

Chapter 3201: Top 10

“Branch leader, Duan Ling Tian and that woman have entered the upper realm again... They must be preparing to enter the grade-two secret realm.” Zhang Yun Ting’s son who had been lurking in one of the safe zones in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm immediately sent a message to the Phantom Fox Clan’s branch in the Southern Heaven Territory as soon as he discovered Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had returned to the upper realm.

“Lord envoy.” Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan’s branch in the Southern Heaven Territory, quickly conveyed the message to Zhang Jin Yi who was resting at this moment.

“Grade-two secret realm?” Since this was Zhang Jin Yi’s first visit to the Southern Heaven Territory and the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, he did not know much about the upper realm.

“Lord envoy, the upper realm’s scoreboard would be refreshed annually. Those who are ranked in the top 100 would be permitted to enter three secret realms respectively according to their rankings,” Zhang Dong Nan explained, “Tomorrow is the day when the scoreboard will reset. If you enter the upper realm today, your Identity Jade Token will send you into the grade-one secret realm with the others who are ranked in the top 10 to explore the secret realm.”

Since Zhang Jin Yi was ranked in the top 10, he would, naturally, be allowed to enter the grade-one secret realm.

“Will I be able to meet that woman whom we suspect to be a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox in the grade-one secret realm?” Zhang Jin Yi asked.

“No,” Zhang Dong Nan replied, “That woman and Duan Ling Tian are only granted access to the grade-two secret realm. Since the grade-one and grade-two secret realm are separate, you won’t be able to meet them.”

“If that’s the case, I have no interest in entering the secret realm... When the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm reopens, I’ll use a pseudonym to enter the upper realm and find them.”

Zhang Jin Yi had no interest in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm and the secret realms and the treasures within. In his opinion, the Southern Heaven Territory was like a small place in the countryside. He already possessed the things that were regarded as treasures here before he even broke through and became a Celestial King. In the past, when he had just become an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial, the Phantom Fox Clan had already given him a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. After he became a Celestial Duke, he was then given a purely defensive Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. As for other things like Celestial Pills and Celestial Talismans, he had never lacked them. In fact, he even owned some escape-type Celestial Talismans that were inscribed by titled Celestial Lords!

“Lord envoy, I have a suggestion... Why don’t we look for a sectless cultivator who consistently ranks at the top and kill him before the scoreboard resets? After that, you can use his identity in the upper realm and look for Duan Ling Tian and the woman. You can keep track of their rankings and follow them into the same secret realm at the end of the year if you don’t meet them beforehand. Your name is too

inconspicuous, and using a pseudonym might not work since they would probably be wary of a new and unfamiliar name,” Zhang Dong Nan suggested.

“I’ll act according to your suggestion.” Zhang Jin Yi was quick to agree to Zhang Dong Nan’s suggestion. Perhaps, he had learned from his previous mistake. “However, I’m not familiar with the sectless cultivators here so I’ll leave this matter to you.”

“Lord envoy, I’ll take care of everything. All I need is your consent.” Zhang Dong Nan was relieved that Zhang Jin Yi agreed to his suggestion. He had been worried the arrogant direct descendant from the main clan would spurn his suggestion. Fortunately, Zhang Jin Yi was willing to listen to his advice.

...

In the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

In just a blink of an eye, a day had passed. There was only an hour left before the scoreboard would reset.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were waiting at a corner of the safe zone. Since most people were aware of how powerful they were now, nobody dared to provoke them. Moreover, they were ranked 13th and 15th respectively. This meant there were not many people who were stronger than them in the upper realm.

‘That person...’ Duan Ling Tian who was looking around his surroundings discovered a person who would look at him and Huan’er from time to time. He found the person rather familiar. After a while, he recalled he had seen the person thrice.

“Huan’er, is that person a member from the Phantom Fox Clan?” Duan Ling Tian asked. After probing that person with his Divine Consciousness, he discovered the person’s aura was somewhat similar to Zhang Yun Ting, a member of the Phantom Fox Clan. For this reason, he asked Huan’er for confirmation since she could easily identify members of the Phantom Fox Clan due to her identity as the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Huan’er turned to look at the person. When that person looked away, she extended her Divine Consciousness to probe that person. In just a brief moment, she said to Duan Ling Tian, “Brother Ling Tian, he’s really a member of the Phantom Fox Clan...”

“As expected.” Duan Ling Tian smiled. “No wonder Branch Leader Zhang is aware of our movements. As it turns out, he has a spy here.”

Despite discovering a spy from the Phantom Fox Clan, Duan Ling Tian did not rush to take action since they were in the safe zone where fighting was strictly prohibited.

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After an hour...

The rankings on the scoreboard stopped changing; there was no movement for 15 minutes. Following that, the scoreboard was refreshed.

Then, those who ranked in the top 100 were sent to their respective secret realms according to their ranks.

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Those who ranked in the top 10 were transported to a huge cave. It did not take long before they discovered there were only nine of them instead of ten.

“There are only nine of us here... Where’s the other person?”

After a short moment, someone said, “It’s Zhang Jin Yi. He’s not here.”

A grey-clad middle-aged man said, “Zhang Jin Yi appeared out of nowhere... He even managed to kill the Bodhi Zen Sect’s Tuo Ku.”

“Tuo Ye, Tuo Ku’s your senior brother... Did he manage to send a message back to the Bodhi Zen Sect before he was killed by Zhang Jin Yi?” A handsome young man dressed in a white robe and holding a fan asked a young monk dressed in black and white kasaya.

