upper realm.”

“I’ve never heard of her as well.”

“If this isn’t her first time here, it’s impossible that no one knows her. Put aside her strength, just her beauty alone is enough to make her famous in the Southern Heaven Territory, let alone the upper realm.”

“That’s right! This should be her first time here.”

Huan’er had left a deep impression on those who were present on the scene.

Many men were jealous of Duan Ling Tian for having a peerless beauty by his side. They were all men, but why was Duan Ling Tian so lucky? What was so special about him?

Meanwhile, an inconspicuous young man dressed in grey robes stood among the onlookers as he muttered to himself, “Her beauty, and her talent... Apart from that, she’s also less than 100 years old and is dressed in a white robe... and that handsome purple-clad young man with her... Could the young man be Duan Ling Tian? If so, she must be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that the branch leader mentioned, right?”

After a beat, the grey-clad young man sent a message. It did not take long before he received a reply asking about Duan Ling Tian’s appearance.

After he described Duan Ling Tian’s appearance, another reply arrived. “Based on your description, he should be Duan Ling Tian... I met him once when I visited the Profound Nether Mansion with our branch leader. As for the woman, she should be the veiled lady wearing a bamboo hat whom our men were following. Moreover, according to the men we sent to the borderland to investigate the matter, it’s said that the woman who accompanied Duan Ling Tian when he was in the borderland is also called Huan’er...”

The person whom the grey-clad young man was communicating with was also in the upper realm at this moment. It was an old man.

If Duan Ling Tian saw the old man, he would have recognized the old man immediately. The old man was none other than one of the two old men who accompanied the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory to visit the Profound Nether Mansion thirty years ago.

Chapter 3194: Old Man Hei Sha

The old man, Zhang Yun Ting, was a Ten Directions Celestial King. The grey-clad young man was his son; his son was also a Ten Directions Celestial King. Despite having similar cultivation bases, his son was weaker than him because his son had only comprehended eight profundities from the law of space.

After receiving his son’s message, Zhang Yun Ting wasted no time in relaying the message to Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory.

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“Duan Ling Tian is in the upper realm with the lady whom we suspect to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox?” Zhang Dong Nan’s eyes widened in surprise upon hearing the message.

After Zhang Dong Nan had confirmed that Duan Ling Tian was familiar with the woman his men were tailing before they died, he was eager to confirm the woman was truly a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. If she was the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, he would notify the main clan in the Seven Upper Province so they could send elites to bring her away if he was not strong enough to bring her away from the Profound Nether Mansion. There were titled Celestial Lords in the main clan who were more than capable of taking that woman away from the Profound Nether Mansion. The titled Celestial Lords were as powerful as the Southern Heaven Celestial Lords, after all. The only reason he had yet to inform the main clan about this was due to his uncertainty; he was not sure if the woman was really a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. If he was mistaken, those from the main clan might feel displeased. If he angered the titled Celestial Lords in the main clan, he would not be able to bear the consequences.

“She’s no longer a Ten Directions Celestial Duke and has become a Six Combos Celestial King? Moreover, she has comprehended two profundities from the law of space, the Restraining Profundity and the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, to the initial stage?” Zhang Dong Nan was rather shocked by this information even though he had experienced and seen a lot as the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan. He had never heard of anyone with such heaven-defying talents.

“Even the last Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox who appeared in the clan did not have such heaven-defying talents! In just thirty years, her cultivation base rose from that of a Ten Directions Celestial Duke to that of a Six Combos Celestial King. Moreover, she comprehended one of the Four Supreme Laws...”

Zhang Dong Nan’s expression was grim as he muttered to himself, “Now that she’s a Celestial King, I won’t be able to tell if she’s the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox if she deliberately masks her aura.”

His eyes glinted at this moment. “Should I... Should I inform the main clan about this even though I’m not sure? No, I’ll wait a little longer. Perhaps, the situation might change...”

After taking a deep breath, Zhang Dong Nan sent a message to Zhang Yun Ting. “Elder Yun Ting, probe the lady for more information if you can.”

“Understood!”

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After Zhang Yun Ting received the order from Zhang Dong Nan, he asked his son for the direction where Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had left.

Unlike the grade-six Celestial Mansions’ bases in the middle realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, the locations of the safe zones in the upper realm would not change. Only the locations of the treasures and secret realms would change.

For this reason, Zhang Yun Ting had no problem finding his way after receiving directions from his son.

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Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had encountered quite a number of people as they traveled. Unfortunately, none of them were ranked in the top 100 on the scoreboard.

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, eliminated these people in just a blink of an eye. He did not kill them since there was no enmity between them.

Due to the number of people Duan Ling Tian had eliminated, after these people were sent out of the upper realm, it did not take long for words to spread about the existence of a purple-clad young man who possessed the strength of a Ten Directions Celestial King despite being a Three Talents Celestial King in the upper realm.

The people arrived at the conclusion that Duan Ling Tian possessed strength comparable to a Ten Directions Celestial King because there were a few Nine Palaces Celestial Kings and a Seven Stars Celestial King among the people he had eliminated.

Despite eliminating quite a number of people, Duan Ling Tian had only accumulated a little more than 30 points. The points were too little for his name to appear on the scoreboard.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian wondered out loud as he surveyed the land below while he flew in the air, "I wonder how big is the upper realm..."

Meanwhile, Huan'er held Duan Ling Tian's arm as she followed him. Both of them looked like a match made in heaven.

At this moment, a sinister laughter rang in the air. "What a perfect couple!"

It did not take long before Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er saw a ghost-like figure in the distance, drawing closer and closer to them.

In just a brief moment, a figure shrouded in a long black robe appeared, blocking Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's path. The figure belonged to a skinny old man. He was so skinny that his face looked sunken, and he looked just like a bag of bones.

'He's a Ten Directions Celestial King!' Duan Ling Tian had already determined the old man's cultivation base when the old man was flying toward them. He could sense the old man's cultivation base through the old man's Celestial Origin Energy.

Although Duan Ling Tian was just a Three Talents Celestial King now, it was not difficult for him to discern the aura of a Ten Directions Celestial King since he became familiar with the aura when his strength was raised by the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon previously.

The old man clicked his tongue as he looked at Huan'er before he said, "You're not even 100 years old. Girl, you're really beautiful. If I were several tens of thousands of years younger, I might even be interested in you." After that, he shifted his eyes to Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Boy, will both of you crush your Identity Jade Tokens and leave or do you want me to do it for you? Let me warn you, if I, Old Man Hei Sha, make a move, I can't guarantee that I'll be able to spare your lives..."

"Thank you for your reminder, senior." Duan Ling Tian was not surprised that the old man had lived for tens of thousands of years. After all, if there were no accidents, Celestials could live as long as the heavens and earth. There were many Celestials who had lived for a long time like the old man. For example, the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion who was more than 30,000 years old. After he thanked the old man, he said, "Senior, if you want to eliminate us, you'll have to show us your strength."

“What? Do you doubt my strength?” The old man was taken aback upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. Then, a frown appeared on his face as he said, “That’s not right... Have you not heard of my name, Hei Sha?”

With this, Duan Ling Tian finally recalled he had seen the old man’s name when he looked at the scoreboard in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm through the Identity Jade Token. He looked at his Identity Jade Token again for confirmation. His eyes lit up when he saw Hei Sha was ranked 69th with 186 points.

Duan Ling Tian’s gaze changed as he looked at Hei Sha again. His gaze was similar to how a predator looked at its prey. “As it turns out, senior is ranked 69th...”

“Now that you know, aren’t you going to crush your Identity Jade Token?” Hei Sha waved his hand impatiently. “I’ve killed too many people in the past. Nowadays, when I see young people like you, I feel like I’m seeing my own kin. If it’s not necessary, I really don’t wish to kill you.”

Duan Ling Tian could not help but smile when he heard Hei Sha’s words; he found Hei Sha rather interesting. After a beat, he said with a smile, “Senior, let’s duel.”