The white-clad young man had an elegant and noble bearing. He was none other than the inner disciples from the Tao Scholar Profound Sect, Yan Ru Yv, who was ranked at the top. He was the person who had defeated the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect and became the new peerless genius in the upper realm.

“No. Senior Tuo Ku didn’t manage to send a message before he died.” The young monk, Tuo Ye, shook his head and sighed. “If he had time to send a message, he would have been able to crush his Identity Jade Token and escape. It’s likely that he didn’t expect that he’d die.”

At this moment, a handsome young man asked with a smile, “Yan Ru Yv, you’re the strongest among us now. Do you think you’re capable of defeating Zhang Jin Yi?”

The handsome young man seemed rather familiar with Yan Ru Yv. He was Ouyang Yv Hao, the son of the Sect Leader of the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect and a core disciple of the sect. He was also one of the few male disciples in the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect.

At this moment, a beautiful woman with a curvaceous figure could be seen holding Ouyang Yv Hao’s arm. She was even more eye-catching standing among the crowd of men. She was known as the most beautiful woman in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Ouyang Yu Wei. Similar to Ouyang Yv Hao, she was also from the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect. In fact, she and Ouyang Yv Hao were fraternal twins.

“I’m not confident.” Yan Ru Yv waved the fan in his hand and shook his head. “Although I’m confident I’m stronger than Tuo Ku, due to his defenses, it’s impossible for me to kill him...”

Many people nodded in agreement.

“That’s right. Tuo Ku’s defenses were the best in the upper realm... Even if we were stronger than him, it’d be impossible for us to kill him...”

“Where did Zhang Jin Yi come from? Why is he so powerful?”

Many people were curious about Zhang Jin Yi and could not help but wonder about his origin.

As time passed, the topic gradually changed from Zhang Jin Yi to something else.

At this moment, a tall and muscular young man looked at Ouyang Yu Wei and said with a smile, “Junior Yu Wei, I heard those who had seen the woman, Huan’er, said that you’re not a match for her. She has to be quite strong to be able to rank 15th on the scoreboard. Moreover, it was her first time entering the upper realm. I’ve also heard that the man by her side, Duan Ling Tian, is actually quite useless. He only managed to rank so high because of her.”

The muscular young man was Hou Tong Xuan, a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

“Given the chance, I’d love to meet her.” Ouyang Yu Wei smiled as her eyes narrowed imperceptibly. “I’d love to see if she’s as strong as the rumor says.”

Meanwhile, Yan Ru Yv shook his head as he looked at Hou Tong Xuan. “Hou Tong Xuan, it’s a mistake to underestimate Duan Ling Tian... He’s not a simple person. Thirty years ago, he was invincible in the middle realm. This was his first time entering the upper realm, and he has already managed to rank 13th. Do you really think someone like that is a pushover?”

Among the people present on the scene, no one knew Duan Ling Tian as well as Yan Ru Yv did. He had long heard of Duan Ling Tian before Duan Ling Tian had joined the Profound Nether Mansion and was still in the Simplicity Celestial Sect. However, at that time, he did not think much about Duan Ling Tian. Duan Ling Tian was just someone who would occasionally come up in his conversation with his good friend, Chen Li, who was the son of one of the Vice Leaders of the Blood Skull Gang.

Chapter 3202: Jun Qin He

“Wait a minute... Yan Ru Yv, are you saying that Duan Ling Tian is the Profound Nether Mansion’s Duan Ling Tian?” Hou Tong Xuan, the core disciple from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, looked at Yan Ru Yv with an expression of disbelief.

The others were similarly shocked by Yan Ru Yv’s words as well.

“Is this true?”

“This is ridiculous. He was just a Ten Directions Celestial Duke thirty years ago. You’re saying after thirty years, he managed to rank 13th during his first visit to the upper realm?”

“Yan Ru Yv, are you sure?”

Everyone present on the scene looked at Yan Ru Yv with varying expressions of disbelief.

“Why would I lie?” Yan Ru Yv shook his head. “It’s the truth. If any of you runs into him, you can ask him about it.”

“It’s hard to believe that he managed to achieve so much in the upper realm after only thirty years.” Hou Tong Xuan sighed.

A green-clad young man said with a scoff, "In my opinion, he must have relied on that woman next to him to climb up to the 13th place."

"Hu Lei, don't jump to conclusions... Duan Ling Tian is not as simple as you think," Yan Ru Yv said. Although he was not acquainted with Duan Ling Tian, he had watched Duan Ling Tian rise step by step.

"It seems like you know him very well..." Hu Lei, a lineal disciple of the Hu Clan that was one of the Ten Major Clans in the Southern Heaven Territory, said.

"I don't know much about him... However, do you think someone who's capable of snatching the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit from a reincarnated Celestial Emperor is simple?" Yan Ru Yv asked as he looked at Hu Lei.

"The Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit?!"

Everyone was shocked again when they heard Yan Ru Yv's words.

"So that rumor is true?"

"I've heard the elders mention it, but I thought it's just a rumor."

"He robbed a reincarnated Celestial Emperor of the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruits? It doesn't sound believable to me..."

The people present on the scene were clearly skeptical.

"It's true," Yan Ru Yv said, "The son of Chen Yuan Shan, the Vice Leader of the Blood Skull Gang, is a friend of mine. He was the one who accepted the job to assassinate Duan Ling Tian. Back then, Duan Ling Tian was only an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial. Even if it wasn't completely due to his own strength, he managed to kill or evade the assassins from the Blood Skull Gang. I'm sure all of you know that even the weakest assassins from the Blood Skull Gang are One Basic Celestial Kings. In any case, it's true that he managed to obtain the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit and quickly became a Ten Directions Celestial Duke."

With these words, everyone was convinced of the veracity of Yan Ru Yv's words. After all, just like Yan Ru Yv had said, there was no reason for him to lie at all.

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian really isn't simple..."

"Robbing a reincarnated Celestial Emperor of the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruit... I'm not confident I'll be able to pull off such a feat."

"That's right. Moreover, that reincarnated Celestial Emperor must have plotted carefully before making a move, and yet, he was still thwarted by Duan Ling Tian. In the past, all of those who managed to obtain the Heaven Sacrificial Divine Fruits were reincarnated Celestial Emperors. In fact, they were much stronger than that reincarnated Celestial Emperor whose plan was foiled by Duan Ling Tian!"

"Hmmm, I'm rather intrigued by Duan Ling Tian now. I hope I'll be able to meet him..."

...

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware that 9 out of 10 people who were ranked in the top 10 in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were talking about him.

At this moment, he and Huan'er had already entered the grade-two secret realm with the others who were ranked 11th to the 30th place.

They had been transported into a huge hall with no exit.

'It seems like it'll take a while before we can explore the grade-two secret realm.' Duan Ling Tian had heard from the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion that it would take an hour after they were transported to the secret realm before they would be able to move around freely.

At this moment, the atmosphere was rather tense in the huge hall. Apart from Duan Ling Tian, Huan'er, and a few people who grouped together, most people stood alone. They looked at each other warily and with suspicion. Some of them would look at Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er occasionally, clearly curious about the duo who had recently become famous in the upper realm. After all, there were not many who could enter the top 20 the first time they entered the upper realm.

At this moment, a middle-aged man, who was standing near Duan Ling Tian, asked another middle-aged man, "This is my first time entering the grade-two secret realm; I've only entered the grade-three secret realm previously. Brother, do you know anything about the grade-two secret realm?"

However, the latter only looked at the former before turning away.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head slightly when he saw this. It seemed like no one was willing to lend a hand to anyone because they all viewed each other as competitors.

After an hour had passed...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions rang in the air as four exits appeared in the four directions of the huge hall.

Most people flew in different directions at top speed and vanished in just a blink of an eye.

However, Duan Ling Tian discovered the few people who had yet to leave staring at him and Huan'er intently.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In just an instant, nine people moved and surrounded Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er.

"What are you doing?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. He was not familiar with any of them, but their expressions were clearly hostile when they looked at him and Huan'er.

Among the nine people, there was one woman. She was dressed in tight red clothing. She looked at Huan'er with a frosty expression as she replied to Duan Ling Tian nonchalantly, "You may leave, but this woman must stay."

Upon hearing the red-clad woman's words, Huan'er furrowed her brows, slightly perplexed. She did not understand why the red-clad woman was so hostile when this was their first meeting.

"Why?" Duan Ling Tian asked solemnly. His gaze turned cold as well. He would not care if these people targeted him, but he found it unforgivable that they targeted Huan'er.

A middle-aged man glanced at the red-clad woman before he asked Duan Ling Tian with a smile, "Brat, you don't know her?"

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, an old man said with a grin, "She's Jun Qiu He, a core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect... The woman next to you killed Jun Wang Chen, who was her biological brother!"

"So that's the reason..." Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian finally realized these people were here for revenge.

"You must be quite wealthy to be able to hire so many people to help you. It must have cost a lot to hire so many people, right?" Duan Ling Tian asked as he looked at Jun Qiu He in surprise.

It would not be surprising if Jun Qiu He had one or two friends who decided to help her to seek revenge. However, it was unlikely that eight people who ranked in the top 30 would conveniently band together just to help her seek revenge. She must have promised them some sort of reward in exchange for their help.

"No price is too high as long as I can avenge my brother," Jun Qiu He replied with a sneer. However, from the beginning until now, her eyes were only trained on Huan'er as though she could not wait to kill Huan'er.

Duan Ling Tian's narrowed eyes flashed coldly as he replied tonelessly, "Your brother deserves to die... Leave now before it's too late. Otherwise, don't blame us for not showing mercy."

Jun He Qiu sneered with a contemptuous expression on her face before she charged toward Huan'er at lightning speed. Purple lightning bolts flashed around her body as she moved. Based on this, it was obvious she had comprehended the law of thunder.

Swoosh!

At this moment, a long red whip appeared in Jun Qiu He's hand. Lightning bolts flashed around the whip like snakes as she whipped it in the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Following that, the other eight people attacked as well. Since Jun Qiu He promised to reward them, it was only natural that they helped her.

"Huan'er, there's no need for you to show mercy," Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er as his eyes shone with killing intent. At the same time, his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the Space Elemental Profundity surged from his body.

"Yes, Brother Ling Tian." Huan'er's gaze turned frosty as well when she sensed Duan Ling Tian's killing intent.

In the next moment, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er vanished at the same time before they reappeared outside of the nine people's encirclement.

"Four of you go and kill that brat... The rest of you help me kill this b**ch!" Jun Qiu He ordered as she continued moving toward Huan'er with her whip in hand.

With this, four men moved toward Duan Ling Tian while the others charged toward Huan'er.

"Since all of you have a death wish, I'll fulfill your wishes!" Duan Ling Tian looked at the four men coldly as he cast the law of space's Restraining Profundity with his Celestial Origin Energy.

In just a blink of an eye, the four men were trapped in a cage burning with golden flames.