“You want to have a duel with me even though you know I’m Hei Sha?” Hei Sha raised an eyebrow. His expression grew slightly solemn at this moment. Those whom he encountered in the upper realm who insisted on fighting him after discovering his identity were either foolish or truly powerful. He had lived for tens of thousands of years and had been in the upper realm for a long time; his instincts told him the purple-clad young man was not foolish. Hence, the purple-clad young man had to be powerful. Nevertheless, he did not think the purple-clad young man could defeat him.

Hei Sha had become a Ten Directions Celestial King 10,000 years ago. Ever since then, he never had another breakthrough. Over the past 10,000 years, he had spent almost all his time in the upper realm when it was open. For this reason, he was familiar with everyone in the upper realm who was capable of defeating him, and Duan Ling Tian was not one of them.

Duan Ling Tian’s smile remained on his face as he said, “Please enlighten me, senior!”

“Alright! If you insist on fighting, I’ll play along!” As soon as Hei Sha finished speaking, a scorching energy surged out of his body. Based on this, it was apparent he had comprehended the law of fire.

Swoosh!

As flames burst forth, a broad saber appeared in Hei Sha’s hand.

At the same time, a piercing energy swept out toward Duan Ling Tian.

‘This Old Man Hei Sha is much more powerful than the Wind Thunder Dao Sect’s Jun Wang Chen.’ Although they had not exchanged blows yet, Duan Ling Tian could tell the old man was much more powerful than Jun Wang Chen based on the old man’s aura. The only question he had was if Hei Sha had comprehended any of the profundities from the law of fire to the initial stage.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian teleported away from his spot and reappeared above the old man in just a blink of an eye.

“The law of space’s Teleportation Profundity?” Hei Sha looked up, clearly surprised. However, it was apparent that he was not panicked by this discovery. Although there were not many people who comprehended the law of space, it was not rare to encounter those who comprehended the law of space.

Hei Sha looked at Duan Ling Tian again and saw that Duan Ling Tian did not have any weapon in his hand. He said, “Lad, bring your weapon out.” It was clear he did not think Duan Ling Tian was his opponent at all and reminded Duan Ling Tian so he would not win with an unfair advantage.

“It’s fine, senior. I’ll bring my Celestial Weapon out when I think it’s necessary to do so.” Duan Ling Tian’s impression of the old man grew more and more favorable. After all, not many people would remind their opponents to bring out their weapons to even out the ground as much as possible.

“Lad, don’t you think you’re underestimating me a little too much? Let me teach you a lesson today!” The flames burned bright as Hei Sha charged forward with his saber in hand, looking like a ball of fire.

Chapter 3195: 65th Place

Faced with a fierce opponent, Duan Ling Tian promptly mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Space Elemental Profundity. With that, his aura grew profound.

“Hm?” Hei Sha who was charging toward Duan Ling Tian like a ball of flames abruptly came to a halt when he sensed that Duan Ling Tian was merely a Three Talents Celestial King through Duan Ling Tian’s Celestial Origin Energy. After a brief moment, he moved closer to Duan Ling Tian and stared at Duan Ling Tian with a deep frown on his face. “Lad, you’re just a Three Talents Celestial King? What gave you the courage to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm? Do you have a death wish?” When he spoke, his tone was that of an elder scolding a child.

In Hei Sha’s opinion, a Three Talents Celestial King had no business entering the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Three Talents Celestial Kings were like bonus points for the others in the upper realm. Moreover, Three Talents Celestial Kings would probably get themselves killed in the upper realm.

“Senior, did you stop because of my cultivation base?” Duan Ling Tian was puzzled by Hei Sha’s sudden inaction. He was rather speechless. Did he meet a Mr. Nice Guy in the upper realm?

Although Hei Sha did not look like a righteous man, he had been treating Duan Ling Tian like a caring elder. Duan Ling Tian was suddenly at a loss over what to do; should he attack or not?

“Lad, I’ll give you one more chance... Leave the upper realm now. Otherwise, you might really die if I attack,” Hei Sha said solemnly in a slightly threatening tone.

“Senior, all the Seven Stars Celestial Kings, Eight Trigrams Celestial Kings, and Nine Palaces Celestial Kings I encountered previously said the same thing... Do you know what happened to them?” Duan Ling Tian said with a sigh.

“What? You managed to eliminate them?” Hei Sha asked skeptically. It was apparent he thought Duan Ling Tian was merely boasting.

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

“It’s better not to boast lest you shoot yourself in the foot. How can a mere Three Talents Celestial King eliminate Nine Palaces Celestial Kings?” Hei Sha laughed.

“If you don’t believe me, I’ll just prove it to you. You’ve been fair and didn’t take advantage of me so I’ll treat you similarly. I hope you’ll take me seriously once you see my strength.” Duan Ling Tian attacked as soon as he finished speaking. He did not wait for Hei Sha’s reply.

‘Restraining Profundity! Distortion Profundity!’ With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian restrained Hei Sha.

The air around Hei Sha began to distort and ripple immediately. The raging energy pressed down on him.

Duan Ling Tian teleported and reappeared several dozen meters away before he cast the law of space’s Territory Profundity around Hei Sha.

In the past, Duan Ling Tian’s Space Territory only had a ten-meter radius. However, after comprehending the Territory Profundity to the initial stage, his territory had a 100-meter radius.

“The initial stage of the Territory Profundity?” Hei Sha’s expression turned solemn immediately. It did not take long before a frown appeared on his face. He could feel the raging energy pressing down on him increasing in strength. With the addition of the Territory Profundity, he even began to feel threatened.

‘Did he comprehend the law of space’s Distortion Profundity to the initial stage as well?’ Hei Sha thought to himself. He brandished his saber, trying to break free of the restraint. At the same time, the flames around his body skyrocketed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With this, Hei Sha no longer underestimated Duan Ling Tian. He used all his might to break free. After all, although his opponent was merely a Three Talents Celestial King, his opponent had already comprehended two profundities from the law of space to the initial stage. That alone made his opponent as formidable as an ordinary Ten Directions Celestial King. Moreover, who knew if his opponent had more tricks up his sleeve? He decided it was best to break free first. Otherwise, he would be giving the upper hand to his opponent. Even if he was stronger, he stood a chance of losing if he did not free himself of the restraint.

Flaming saber rays shot around the Space Territory in an attempt to destroy the restraint.

Although half of the flaming saber rays’ energies were depleted from this move alone, Hei Sha was confident he would be able to free himself. Unless... Unless his opponent had comprehended the Restraining Profundity to the initial stage as well. However, he did not think it was possible.

After a while, when Hei Sha discovered he could not free himself with his flaming saber rays, his expression changed drastically. For his opponent to be able to withstand his flaming saber rays, it was clear to him that the purple-clad young man in front of him had comprehended the Restraining Profundity to the initial stage as well despite how impossible it seemed!

Hei Sha was thoroughly shocked when he discovered a Three Talents Celestial King managed to comprehend the Territory Profundity, the Distortion Profundity, and the Restraining Profundity to the initial stage. When he looked at Duan Ling Tian again, it seemed as though he was looking at a monster.

“Senior, are we going to continue?” Duan Ling Tian asked as he casually waved his hand.

Three spatial tears appeared immediately. Then, a grey sword ray appeared from each of the spatial tears. They surrounded Hei Sha in a triangular formation, trapping him.

“The initial stage of the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity?!” Upon seeing this, Hei Sha began to curse, “Why am I so unlucky? Why did I meet a little monster like you?”

The law of space had nine profundities in total. Apart from the Space Elemental Profundity, the other eight profundities could be comprehended to higher stages.

Hei Sha knew that the Ten Direction Celestial King who consistently ranked first on the scoreboard in the upper realm, a peerless prodigy from the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect, was rumored to have comprehended three profundities from the law of wind to the initial stage. However, the purple-clad young man before him, a Three Talents Celestial King, had comprehended four profundities from the law of space to the initial stage! Moreover, the law of space, one of the Four Supreme Laws, was one of the hardest laws to comprehend. This feat was unheard of in the Southern Heaven Territory!

After taking a deep breath, Hei Sha finally reined in his energy and put his Royal Grade Celestial Saber away. He had decided to give up fighting because he knew he was no match for Duan Ling Tian. He knew even if Duan Ling Tian did not use any Celestial Weapon, Duan Ling Tian would still be able to easily defeat him despite being a Three Talents Celestial King.

Then, Hei Sha looked at Duan Ling Tian who had also stopped his attacks and asked with a wry smile on his face, “Lad, what’s your name? It’s my first time meeting a monster like you. Even reincarnated Celestial Emperors aren’t as heaven-defying as you are! I really wonder how you achieved such a feat! Are... Are you from one of the forces in the Seven Upper Province or the Spirit Overarching Province?”

“Senior, I’m Duan Ling Tian,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile.

‘Duan Ling Tian? Why does this name sound familiar?’ Hei Sha racked his brains for a moment before his realization dawned on him. ‘That’s right! Thirty years ago, I remember there was a prodigy from the Profound Nether Mansion who was invincible in the middle realm! That prodigy’s name was Duan Ling Tian as well!’

Nevertheless, Hei Sha did not think the purple-clad young man in front of him and the prodigy from the Profound Nether Mansion were the same person. After all, there was too wide of a gap between their strength. It was impossible for one to improve so tremendously in only thirty years.

However, it did not take long before Hei Sha recalled another piece of information. He muttered to himself, “Wait... I remember the prodigy from the Profound Nether Mansion comprehended the law of space as well... Don’t tell me...”

As outrageous as it might seem, Hei Sha could not help but ask with a gulp, “Lad, a-are you Duan Ling Tian, the prodigy from the Profound Nether Mansion who became famous in the Southern Heaven Territory after entering the middle realm thirty years ago?”

Duan Ling Tian replied with a faint smile on his face, “That’s right, senior.” He had heard the old man muttering to himself earlier so he had expected this question.

“Really?!” Hei Sha’s eyes widened. When he regained his senses, he shook his head and said, “Each generation ushers in new geniuses... The new generation will definitely replace the old... Your generation will rule the Southern Heaven Territory in the future.”

Hei Sha looked at Duan Ling Tian again and said, “Lad, I hope you’ll make it into the top 10. I’ll be following your progress from outside...” As soon as he finished speaking, he brought his Identity Jade Token out and crushed it.

With that, all of Hei Sha’s points were transferred to Duan Ling Tian.

“This Hei Sha is quite interesting...” Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself as he watched Hei Sha leave.

After Duan Ling Tian teleported next to Huan’er’s side, he brought his Identity Jade Token out to check his points. He discovered he now had 223 points and was ranked higher than Hei Sha did before Hei Sha was eliminated. He was now ranked 65th on the scoreboard of the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

As for Huan’er, with 60 points, she dropped one place to the 93rd place on the scoreboard.

“Huan’er, you should take the points of the next person we encounter to lessen the gap between our points,” Duan Ling Tian said as Huan’er held his hands.

Huan’er nodded. “Alright. Huan’er will listen to Brother Ling Tian.”

...

Meanwhile, those in the upper realm who kept track of the changes on the scoreboard through their Identity Jade Tokens discovered a slight change in the ranking.

Chapter 3196: A Challenge from Zhang Yun Ting

“Who’s Duan Ling Tian? How did he replace Hei Sha and rank 65th on the scoreboard?”

Those who kept an eye on the scoreboard of the upper realm in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were shocked to discover the sudden appearance of an unfamiliar name.

This person made it into the top 70 as soon as he appeared on the scoreboard. Moreover, based on the points he accumulated, it seemed like he only had roughly thirty points before he obtained 223 points after eliminating Hei Sha.

“Hei Sha was ranked 69th on the scoreboard, but this person ranks 65th after eliminating Hei Sha!”

“It’s unexpected for Hei Sha to be eliminated. This person can’t be a nobody, but I’ve never heard of him before today.”

“Duan Ling Tian? This name sounds familiar.”

“Did you say Duan Ling Tian? I remember there was a famous prodigy from the Profound Nether Mansion who was invincible in the middle realm thirty years ago...”

“Do you think they’re the same person?”

“Impossible! The gap between their strength is too wide... Do you think a Ten Directions Celestial Duke is capable of defeating someone like Hei Sha when only thirty years have passed? What a joke!”

“Hei Sha’s a veteran in the upper realm. Although he hasn’t comprehended any profundity from the law of fire to the initial stage, he has comprehended all nine profundities from the law of fire to the rudimentary stage. Coupled with his Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, he should be able to defeat ordinary Ten Directions Celestial Kings as long as they haven’t comprehended any profundity to the initial stage.”

There was a huge commotion in all of the safe zones in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm due to the new name that suddenly rose to 65th place on the scoreboard.

Naturally, there were other members from the Profound Nether Mansion who had entered the upper realm as well. They were shocked when they saw Duan Ling Tian’s name on the upper realm’s scoreboard. Nevertheless, they did not think the newcomer on the scoreboard was the same person as the Duan Ling Tian from their mansion. It did not matter if Duan Ling Tian was powerful enough to become the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion or how talented he was. They did not think it was possible for a Ten Directions Celestial Duke to improve so much after only thirty years.

...

Meanwhile, Zhang Yun Ting, a Ten Directions Celestial King from the Phantom Fox Clan, was making his way toward Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er.

“Duan Ling Tian is ranked 65th on the scoreboard?” Zhang Yun Ting discovered Duan Ling Tian’s rank when he checked the scoreboard through his Identity Jade Token out of curiosity.

After a while, he muttered to himself, “I didn’t expect that woman whom we suspect to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox to possess such strength! She’s actually capable of eliminating Hei Sha!”

Based on Zhang Yun Ting’s words, it was obvious he did not think Duan Ling Tian eliminated Hei Sha. He assumed Huan’er had eliminated Hei Sha and conceded the points to Duan Ling Tian. He had arrived at this conclusion because he had met Duan Ling Tian in the Profound Nether Mansion thirty years ago when Duan Ling Tian had just become a One Basic Celestial King. It would be considered an amazing feat if Duan Ling Tian could become a Two Forms Celestial King within thirty years. Even then, it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to be able to eliminate Hei Sha with that sort of strength.

Moreover, a few thousand years ago, before he comprehended any of his profundities to the initial stage, he only managed to fight to a draw with Hei Sha.

Zhang Yun Ting's expression gradually grew more and more solemn as he thought to himself, 'That girl killed Jun Wang Chen, a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, without the need to use a Celestial Weapon. She's even capable of eliminating Hei Sha... I'm afraid I might not be able to defeat her...'

When Zhang Yun Ting considered Huan'er's strength, he had taken Huan'er's Royal Grade Celestial Weapon into account. He thought it was impossible for her not to possess a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. With Duan Ling Tian's status in the Profound Nether Mansion, it was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to obtain a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon for Huan'er.

'In any case, I still have to probe her strength and test her abilities even if I'm not a match for her... Worse comes to worst, I'll just crush my Identity Jade Token to escape at the critical moment.' Zhang Yun Ting felt more at ease after thinking about this and sighed in relief. In the past, if someone had told him a Six Combos Celestial King was capable of defeating him, he would never have believed it. However, at this moment, he had no choice but to believe it.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, who were unaware that a member of the Phantom Fox Clan was swiftly closing in on them, traveled in a straight line. Since he was not familiar with the upper realm yet, he thought it was better to stick to one direction.

After Duan Ling Tian's battle with Hei Sha, he allowed Huan'er to fight all the opponents they encountered. With this, she became more and more famous as she slowly and steadily rose on the scoreboard.