Chapter 3203: The Wind Thunder Dao Sect

"A mere Three Talents Celestial King is trying to restrain us? How foolish!"

"It'd be incredibly easy for me to break the Restraining Profundity!"

The four men who were trapped in the cage burning with golden flames clearly did not take Duan Ling Tian seriously. They began to attack in unison to break the cage.

"Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity!"

Three spatial tears appeared outside the cage, looking like some beasts opening their mouths.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the next moment, three grey sword rays burning with golden flames shot out of the spatial tears.

"Transportation Profundity!" In just a blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian had transported the three grey sword rays into the cage.

The four men continued to attack the cage as they defended themselves against the grey sword rays. When they brought their Royal Grade Celestial Weapons out, armor, vest, and cloaks appeared on their bodies respectively. Based on this, it was clear that they had used their purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons. Although Duan Ling Tian was just a mere Three Talents Celestial King, they felt greatly threatened by the grey sword rays from the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

When the four men saw the grey sword rays continuing toward them unimpeded, they directed their attacks at the sword rays to deflect them. Alas, their attacks only managed to extinguish the golden flames around the sword rays. Their attacks failed to stop the sword rays that were shooting toward them. At this moment, their expressions changed drastically.

"No!"

"Impossible! How's he so strong?!"

The four men frantically attacked the cage in hopes of freeing themselves. Alas, similar to the sword rays, their attacks only extinguished the golden flames on the cage and failed to destroy the cage. They were still restrained by the powerful force.

The ear-piercing sound of a sword cry rang in the air as the four men prepared to attack the cage again.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian was now standing in front of the cage. He waved the sword in his hand before it released colorful sword rays. It was none other than the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword that he had not used for a long time. Although it had not completely fused with Huan'er, the artifact soul, its power had increased greatly.

“No!”

“What kind of Celestial Weapon is that?!”

It was too late when the four men discovered the extraordinary sword in Duan Ling Tian's hand!

Colorful rays of light shone dazzlingly as Duan Ling Tian wielded the sword. With just a wave, the four men were instantly killed. They did not even have time to crush their Identity Jade Tokens to escape or defend themselves.

Meanwhile, Huan'er had also killed the other five people with the Yin Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring.

Although the nine people had comprehended nine profundities from a law, and some of them had even comprehended two profundities to the initial stage, the laws they had comprehended were only ordinary laws. How could ordinary laws compare to the law of space that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er comprehended? The law of space was one of the Four Supreme Laws, after all. It was no surprise the nine people were defeated by the duo.

“Huan'er, let's go.” Duan Ling Tian beckoned to Huan'er to leave the hall after the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword returned to his body, and he had collected the Spatial Rings from those they killed.

Soon after, the duo left the huge hall where corpses were strewn on the ground and blood flowed like a river.

...

In the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, one of the Top Five Sects in the Southern Heaven Territory.

At this moment, an angry roar resounded loudly from one of the residences in the Wind Thunder Dao Sect's estate.

“He'er!”

Under the watchful eyes of a group of disciples, an old man flew out of the residence. They whispered among themselves and were convinced that something bad had happened.

The old man was none other than Jun Chong Shan, the Vice Hall Master of the Hall of Law of Enforcement of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

“What happened? Why is Vice Hall Master Jun angry again?”

“When something similar happened a few months ago, I remember Vice Hall Master Jun’s great-grandson, Jun Wang Chen, died in the upper realm.”

“Hey, I heard Jun Wang Chen’s sister, Jun Qiu He, planned to avenge him in the secret realm... She should be in the secret realm now, right?”

“Then... Did something happen to her in the secret realm?”

At this moment, a muscular middle-aged man suddenly appeared in the air. “Vice Hall Master Jun, what happened?”

Many of the disciples recognized the muscular middle-aged man immediately.

“It’s the Vice Hall Master of the Tibetan Hall, Wu Gang!”

The old man and the muscular middle-aged man hovering in the air at this moment were powerful Celestial Lords. For this reason, the disciples in the surroundings were affected by the pressure that came from the old man’s anger.

Jun Chong Shan replied as he clenched his hands, “Qiu He... is dead...” At the same time, his Celestial Origin Energy surged out uncontrollably with a terrifying aura.

Many disciples with weak cultivation bases had no choice but to flee when they felt the pressure bearing down on them.

“What?!” Wu Gang’s eyes widened in shock. “Qiu He perished as well?”

Before Wu Gang recovered from the shock, Jun Chong Shan flew out and vanished in just a blink of an eye.

The disciples in the surroundings who heard Jun Chong Shan’s words were shocked as well.

“Jun Qiu He... is dead?”

“Heavens! We were right! Did that woman Huan’er kill Jun Qiu He and the people she hired?”

“How terrifying! That Huan’er is definitely capable of ranking in the top ten based on her strength.”

“Hey, it seems like Vice Hall Master Jun flew in the direction of Vice Sect Leader Hou’s residence...”

“He must have gone to look for Vice Sect Leader Hou so he could get Senior Hou Tong Xuan to avenge Jun Qiu He and Jun Wang Chen.”

...

While the disciples from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect were still discussing among themselves, Jun Chong Shan had arrived at the residence of Hou Zhen, the Vice Sect Leader of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

“Vice Sect Leader Hou, I beg you! Please ask Tong Xuan to avenge my great-grandchildren!” Jun Chong Shan fell to his knees as soon as he saw Hou Zhen. It was clear he did not plan to get up as long as Hou Zhen did not agree to his request.

“Vice Hall Master Jun, please rise to your feet and tell me what happened,” Hou Zhen said.

After listening to Jun Chong Shan’s words, Hou Zhen said skeptically, “You’re saying that woman, Huan’er, killed Qiu He and the other eight people Qiu He had hired... Vice Hall Master Jun, is it possible that you’re mistaken? Perhaps, Qiu He died during one of the tests in the secret realm?”

“Impossible!” Jun Chong Shan shook his head and said vehemently, “Before He’er made a move against that woman, she had sent me a message. Soon after that, she died. Moreover, before she made a move, everyone had left the hall in the grade-two secret realm. Only He’er and the eight people she hired along with that woman, Huan’er, and a young man, Duan Ling Tian, were left in the hall at that time.”

“Do you know the eight people she hired?” Hou Zhen asked.

“Yes, they were all elders. I’ve contacted the forces some of them were from and discovered they’re dead as well!” Jun Chong Shan’s expression was unsightly at this moment.

Hou Zhen’s eyes widened upon hearing these words. “If those two truly killed Qiu He and the other eight people, it means their strength is comparable to Xuan’er!” After a moment, he added, “Vice Hall Master Jun, I’ll send a message to my son. However, I can’t guarantee my son’s capable of killing those two people...”

Jun Chong Shan said through gritted teeth, “Vice Sect Leader Hou, if Tong Xuan truly can’t deal with them, I won’t say anything else!”

...

In the grade-one secret realm in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

At this moment, Hou Tong Xuan received a message from his father, Hou Zhen.

“Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er killed Jun Qiu He and the eight people she hired to help her?” Hou Tong Xuan was shocked when he heard the news. After all, Jun Qiu He and the eight people were strong enough to rank in the top 30, and yet, they were killed by Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er.

When Hou Tong Xuan regained his senses, he replied solemnly to his father, “Father, if that’s true, I don’t have the confidence to kill them.”

“If the chance arises, test their strength first. From what I know, they don’t simply kill unless their opponents try to kill them first. Just remember not to approach them with the intention to kill...” Hou Zhen said. He had easily agreed to Jun Chong Shan’s request because he knew Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er did not kill indiscriminately. Otherwise, he would not have put his precious son’s life at risk.

Upon hearing his father’s words, Hou Tong Xuan sighed in relief. “It should not be a problem to test their strength...”

After he was done communicating with his father, Hou Tong Xuan’s eyes glinted as he sent a message. “Yan Ru Yv, how much do you know about Duan Ling Tian and that woman next to him?”

Chapter 3204: The Flaming Green Striped Fruit

In the grade-two secret realm of the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Brother Ling Tian, where are we going?”

After leaving the hall, a vast and seemingly boundless world appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er. It was as though they had entered a whole new world. When they turned back, the hall had disappeared.

“Let’s just explore this place,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, “Huan’er, we can go wherever you want.”

The grade-two secret realm was filled with fortuitous encounters, Celestial Weapons, Celestial Pills, Celestial Fruits, and Celestial Talismans. However, Duan Ling Tian was only interested in Celestial Pills and Celestial Fruits that could swiftly raise their cultivation bases since their breakthroughs would become slower now that they had become Celestial Kings. These treasures were as rare as unicorns and phoenixes in the Southern Heaven Territory, but there were quite many of them in the secret realms.

Duan Ling Tian was able to break through and become a Three Talents Celestial King in 30 years due to such Celestial Fruits. The Celestial Fruits, which he shared equally with Huan’er, had been given to him by the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. Even if he did not share the Celestial Fruits with Huan’er, he would still be a Three Talents Celestial King because the gap between a Three Talents Celestial King and a Four Phenomenon Celestial King was like a chasm.

“Brother Ling Tian, let’s go this way then,” Huan’er said to Duan Ling Tian after she briefly glanced to her right.

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian brought Huan’er with him as he moved. At the same time, he extended his Divine Consciousness to scan the land for treasures and fortuitous encounters.

Although the grade-two secret realm contained treasures that were not inferior to those in the grade-one secret realms, the tests one had to pass to obtain them were much more dangerous and life-threatening. Needless to say, the more precious the treasures, the deadlier the tests would be. For example, the Formation that protected purely defensive Royal Grade Celestial Weapons could manifest powerful spirits. Although these spirits’ strength was only that of a Ten Directions Celestial King, the laws they comprehended were powerful. Therefore, the spirits were not any weaker than those who ranked in the top ten. Most people would join forces when they came across such Formations.

“Similar to the upper realm, one can also crush one’s Identity Jade token to escape from the dangers in the secret realms...” Duan Ling Tian had learned this from the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion previously. However, once the Identity Jade Token was crushed, one would no longer be able to enter the secret realm again.

After traveling for two hours...

“Brother Ling Tian, there’s a commotion up ahead,” Huan’er said as she pointed to the volcano in front of them.

At this moment, the duo was crossing a desert. Far ahead, there was an active volcano that was constantly spewing lava high up in the sky.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not hear any commotion, he brought Huan'er to the direction that she had pointed out. It was only when they drew closer that he finally heard the commotion that Huan'er had spoken about earlier.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

As a thunderous explosion rang in the air, Duan Ling Tian saw a few figures on top of the volcano. Apart from that, he saw a gigantic humanoid figure as well. His eyes lit up immediately when he recalled the words of the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. "In the secret realms, the more difficult the tests, the more precious the treasures would be. The treasures in the secret realms are so precious that even the Ten Major Clans and the Top Five Sects covet them... Based on the strength of this Formation spirit, it seems like it's protecting a rather extraordinary treasure..."