"Hm?" While Duan Ling Tian waited for Huan'er to rejoin him after she eliminated yet another opponent, he suddenly narrowed his eyes. It seemed like he had noticed something.

Similarly, Huan'er turned around and looked in the distance as though she had sensed something as well.

Soon enough, a grey-clad old man appeared before the duo. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said with a faint smile on his face, "Imperial Tutor Duan, we meet again."

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, the grey-clad old man continued to say with a smile, "Imperial Tutor Duan, it's been thirty years since we last met. Do you remember me?"

"You're the man who accompanied Branch Leader Zhang from the Phantom Fox Clan during his visit to the Profound Nether Mansion thirty years ago." Duan Ling Tian remembered the person in front of him was one of the two old men who stood behind Zhang Dong Nan thirty years ago. He did not expect to meet this person in the upper realm at all.

"Since the branch leader was around previously, it wasn't appropriate for me to speak. Let me introduce myself to you today, Imperial Tutor Duan. I'm Zhang Yun Ting, an elder of the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory," the grey-clad old man said.

'Zhang Yun Ting?!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened imperceptibly when he heard Zhang Yun Ting's name. Since he had just looked at the scoreboard fifteen minutes ago, he easily recalled that Zhang Yun Ting was ranked 52nd in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian's expression turned solemn, and killing intent began to stir in his heart when he saw Zhang Yun Ting appraising Huan'er.

Although Zhang Yun Ting was not capable of determining if Huan'er was truly a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, he was still highly suspicious like the two men who tailed Huan'er in the past.

Fortunately, Huan'er had become a Celestial King. Due to her cultivation base, even if Zhang Yun Ting was suspicious, it was impossible for him to find out if she was a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. After all, they were all Celestial Kings. Despite the difference in their strength, they could not see through her identity.

Zhang Yun Ting's expression did not betray his thoughts. He asked amiably, "Girl, you must be the one who killed Jun Wang Chen, the core disciple from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, and eliminated Hei Sha, right?"

However, Huan'er did not pay any attention to Zhang Yun Ting. Duan Ling Tian had told her through Voice Transmission that the old man was a member of the Phantom Fox Clan and a threat to her.

Zhang Yun Ting did not seem bothered that Huan'er had ignored him. He continued to say, "I'm currently ranked 52nd on the scoreboard, why don't we battle? If you defeat me and obtain my points, you'll be able to enter the top 50..."

Since Zhang Yun Ting could not confirm if Huan'er was the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, he hoped that he would be able to force Huan'er into revealing her true form when they battled. Even if she did not revert to her true form, there was a chance she would accidentally let her true energy leak during a battle. If that happened, he would be able to confirm once and for all if she was the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox and accomplished his mission. It would be worth it even if he was eliminated and sent out of the upper realm.

'If I can confirm her identity, the branch leader will be able to confidently inform the clan leader of this matter and request for reinforcement to capture her from the Profound Nether Mansion...' Zhang Yun Ting thought to himself. He could not help but feel excited when he thought about the rewards their branch would receive. Although he knew the lion's share of the reward would go to the branch leader, he was still satisfied with getting the scraps.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian said through Voice Transmission, "Huan'er, since he challenged you, you should accept it... However, remember not to use any techniques that will betray your identity as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Apart from techniques exclusive to a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, don't use any techniques from the Phantom Fox Clan as well. Just use the law of space to deal with him. If that's not enough, use your Celestial Weapon."

Duan Ling Tian was unsure of the extent of Zhang Yun Ting's strength. However, based on Zhang Yun Ting's current rank, it was clear that Zhang Yun Ting was much stronger than Hei Sha. It was likely that Zhang Yun Ting had comprehended some profundities to the initial stage.

Duan Ling Tian continued to remind Huan'er. "Even if you notice he's weaker than you, don't rush to show your strength. It's best if you give him the illusion that both of your strengths are equal for a period of time."

Although Huan'er did not know the reason behind Duan Ling Tian's instructions, she, naturally, did not hesitate to obey him. She knew he must have a good reason for telling her to do these things.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Huan'er's Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Space Elemental Profundity surged out of her body as she stepped forward. In just a blink of an eye, she appeared about 100 meters away from Zhang Yun Ting. She looked at him frostily and said, "Since you challenged me, prepare to leave your points behind..."

Zhang Yun Ting's reply was simple. "If you want my points, you'll have to defeat me."

Zhang Yun Ting made a move as soon as he finished speaking. Flames surged out from his body, not unlike Hei Sha whom Duan Ling Tian previously fought. Clearly, both of them comprehended the law of fire. The difference was Zhang Yun Ting was stronger than Hei Sha.

After a dozen breaths had passed...

'He has comprehended the Burning Profundity to the initial stage?' It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to see that Zhang Yun Ting had comprehended the law of fire's Burning Profundity to the initial stage.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yun Ting grew stronger and stronger as time passed. It seemed like he had unleashed almost all of his strength.

Chapter 3197: The Seven Upper Province's Heaven Territory

After a dozen breaths, Zhang Yun Ting discovered the white-clad woman seemed to have no intention of using a Celestial Weapon even though he had been fighting with all his might. Moreover, she did not use any technique that would betray her identity as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox or techniques from the Phantom Fox Clan at all.

Zhang Yun Ting narrowed his eyes as he thought to himself, 'I have no choice but to use the Phantom Fox Clan's techniques now. If she's the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, my illusory technique won't work on her. With this, I'll be able to determine if she's the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Once I obtain the answer, I'll leave the upper realm immediately and report to the branch leader.'

In just a moment, the silhouette of a gigantic white fox appeared behind Zhang Yun Ting. The silhouette of his true form appeared as he prepared to cast the Phantom Fox Clan's illusory technique.

All of a sudden, a frosty voice rang in the air. "It seems like you've forgotten about me..."

Zhang Yun Ting's expression changed drastically. He knew the voice belonged to Duan Ling Tian, but he did not know when Duan Ling Tian had appeared behind him. Just as he was about to turn to face Duan Ling Tian, he discovered three spatial tears around him. He watched as three grey sword rays shrouded by golden flames shot out of the spatial tears toward him.

At the same time, after Duan Ling Tian cast the Cross-Dimensional Profundity, he quickly cast the Distortion Profundity as well. The combination of the two profundities from the law of space was so powerful that it easily breached the defensive barrier that Zhang Yun Ting had hastily erected.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

At this moment, Zhang Yun Ting discovered the white-clad woman taking out a pair of rings before she stacked one on top of the other and threw them out at him.

Chills ran up Zhang Yun Ting's spine when he sensed the formidable aura from the pair of rings.

"No!" Faced with attacks from both sides, Zhang Yun Ting did not even have time to crush his Identity Jade Token or use a Celestial Talisman to escape. Just like that, he was killed by Duan Ling Tian's Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity and Huan'er's Yin Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring.

The Yin Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring was the combination of two Royal Grade Celestial Weapons: the Mystical Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring and the Mystical Yin Nine Water Chestnut Ring. Their combined power was almost comparable to an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon.

Swoosh!

As soon as Zhang Yun Ting died, Duan Ling Tian quickly teleported away so that Zhang Yun Ting's points would go to Huan'er.

It was just as Zhang Yun Ting had said; after Huan'er obtained his points, she was ranked 47th on the scoreboard with almost 500 points.

"That Zhang Yun Ting really accumulated quite many points," Duan Ling Tian said with a sigh as he checked the scoreboard through his Identity Jade Token.

...

Since the changes in the rankings were immediate, those who kept a close watch on the scoreboard immediately discovered Huan'er had eliminated Zhang Yun Ting and had entered the top 50.

"Heavens! That woman eliminated Zhang Yun Ting?"

"Not only did she eliminate Jun Wang Chen, the core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, but she also eliminated Jun Wang Chen? How's she so strong?"

"Rumor has it that she's not even 100 years old?"

"Jun Wang Chen isn't a match for Zhang Yun Ting at all... I didn't expect her to be capable of eliminating Zhang Yun Ting as well."