Duan Ling Tian could tell the gigantic Formation spirit formed from lava and rocks was rather powerful. It seemed evenly matched with the few figures who were currently fighting it.

"Huan'er, let's go." Duan Ling Tian held Huan'er's hand and teleported about 10,000 meters ahead. With this, he depleted one-third of his Celestial Origin Energy. A wry smile appeared on his face as he thought to himself, 'It's still difficult for me to cast the Teleportation Profundity at the initial stage with my current Celestial Origin Energy.'

Since Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the Teleportation Profundity to the initial stage, he could teleport within the distance of 1,000 meters each time. However, each time, it would deplete much of his Celestial Origin Energy. The amount of Celestial Origin Energy it consumed was nothing to Celestial Lords, but it took a heavy toll on Celestial Kings. For example, Duan Ling Tian, a Three Talents Celestial King, would deplete one-third of his Celestial Origin Energy when he used the Teleportation Profundity ten times to travel 10,000 meters ahead. However, if he had only used it to travel 100 meters or 1,000 meters ahead, it, naturally, would not consume so much Celestial Origin Energy.

In no time at all, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er finally appeared above the volcano. They could clearly see the three people fiercely fighting the gigantic humanoid figure that was made from magma and rocks. The rocks that formed the humanoid figure were clearly scorching hot.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze to the three people above the volcano. They were a middle-aged man and two young men. He had seen them earlier when they had just entered the grade-two secret realm.

Whoosh!

At this moment, the gigantic humanoid figure swung its fist that was the size of a mountain as Celestial Origin Energy that was boosted by the Fire Elemental Profundity surged from its body. After that, it cast other profundities from the law of fire. Some of them had even been comprehended to the initial stage.

"The Explosion Profundity and Burning Profundity are at the initial stage!" Previously, before comprehending the law of space, Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the law of fire. Therefore, he could tell in just an instant how powerful the profundities from the law of fire were. Moreover, he could clearly tell the gigantic humanoid figure was much stronger than the nine people he and Huan'er had

killed earlier. Although there were some among the nine people who had comprehended two profundities to the initial stage, the profundities were not particularly powerful. On the other hand, the Explosion Profundity and Burning Profundity were the main offensive profundities of the law of fire. Comprehending these two profundities would boost one's strength tremendously.

Bang!

As the gigantic fist was about to land on the weakest among the trio, the man hastily brought his Identity Jade Token out and crushed it before he vanished into thin air at the critical moment.

The gigantic figure's fist ended up landing on the volcano, causing it to erupt violently. At the same time, the land in the surroundings began to shake and tremble.

"Retreat!"

The remaining two men's expressions drastically changed as they quickly moved away. As soon as they retreated, the gigantic figure seemed to calm down and gradually disappeared into the spewing hot lava. Both men looked at the bottom of the soaring flames and lava unwillingly.

"The treasure is hidden at the bottom?" Duan Ling Tian brought Huan'er with him as he moved closer to get a better view. Soon enough, he saw a plant in the middle of the flames at the foot of the volcano. However, the plant was not affected by the flames at all. There were five bright red fruits growing on the plant. On the surface of the bright red fruits, three fine green stripes could be seen. These were clearly Celestial Fruits.

Duan Ling Tian exclaimed inwardly as his eyes brightened, 'Are those the Flaming Green Striped Fruits? Moreover, there are five of them! With my cultivation base, I only need two to quickly break through and become a Four Phenomenon Celestial King...'

The Flaming Green Striped Fruits was a Celestial Fruit that could raise the cultivation bases of Celestial Kings. A One Basic Celestial King could quickly become a Two Forms Celestial King after consuming two fruits. Naturally, the higher the cultivation base of a Celestial King, the lesser the effect of the fruits would be. For example, a Nine Palaces Celestial King would not be able to break through and become a Ten Directions Celestial King even if he consumed five or ten Flaming Green Striped Fruits even if there was no limit to the number of fruits one could consume and the efficacy would not diminish.

"The Flaming Green Striped Fruits!" Huan'er recognized the fruits as well from her inherited memories as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

"I can't believe there are five Flaming Green Striped Fruits!" Duan Ling Tian said excitedly. Although he received many resources from the Profound Nether Mansion, none could compare to the Flaming Green Striped Fruits. The Flaming Green Striped Fruit was a rare and valuable Celestial Fruit that even the Ten Major Clans and Top Five Sect might not have, let alone the Profound Nether Mansion.

At this moment, the two men who were previously fighting the gigantic humanoid figure finally discovered Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's presence. Their eyes lit up as they flew toward the duo.

"Greetings, my friends. Why don't we work together to obtain the Flaming Green Striped Fruits?"

“I’m not interested,” Duan Ling Tian said as he glanced at the two men, “Why don’t both of you leave this place or crush your Identity Jade Tokens? I’ll give you five breaths to consider this... Don’t say I didn’t warn you...”

Chapter 3205: Dong Yue

The two men’s expressions turned unsightly as soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking.

“It’s not necessary for you to do this even if you’re unwilling to work together with us, right? Don’t you think you’re going overboard by doing this?” The middle-aged man sneered with a dark expression on his face.

The young man standing next to the middle-aged man looked displeased as well, but there was a hint of wariness in his eyes. He was aware that the purple-clad young man and woman in front of them were ranked 13th and 15th respectively. Although his companion was ranked 12th, he was only ranked 19th.

“Since both of you aren’t powerful enough to collect the Flaming Green Striped Fruits, why are you lingering around? Are you hoping to gain something by staying here?” Duan Ling Tian said mockingly.