Many people in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were shocked when they found out Huan'er had eliminated Zhang Yun Ting.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yun Ting's son hurriedly brought his Spatial Ring out when he learned that his father had been eliminated by Huan'er. His eyes widened in disbelief when he saw his father's Soul Pearl, which was kept in his Spatial Ring, had shattered.

“Father!” he cried out in despair when he discovered his father had been killed by Huan’er.

...

Soon enough, Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan’s branch in the Southern Heaven Territory, received news of Zhang Yun Ting’s death as well.

“A mere Six Combos Celestial King killed Elder Yun Ting? It seems like that woman hid her strength when she eliminated Jun Wang Chen.” Zhang Dong Nan’s expression was unsightly. Zhang Yun Ting, his right-hand man, had been killed by the woman whom they suspected was the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

“Elder Yun Ting and Elder Zhen Hai are the strongest members from the Phantom Fox Clan in the upper realm... Since she’s capable of killing Elder Yun Ting, I’m afraid Elder Zhen Hai isn’t a match for her as well...” Zhang Dong Nan’s frown deepened as he continued muttering to himself. This matter was trickier than he had expected.

“I’ll report this matter to the main clan and request them to send their powerful Ten Directions Celestial Kings to deal with this matter. The Ten Directions Celestial Kings in the main clan are much stronger than the Ten Directions Celestial Kings in the Southern Heaven Territory. Even the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect isn’t a match for the Ten Directions Celestial Kings from the main clan...”

After Zhang Dong Nan made up his mind, he rose to his feet and brought out a Celestial Talisman that shone with golden light. He hurriedly sent a message using the Celestial Talisman.

The Celestial Talisman Zhang Dong Nan used was not an ordinary Celestial Talisman. Its range was not limited to the Southern Heaven Territory; it was capable of traveling through the Riot Star Sea between Devata Realms and their territories.

...

The Seven Upper Province, as its name suggested, consisted of seven territories. It held power over ordinary territories like the Southern Heaven Territory.

Ordinary territories were governed by titled Celestial Lords, but the seven territories in the Seven Upper Province were governed by titled Celestial Emperors. These titled Celestial Emperors were widely renowned in the Spirit Overarching Heaven.

There were many ordinary territories like the Southern Heaven Territory in the Spirit Overarching Heaven, but there were only seven territories similar to the Seven Upper Province.

The Phantom Fox Clan was one of the largest and most powerful forces in the Heaven Territory, which was part of the Seven Upper Province. Although there were no titled Celestial Emperors in the clan, the clan had many ordinary Celestial Emperors. They controlled many King Grade Celestial Crystal veins as well. The clan’s status in the Heaven Territory was comparable to the status of the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory.

...

In the Phantom Fox Clan in the Seven Upper Province’s Heaven Territory.

At this moment, a high-ranking official from the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan finally received Zhang Dong Nan's message.

He furrowed his brows as he muttered to himself, "The Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox might be in the Southern Heaven Territory? What's Zhang Dong Nan doing? What's the point of informing me about this matter if he's not certain..."

After listening to the remaining half of the message, he muttered to himself in shock, "One of the elders in our branch clan was killed in the upper realm even though he was a Ten Directions Celestial King who had comprehended nine profundities from the law of fire? Moreover, he had also comprehended the Burning Profundity to the initial stage. How could a woman who's only a Six Combos Celestial King kill a Ten Directions Celestial King? Moreover, she's not even 100 years old. No wonder Zhang Dong Nan suspects she's the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox!"

After that, the high-ranking official hurried out to look for the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan to inform him of this matter.

After listening to Zhang Dong Nan's message, the grand elder felt it was only natural for Zhang Dong Nan to be suspicious. "Even the previous Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox wasn't as monstrous as her... In just thirty years, she became a Six Combos Celestial King from a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Moreover, she even comprehended such an extraordinary law..."

After a brief pause, the grand elder continued to say, "That woman is, indeed, very suspicious. I'll send Zhang Jin Yi to the upper realm to test that woman. Once we confirm she's the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, I'll send a titled Celestial Lord to bring her back!"

The high-ranking official was rather shocked that the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan decided to send Zhang Jin Yin to the Southern Heaven Territory.

Zhang Jin Yin was one of the three strongest Ten Directions Celestial Kings in the Zhang Clan. He had comprehended four profundities from the law of metal to the initial stage. Apart from that, he was also a direct descendant of the Phantom Fox's Zhang Clan, therefore, his illusory techniques were far superior compared to those in the branch clans. His innate talents and special techniques were exclusive only to pureblood Phantoms Foxes. A person like him was undoubtedly invincible among those below the Celestial Lord stage in the Southern Heaven Territory.

...

"The grand elder wants me to go to the Southern Heaven Territory to test the woman who's suspected to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox?"

Zhang Jin Yi was a tall and aloof man dressed in green robes. He furrowed his brows slightly when he received the order from the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan.

He did not waste time and made his way to the Transporting Formation in the Phantom Fox Clan since he could not cross the Riot Star Sea. Moreover, he would arrive in the Southern Heaven Territory in no time at all if he used a Transporting Formation.

After he stepped into the Transporting Formation, his eyes flashed with killing intent as he muttered under his breath, "I hope that woman is the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Otherwise, I won't let her go for wasting my time!"

Chapter 3198: Zhang Jin Yi

In the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory.

"Branch Leader Zhang Dong Nan of the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory welcomes the main clan's envoy," Zhang Dong Nan and the elders from the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory respectfully greeted Zhang Jin Yi, the envoy from the Phantom Fox Clan in the Seven Upper Province.

Although Zhang Jin Yi was only a Ten Directions Celestial King, as a direct descendant of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan, his bloodline was purer than Zhang Dong Nan and the others from the branch clans. Therefore, Zhang Jin Yi was rather haughty and only responded airily to Zhang Dong Nan even though Zhang Dong Nan was a Celestial Lord.

"Please follow me, Lord Envoy." Zhang Dong Nan personally led Zhang Jin Yi to the main hall.

Among the elders, only Zhang Zhen Hai followed Zhang Jin Yi and Zhang Dong Nan into the main hall.

As the trio walked away, one of the elders said, clearly dissatisfied, "That young man is the envoy from the main clan? He's just a mere Ten Directions Celestial King. How dare he act so arrogantly in front of the branch leader!"

Due to a life-saving grace, this elder was more loyal to Zhang Dong Nan compared to the main clan. He was, naturally, displeased that a junior from the main clan disrespected Zhang Dong Nan even though Zhang Dong Nan did not seem to take offense.

Another elder shushed the displeased elder. He looked at the trio furtively before he said, "Lower your voice! He's the envoy from the main clan. Even the branch leader won't be able to do anything if he kills you."

"I wonder if he's capable of dealing with that woman who's suspected to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox."

"Since the main clan sent him here, he has to be quite capable."

"It'd be a joke if he can't deal with that woman. At that time, I wonder how the main clan would react."

"That's unlikely to happen..."

...

The group of elders from the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory was still discussing among themselves when Zhang Jin Yi and the others arrived in the main hall.

"Lord Envoy, how should I address you?" Zhang Dong Nan asked Zhang Jin Yi with a smile.

"You're not worthy of knowing my name," Zhang Jin Yi replied nonchalantly as he puffed his chest out and held his head high.

Zhang Dong Nan froze upon hearing Zhang Jin Yi's words.

On the contrary, Zhang Zhen Hai said indignantly, "How dare you act so impudently to the branch leader!"

"Impudent?" Zhang Jin Yi glanced at Zhang Zhen Hai as his eyes flashed with a cold light. "How dare a lowly member of a branch clan like you raise your voice at a direct descendant from the main clan?"

"A direct descendant from the main clan?" Zhang Dong Nan's eyes widened. He knew the main clan would send a powerful Ten Directions Celestial King, but he did not expect the main clan to send a direct descendant.

A cold scoff rang in the air at this moment.

Upon hearing this, Zhang Dong Nan's expression changed drastically. He hastily raised his hand to stop Zhang Jin Yi from attacking Zhang Zhen Hai.

"Lord Envoy, please have mercy." Zhang Dong Nan quickly cupped his fists together and bowed at Zhang Jin Yi. His back was completely drenched in cold sweat at this moment.

'A direct descendant from the main clan?' Zhang Zhen Hai's expression changed drastically as well at this revelation. Naturally, he knew direct descendants from the main clan represented the prestige and purest bloodline of the Phantom Foxes. They were second only to the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

"You're trying to stop me? Do you know the consequences of your action?" Zhang Jin Yi asked as he stared at Zhang Dong Nan coldly.

"Lord Envoy, Elder Zhen Hai raised me since I was a child. I can't possibly watch him die without doing anything," Zhang Dong Nan said in a placating tone, "Please have mercy."

"Alright. I'll give him a chance. Since he's also a Ten Directions Celestial King, I'll spare him if he can withstand my attack for two breaths." Zhang Jin Yi's eyes gleamed coldly and a sneer appeared on his face when he discovered Zhang Zhen Hai was also a Ten Directions Celestial King.

"Two breaths?" Zhang Dong Nan was taken aback. He did not expect Zhang Jin Yi to be so unyielding and arrogant. Even the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect who was widely regarded as invincible among his peers would not dare to confidently declare he could kill Zhang Zhen Hai in five breaths.

'Perhaps, he's just trying to look for a way to dismiss this matter while retaining his pride...' Zhang Dong Nan thought to himself. Even if Zhang Jin Yi was stronger than the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect, he did not think it was possible for Zhang Jin Yi to kill Zhang Zhen Hai in two breaths.

"Two breaths?" Zhang Zhen Hai smiled. Similar to Zhang Dong Nan, he assumed Zhang Jin Yi was only doing this as a formality and had already decided to spare him.

"Lord Envoy, please." Zhang Zhen Hai gestured to Zhang Jin Yi before he led Zhang Jin Yi outside the main hall.

Then, Zhang Dong Nan and the two opponents rose into the sky.

Upon seeing this, the members of the Phantom Fox Clan's branch were confused.

A group of elders gathered and watched the scene in the sky.

"Isn't that the branch leader?"

"Elder Zhen Hai is there as well!"

"Is the envoy from the main clan going to fight with Elder Zhen Hai?"

"Maybe they're testing their strength?"

Meanwhile, Zhang Jin Yi looked at Zhang Zhen Hai with eyes gleaming with disdain as he said indifferently, "I'll give you 15 minutes to prepare, and I'll give you a reminder before I attack. Like I said earlier, if you manage to withstand my attack for two breaths, I'll spare you. Otherwise, you can only die..."

The atmosphere grew heavy as soon as Zhang Jin Yi finished speaking.

The members of the Phantom Fox Clan's branch were shocked upon hearing these words.

"What's going on?"

"It... it seems like he wants to kill Elder Zhen Hai?"

"He thinks he can kill Elder Zhen Hai in two breaths? Isn't he a Ten Directions Celestial King? Even the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect wouldn't dare to make such a statement, right?"

"That's right. I remember Elder Zhen Hai fought that person from the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect previously... Elder Zhen Hai managed to last for six breaths before he lost."

"Maybe he's not the envoy from the main clan?"

A group of members who had heard the commotion began to gather as well.

"What's going on?"

"What's happening?"

All of the onlookers were confused. Why did it seem like the envoy from the main clan wanted to kill Zhang Zhen Hai? However, after listening to Zhang Dong Nan's words, they realized that Zhang Zhen Hai had offended Zhang Jin Yi who was a direct descendant of the main clan.

"Two breaths? It seems like the envoy has no intention of killing Elder Zhen Hai. He's just saying that so he can retreat from this situation gracefully...."

"That's right... It's impossible for him to kill Elder Zhen Hai in two breaths!"

"It's impossible unless he's a Celestial Lord..."

Similar to Zhang Dong Nan and Zhang Zhen Hai, most of the onlookers were of the opinion that it was impossible for Zhang Jin Yi to kill Zhang Zhen Hai within two breaths.

After fifteen minutes, Zhang Jin Yi indicated he was about to attack.

Zhang Zhen Hai did not even have a chance to move before he discovered Zhang Jin Yi had appeared behind him. His expression darkened, and in that split second, he exploded into a mist of blood.

As the blood mist dissipated in the air, Zhang Jin Yi said airily, "It seems like I overestimated you. You can't even withstand my attack for less than half a breath..."

The entire place was as silent as a graveyard at this moment.

Zhang Dong Nan stood frozen in place, speechless. When he regained his senses, he shuddered. 'This is the strength of a direct descendant from the main clan?' Due to him being a Celestial Lord, he was able to see Zhang Jin Yi using the technique that was exclusive to descendants of the Phantom Foxes with the purest bloodline.

Zhang Dong Nan continued thinking to himself, 'In my opinion, even that person from the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect wouldn't be able to last more than ten breaths against him...' Although he was devastated by Zhang Zhen Hai's death and wanted to avenge him, he knew he did not have the capability to do so unless he had a death wish.

When the onlookers regained their senses, they realized they had been too naive. At this moment, they looked at Zhang Jin Yi as though he was a terrifying monster.

Meanwhile, Zhang Dong Nan finally broke the suffocating silence. "Lord Envoy, with your strength, you must be invincible among your peers in the main clan, right?"

Upon hearing Zhang Dong Nan's question, Zhang Jin Yi cocked an eyebrow. Then, he said with a contemptuous smile on his face, "Invincible among my peers in the main clan? How naive! Let alone the main clan, I'm only the third strongest among my peers in the Zhang Clan!"

Silence descended again.

Zhang Dong Nan's eyes widened in shock and disbelief. A powerful Ten Directions Celestial King like Zhang Jin Yi was not the strongest among his peers in the main clan? Moreover, Zhang Jin Yi was only the third strongest among his peers in the Zhang Clan? This was the first time he felt like his knowledge was too shallow; he was like a frog at the bottom of a well.

Chapter 3199: The New Peerless Genius in the Upper Realm

Five months later, in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

There was a huge commotion in the safe zones.

"Heavens! Yan Ru Yv, the true disciple from the Tao Scholar Profound Sect, eliminated Tang Ping Shan from the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect?"

“From the moment Tang Ping Shan first ranked at the top of the upper realm’s scoreboard, he had never been eliminated, right?”

“Tang Ping Shan, the peerless genius and the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect, who has comprehended three profundities from the law of thunder to the initial stage, is eliminated? How did someone like him get eliminated?”

“I wonder if the Tao Scholar Profound Sect’s Yan Ru Yv improved tremendously recently or if he had hidden his true strength all along? How did he manage to defeat Tang Ping Shan?!”

For years, Tang Ping Shan, a true disciple of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect, was the pride of his sect. He was known for being the strongest in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. However, someone like that was eliminated by the Tao Scholar Profound Sect’s Yan Ru Yv?

Yan Ru Yv was not unknown; he was rather famous as well. He had consistently ranked in the top 10 in the upper realm, after all. Apart from that, he was very young as well. His age was half of Tang Ping Shan’s age, and yet, he managed to defeat Tang Ping Shan.

It did not take long before news of Yan Ru Yv defeating Tang Ping Shan spread like a wildfire in the entire Southern Heaven Territory.

...

Meanwhile, in another part of the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

A handsome young man dressed in a white robe was hovering in the air with a fan in his hand. He had an elegant and noble bearing.

At this moment, the handsome young man was listening to a message.

“Congratulations! You’ve finally realized your wish of defeating Tang Ping Shan. I, Chen Li, am truly blessed to have a friend like you!”