“Are you... Are you saying that both of you are powerful enough to obtain all five Flaming Green Striped Fruits?!” the young man exclaimed in shock. He had first-hand experience with the Formation spirit so he knew how terrifyingly powerful it was. He, the middle-aged man, and their companion who were eliminated could not defeat the Formation spirit even after they joined forces. However, the purple-clad young man implied he was capable of obtaining all five of the Flaming Green Striped Fruits?

Upon hearing these words, the middle-aged man grew wary. Nevertheless, he had no intention of leaving. A hint of greed flashed in his eyes at this moment.

“You have three breaths left,” Duan Ling Tian said in a low voice.

“Sir, it’s best not to burn all bridges, especially when we might meet again in the future,” the middle-aged man said indignantly.

“You’re not planning to leave? In that case, you can stay here forever!”

When Huan’er, who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, saw the middle-aged man had no intention of leaving, she teleported behind the middle-aged man immediately. Following that, she quickly cast the law of space’s Restraining Profundity to prevent the middle-aged man from leaving.

In just a blink of an eye, three spatial tears appeared after Huan’er cast the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity. The grey sword rays shot toward the middle-aged man, who had been restrained, at lightning speed.

Everything happened so quickly that when the middle-aged man regained his senses, the three grey sword rays were only meters away from him. His expression changed drastically as he mobilized the Celestial Origin Energy in his body. He wielded his Celestial Weapon and brandished it to deflect the incoming sword rays. When he succeeded in deflecting the attack, he heaved a sigh of relief.

However, at this moment, a voice rang in the air. “Watch out!”

The young man, who was standing next to the middle-aged man, cried out in horror when he saw Huan'er took out a Celestial Weapon that looked like a ring before throwing it at the middle-aged man

Swoosh!

The Yin Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring sailed in the air, leaving a streak of light in its wake. When it was approaching the space where the middle-aged man was confined, it suddenly disappeared. When it reappeared again, it was already inside the confined space.

"No!" This time, the middle-aged did not have time to block the attack with his Celestial Weapon. He could only block it with his bare hands.

Huan'er had attacked with her Celestial Weapon while the middle-aged man only blocked the attack with his bare hands. The outcome was not difficult to guess.

Just like that, the Yin Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring destroyed the middle-aged man's hands before killing him.

Huan'er retrieved the middle-aged man's Spatial Ring after she killed him. Following that, she teleported next to Duan Ling Tian and presented the Spatial Ring to him. Her expression was gentle and obedient as she reached out to hold Duan Ling Tian's hand.

The young man could only watch with a horrified expression on his face. He shuddered as chills ran up his spine. If he did not personally witness this, he would never expect such a gentle and beautiful woman to be so decisive and ruthless when she killed.

"You have one breath left," Duan Ling Tian said coldly as he glanced at the young man.

The young man regained his senses when he heard Duan Ling Tian's voice. He wasted no time and hurriedly fled the scene. He did not even dare to look back when he fled.

After the young man disappeared from Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's sight, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Huan'er and said with a smile, "Huan'er, stay in the Plunder Formation at the side... I'll go and retrieve the Flaming Green Striped Fruits."

In fact, Duan Ling Tian wanted the two men to leave not because he was afraid they would seize the opportunity to snatch the Flaming Green Striped Fruits away. He wanted them to leave because he did not want to reveal his true strength and the treasures he possessed. For example, if they were around, he would not be able to use the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. With his current strength, he would not be able to defeat the Formation spirit without using the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword.

Although Huan'er might be strong enough to defeat the Formation spirit, he would have to guard against the two men if they had stayed. It would be difficult for him to fend off the two men on his own if he did not use his Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. If one of the two men managed to escape, everyone would find out he possessed the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. Although they might not be able to tell the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword was a Divine Artifact, it was not difficult to see that it was precious. They would most likely mistake it for an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. It would be bad if word spread about him owning an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon.

“Alright.” Huan’er nodded and obediently let go of Duan Ling Tian’s hand. She watched as Duan Ling Tian stepped into the blazing flames.

“It’s really hot... No wonder the Formation spirit’s speed was so fast! In this environment, it can use the law of fire’s Fire Traveling Profundity.”

The Fire Traveling Profundity was a law of fire’s profundity. At the rudimentary stage and the initial stage, the Fire Traveling Profundity was not very useful since it could only be used in a fiery environment. One could only cast it without any care for the environment once it had been comprehended to the mastery stage. Nevertheless, it was quite formidable if one cast it in the right environment.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian stepped into the blazing flames, a wolf-like howl rang in the air. It was so loud that it left his ears ringing.

Swoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, the gigantic flaming humanoid figure appeared and lunged at Duan Ling Tian.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian waved his hand, and the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword shot toward the gigantic figure. Following that, he quickly teleported behind the gigantic figure and attacked with all his might.

A piercing sword cry rang briefly as a seven-color sword ray shot into the gigantic figure. Just like that, the gigantic figure was destroyed.

After Duan Ling Tian put the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword away, he wasted no time in collecting the five Flaming Green Striped Fruits.

After that, he called out, “Huan’er, let’s go.”

Duan Ling Tian had no plans of consuming the Flaming Green Striped Fruits for now. He was going to search for treasures and fortuitous encounters first.

...

The duration one could stay in the secret realms was different. One could stay in the grade-one secret realm for a month while the grade-two secret realm and the grade-three secret realm only allowed one to stay in them for twenty days and ten days respectively.