The handsome young man smiled after he listened to the message. Then, he replied, “Chen Li, how did the investigation go? Is the Duan Ling Tian who’s ranked 13th on the upper realm’s scoreboard the same person as the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion who’s also the Blood Skull Gang’s target thirty years ago?”

The handsome young man was none other than Yan Ru Yv who had just defeated Tang Ping Shan, the true disciple from the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect. He was also childhood friends with Chen Li, the son of the Vice Leader of the Blood Skull Gang. The duo’s friendship was rather strong, and Yan Ru Yv considered Chen Li his only friend.

“Yes. According to the descriptions by Hei Sha, the sectless cultivator whom Duan Ling Tian eliminated, the Duan Ling Tian in the upper realm is the Imperial Tutor of the Profound Nether Mansion. It’s truly unexpected that he became a Three Talents Celestial King in such a short time and is even capable of defeating Hei Sha! According to Hei Sha, although Duan Ling Tian’s only a Three Talents Celestial King, Duan Ling Tian has comprehended many profundities from the law of space to the initial stage!” Chen Li replied.

“What about that woman named Huan’er who’s always by his side? In my opinion, he only managed to make it into the top 20 because of that woman. Otherwise, it’s not possible for a Three Talents Celestial King to have such an amazing performance in the upper realm,” Yan Ru Yv said.

“That woman is a mystery... She only appeared thirty years ago in the Profound Nether Mansion. It has been said that she had accompanied Duan Ling Tian as well when they were in the borderland. Both of them had a close relationship. Even back then, she’s said to be stronger than Duan Ling Tian,” Chen Li said.

“In any case, both of them are monstrously talented. I would’ve questioned the ability of the Blood Skull Gang’s intelligence network if I didn’t hear this from you..,” Yan Ru Yv said with a sigh. He had thought his innate talent was rather high, but in comparison to Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er, his innate talent was nothing.

After all, Duan Ling Tian became a Three Talents Celestial King and comprehended many profundities from the law of space to the initial stage within thirty years. Most shockingly, he was not even 200 years old. Meanwhile, Huan’er became a Six Combos Celestial King and had also comprehended profundities from the law of stage to the initial stage before the age of 100!

“Although Duan Ling Tian is no longer a target of the Blood Skull Gang, I hope you can kill him on my behalf if you run into him in the upper realm! As long as he’s alive, he’ll always be a thorn at my side,” Chen Li said.

“Don’t worry. He’ll die if he meets me!” Yan Ru Yv said confidently.

Finally, Chen Li changed the subject and asked, “I heard there’s an unknown person who suddenly appeared in the upper realm and made it into the top 10? Is it true?”

“Yes. That person’s name is Zhang Jin Yi. I don’t know where he came from. He killed everyone he eliminated so nothing much is known about him. Not only is he mysterious, but he’s incredibly powerful as well... He even killed Tuo Ku, the true disciple from the Bodhi Zen Sect,” Yan Ru Yv replied as fear flashed in his eyes.

Upon hearing these words, Chen Li inhaled sharply. “The Bodhi Zen Sect’s Tuo Ku? He was known to have the strongest defenses among his peers in the Southern Heaven Territory, right? I heard he had comprehended three profundities from the law of earth to the initial stage as well! It’s said that even Tang Ping Shan wouldn’t be able to kill Tuo Ku if Tuo Ku wanted to escape. Who’s this Zhang Jin Yi, and where did he come from?” He knew a little about Tuo Ku through Yan Ru Yv.

“Although I’m confident I’m strong enough to kill Tuo Ku, there’s nothing I can do to stop him if he tries to escape,” Yan Rv Yu said.

Chen Li inhaled sharply. Then, he asked incredulously, “Are you saying that Zhang Jin Yi might be stronger than you?”

“It’s possible... However, it’s also possible that Tuo Ku underestimated Zhang Jin Yi and was reckless, resulting in his death. If that’s the case, Zhang Jin Yi might not be stronger than I am,” Yan Ru Yv speculated, “Nevertheless, since he’s capable of making it into the top 10, he’s definitely not to be underestimated.”

...

In the Imperial Tutor Pavilion of the Profound Nether Mansion.

“Why didn’t both of you continue to stay in the upper realm and try to enter the top ten since both of you are ranked 13th and 15th respectively? There’s still a month left to go so your chances are high,” the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion asked. He was confused when he saw Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er returning from the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Something’s amiss.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. His expression was grim.

Upon hearing this, the old man’s expression turned solemn. “What’s wrong?”

“Four months ago, a person named Zhang Jin Yi suddenly appeared in the upper realm. No one has heard of him before this; it’s as though he just appeared out of thin air,” Duan Ling Tian said in a low voice, “Today, he rose to 4th place on the scoreboard. Tuo Ku who was known to have the strongest defenses among his peers in the Southern Heaven Territory has been killed by him. Although there’s a chance Tuo Ku died due to his carelessness, the chances are slim. Apart from that, before killing Tuo Ku, Zhang Jin Yi was already ranked 9th,” Duan Ling Tian said as his expression grew darker and darker.

“What makes you feel uneasy then?” the old man asked.

“I suspect he’s from the Phantom Fox Clan,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“The Phantom Fox Clan?” The old man furrowed his brows and shook his head. “That’s unlikely. If the Phantom Fox Clan has someone like him, we would have heard about him...”

“When you say the Phantom Fox Clan, you’re referring to their branch in the Southern Heaven Territory, right? However, what if Zhang Jin Yi is from the main clan?” Duan Ling Tian speculated out loud, “With Transporting Formations, it would only take a few days for someone to travel from the Phantom Foxes’ main clan to the Southern Heaven Territory.”

“The Phantom Foxes’ main clan? You’re saying he’s from the Seven Upper Province’s Heaven Territory?” The old man’s eyes narrowed imperceptibly.

“I’m not sure, but it’s possible. Moreover, his surname is Zhang.” Duan Ling Tian had left the upper realm early because he suspected Zhang Jin Yi, who accumulated points and rose in ranks much faster compared to him, was from the Phantom Fox Clan in the Seven Upper Province.

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er did not plan to enter the top 10 even if they were capable of doing so. Since those who ranked in the top 10 and those who ranked after that would be led to different secret realms, it meant that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er would not risk running into Zhang Jin Yi. Moreover, based on Zhang Jin Yi’s performance in the upper realm, it was highly likely that even if they joined forces, they would not be a match for Zhang Jin Yi.

“It’s good to be cautious. Boy, not only is your innate talent and comprehension skills high, but you’re smart as well,” the old man said after listening to Duan Ling Tian’s words. It was obvious he agreed with Duan Ling Tian’s decision.

...

In the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory.

"Duan Ling Tian and that woman have returned to the safe zone and left the upper realm?" Zhang Dong Nan frowned when he heard this message.

After Zhang Yun Ting died, his son had been lurking around the safe zone that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er first appeared in. When he saw the duo leaving the upper realm, he quickly sent a message to notify Zhang Dong Nan.

"That Zhang Jin Yi refused to listen to me... I told him to use a fake name when he entered the upper realm... It's likely that Duan Ling Tian grew suspicious because of his name."

Zhang Dong Nan's expression was unsightly as he sent a message to Zhang Jin Yi to inform him that his identity might have been exposed.

Chapter 3200: Avoiding Zhang Jin Yi

Zhang Jin Yi only entered the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm so that he could meet Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to find out if Huan'er was a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Before he entered the upper realm, Zhang Dong Nan had suggested that he used a pseudonym on his Identity Jade token. He obviously did not heed Zhang Dong Nan's advice. After he received Zhang Dong Nan's message, he decided to leave the upper realm as well.

When Zhang Dong Nan arrived in the estate of the Phantom Fox Clan's branch in the Southern Heaven Territory, he said to Zhang Dong Nan in a low voice, "Since they left the upper realm, let's just head to the Profound Nether Mansion to test that woman. Can a mere grade-six force like the Profound Nether Mansion stop me?"

Zhang Dong Nan felt that Zhang Jin Yi's words made sense. The Profound Nether Mansion would not dare to offend Zhang Jin Yi due to his identity.

Soon enough, the duo left for the Profound Nether Mansion.

...

In the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

When the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion learned of Zhang Jin Yi's identity, he gave his full cooperation and even led the duo from the Phantom Fox Clan to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion.

Naturally, at this moment, apart from the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion who was fishing, no one else was in the pavilion.

"Senior, where are Duan Ling Tian and the woman?" Zhang Dong Nan asked respectfully. The Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion was comparable to some of the leaders of the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sects so he did not dare to act impudently.

The old man glanced at Zhang Dong Nan before he replied, "They left 10 years ago..."

“They left?” Zhang Dong Nan was dumbfounded. He had assumed the old man had received news about Zhang Jin Yi and urged Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er to leave the upper realm to avoid the Phantom Fox Clan. He did not expect that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had already left the Profound Nether Mansion. For this reason, he sent a message to Zhang Yun Ting’s son to check if Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er returned to the upper realm again.

After a while, Zhang Yun Ting’s son replied and confirmed Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er did not return to the upper realm and that the duo’s rankings on the scoreboard remained the same.

With this, Zhang Dong Nan ruled out the possibility that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had entered the upper realm through another safe zone after crushing their Identity Jade Tokens outside.

The upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was different from the middle realm because those who crushed their Accumulative Points Jade in the middle realm would not be able to enter again until the scoreboard was refreshed. However, those who crushed their Identity Jade Tokens could still enter the upper realm again and continue to collect points as long as they obtained a new Identity Jade Token.

Zhang Dong Nan’s expression darkened as soon as he listened to the message from Zhang Yun Ting’s son. Since he had ruled out the possibility of Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er entering the upper realm again through a different safe zone, it was likely that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had left the Profound Nether Mansion’s estate or were hiding in the old man’s Little World. If this was the case, there was nothing they could do at all.

In the end, Zhang Dong Nan could only smile wryly and say, “Lord Envoy, it seems like they really left the Profound Nether Mansion.”

Zhang Jin Yi looked at the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion and the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion coldly and said, “Inform me immediately if you have news about that woman. Otherwise, if I find out you’re hiding information from me, I definitely won’t let you go!” After he finished speaking, he threw a Soul Pearl to the mansion master.

The old man’s gaze turned cold as he put his fishing rod down and said, “I’d love to see how a mere Ten Directions Celestial King like you intends to deal with me... I won’t bully you; I’ll suppress my cultivation base to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King...”

As soon as the old man finished speaking, he made a move. He kept his words and suppressed his cultivation base to Zhang Jin Yi’s level. However, the law he comprehended was superior to Zhang Jin Yi.

Although Zhang Jin Yi used techniques that were exclusive to direct descendants of the Phantom Fox Clan, he found he could not gain the advantage over the old man. Shocked by this discovery, he said, “Old man, your strength is not bad. With your strength, you’re comparable to the leaders of grade-five forces. Why are you hiding and fishing in a grade-six force?”

The old man asked in return, “You’re not from the Southern Heaven Territory, right? It’s impossible for the Southern Heaven Territory to have a Ten Directions Celestial King like you.”

“Of course! I’m from the Heaven Territory in the Seven Upper Province!” Zhang Jin Yi said with a hint of pride.

“Listen to me, inform me immediately if you have news of that woman. Even if I’m not capable of annihilating the Profound Nether Mansion alone, any one of my uncles is more than capable of destroying the Profound Nether Mansion,” Zhang Jin Yi said threateningly before he left, “Remember my name, Zhang Jin Yi. I’m a direct descendant of the Heaven Territory’s Phantom Fox Clan. Even the weakest among my uncles is a titled Celestial Lord.”

Zhang Dong Nan followed closely behind as Zhang Jin Yi walked away.

After the duo from the Phantom Fox Clan left, the old man said with a sigh, “I didn’t expect the Phantom Foxes’ main clan to have such a talented Ten Directions Celestial King. Even if those two young fellows join forces now, they still won’t be a match for him.” He was clearly shocked by Zhang Jin Yi’s strength.

The mansion master asked curiously, “Grandmaster, where are they now?”

“They’re hiding in my Little World.”

As soon as the old man finished speaking, two figures suddenly appeared. They were none other than Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er. As long as they hid in the old man’s Little World, no one, apart from those with cultivation bases higher than the old man, would be able to detect their presence.

The old man asked Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er, “Did you see what happened earlier?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded with a grave expression on his face. “I didn’t expect the Ten Directions Celestial King from the Heaven Territory’s Phantom Fox Clan to possess such strength. Even Tang Ping Shan, the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect and the former undefeated champion in the upper realm, would not survive more than 10 moves from him.”

When the old man suppressed his cultivation base to fight Zhang Jin Yi, Duan Ling Tian could tell the two opponents were evenly matched. Although the old man had cast all the profundities he had comprehended, it did not give the old man advantage over Zhang Jin Yi.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at Huan’er and said, “His final two techniques are remarkable... They should be the Phantom Fox Clan’s techniques. Did you manage to see them?”

Huan’er nodded. “Brother Ling Tian, that person also used an extraordinary illusory technique in the beginning. It has to be a unique technique that only direct descendants from the main clan can master. In regards to the two techniques you mentioned, they’re useless against me. After all, Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes are supreme in the Phantom Fox Clan.”

Duan Ling Tian and the others were shocked by Huan’er’s words.

Duan Ling Tian said, “Now I know why they want to get rid of you. Once you grow into your full potential, they won’t be able to stop you at all if you want to contend for power in the clan!”

“Both of you should be able to defeat him once you grow stronger in the future. In fact, you don’t even have to wait until you’re Ten Directions Celestial Kings,” the old man said.

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly and said, “Regardless, the important thing is even without his two special techniques, we’re not his match right now.”

Even if Zhang Jin Yi did not have his two special techniques, he had comprehended all nine profundities from the law of metal and had even comprehended four of them to the initial stage. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were no match for him now even if they joined forces. Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian might stand a slight chance if he used his Divine Artifact as well, but it would mean nothing if Zhang Jin Yi possessed an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. Currently, Duan Ling Tian's Divine Artifact was only slightly more powerful than Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons. Even if Zhang Jin Yi did not possess an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er could barely restrain him with their current strength even if they used his Divine Artifact.

For all these reasons, Duan Ling Tian knew it was not wise to go against Zhang Jin Yi for now. The best course of action was to avoid him.

"That's true." The old man nodded as he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complex gaze. "Boy, you were right when you said they would come to the mansion to look for you and Huan'er after both of you left the upper realm."

After leaving the upper realm, Duan Ling Tian had guessed that Zhang Jin Yi and Zhang Dong Nan would come to the Profound Nether Mansion to look for Huan'er.

"If I were him, I would've done the same," Duan Ling Tian said with a shrug.

"Not everyone is as astute or meticulous as you. My confidence in you has grown even more. Perhaps, you'll really succeed in helping us avenge the former Imperial Tutor." The old man sighed.

"How little confidence did you have in me previously?" Duan Ling Tian asked teasingly.

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Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er waited another month after Zhang Jin Yi and Zhang Dong Nan left before they entered the upper realm again. It was also the day the ranking was refreshed.

"Since we ranked between 11th and 30th place, we'll enter the grade-two secret realm," Duan Ling Tian said.

The grade-one secret realm was only accessible to those who ranked in the top 10; those who ranked from 11th to 30th place, like Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, would only be able to enter the grade-two secret realm; those who ranked from 31st to 100th place could only enter the grade-three secret realm.

The treasures in all three secret realms were almost the same. The only differences between the realms were the difficulties of the tests to obtain the treasures. Naturally, the tests in the grade-one secret realm were easy. The tests in the grade-two secret realm were at the intermediate level while the tests in the grade-three secret realm were the most difficult.