Apart from having less time to spend in the grade-two and grade-three secret realm, the tests in these two realms were much more difficult compared to the tests in the grade-one secret realm. The tests in the grade-three secret realm were the most difficult among the three secret realms while the tests in the grade-two secret realm were at the intermediate level. Naturally, the tests in the grade-one secret realm were the easiest.

For twenty days, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er wandered the grade-two secret realm without a specific direction.

After obtaining the Flaming Green Striped Fruits, they managed to obtain a few more treasures.

The most valuable treasure they found was a purely defensive Royal Grade Celestial Weapon that was in the form of white female clothing. As soon as Huan'er saw it, she was delighted and took a liking to it immediately.

For Duan Ling Tian, he was happy as long as Huan'er was happy.

As for Celestial Fruits and Celestial Pills that raised one's cultivation base, the duo collected a few more. However, none of them were as potent as the Flaming Green Striped Fruits.

Apart from that, the duo obtained a few fairly powerful Celestial Talismans. They did not think much about the talismans since they only provided external help. Moreover, they were not particularly useful in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm as well.

In the upper realm and its secret realms, if one used Celestial Talismans during a fight, one's Identity Jade Token would lose its ability to transport one out of the upper realm. This meant that those who used Celestial Talismans during a fight could only leave the upper realm through the Transporting Formation in the safe zones. If one was in a secret realm, the only way one could leave was to wait until the secret realm closed.

Now that twenty days had passed, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were transported back to the safe zone in the upper realm.

"Huan'er, let's go. We'll cultivate for a while before we enter the upper realm again," Duan Ling Tian said before both of them returned to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

"Alright, I'll do as Brother Ling Tian suggested," Huan'er said obediently. She would never oppose Duan Ling Tian no matter what. In her opinion, Duan Ling Tian could do no wrong.

Duan Ling Tian knew with his and Huan'er's strength, it would not be difficult for them to enter the top 10 if they joined forces. However, there were a few who were powerful enough to threaten their lives. Apart from that, there was also Zhang Jin Yi to consider. Therefore, he knew they could not recklessly enter the top 10 even if they could.

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian decided to cultivate further and deepen his comprehension of the law of space before he entered the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm again.

After returning to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion, the duo entered closed-door cultivation to cultivate and deepen their comprehension of the law of space.

...

Meanwhile, many were unaware that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had entered closed-door cultivation. One such person was Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Southern Heaven Territory.

After Zhang Jin Yi agreed to enter the upper realm using a sectless cultivator's name, Zhang Dong Nan expended a lot of effort to search for a suitable candidate. Eventually, he decided on a sectless cultivator who was a rather powerful Ten Directions Celestial King.

The sectless cultivator consistently ranked on the scoreboard, and his highest rank was 13th place.

“Although he has only started to enter the upper realm not too long ago and has never ranked in the top 10, no one will suspect a thing even if his name ranks in the top 10 after Zhang Jin Yi uses his name.”

Zhang Dong Nan did not waste time once he made up his mind. He quickly found the sectless cultivator and killed him.

Even when that sectless cultivator died, he did know why he was killed or how he offended a powerhouse to the point that it warranted death.

After killing the sectless cultivator, Zhang Dong Nan looked for Zhang Jin Yi as soon as he returned. “Lord Envoy, I’ve obtained a sectless cultivator’s identity for you.”

Zhang Dong Nan continued to say, “This time, you’ll enter the upper realm using the name Dong Yue. Since I’ve killed him, there’s no need to worry about him appearing in the upper realm. It hasn’t been long since he first entered the upper realm, and his highest ranking was 13th place.”

Chapter 3206: 100 Years Passed In Just A Blink Of An Eye

Dong Yue was a sectless cultivator in the Southern Heaven Territory who was a Ten Directions Celestial King. He had comprehended the law of water. His highest rank in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was the 13th place. Although it had been quite a few years since he appeared on the scoreboard, no one thought he failed to make it into the top 100 because he was not powerful enough.

At this moment, Dong Yue was the topic of discussion in the safe zones in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

“Initially, I thought Dong Yue’s absence from the upper realm previously was due to him becoming a Celestial Lord. Who would’ve thought that’s not the case? As it turns out, he just didn’t enter the upper realm for some reason.”

“Do you really think it’s so easy to become a Celestial Lord? If it were so easy, there would be more Celestial Lords in the Southern Heaven Territory. In my opinion, Dong Yue was just in closed-door cultivation during the years he was absent in the upper realm.”

“Dong Yue is really dominating the scoreboard this time around. Only three months have passed, but he has already risen to 19th place.”

“Even if he didn’t become a Celestial Lord, it seems like he had some sort of breakthrough. If he’s lucky, he might even be able to enter the top 10.”

At this moment, most of the conversations in the safe zones revolved around Dong Yue. After all, not only did Dong Yue, who had not been seen for years, suddenly appear again in the upper realm, but he had even climbed to 19th place in such a short time.

“In the past, I remember Dong Yue wasn’t the type to kill indiscriminately. However, this time around, he killed everyone he encountered in the upper realm.”

“Who knows? Maybe something happened to him over the past years...”

“The way he kills indiscriminately is as bad as Zhang Jin Yi who suddenly appeared last year.”

“Speaking of Zhang Jin Yi, where did he go? I don’t think he has entered the upper realm yet...”

“Maybe he’ll enter at the end of the year? After all, his rise on the scoreboard is much faster than Dong Yue.”

Naturally, those in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were completely unaware that Dong Yue was dead, and Zhang Jin Yi was using Dong Yue’s name to enter the upper realm.

One could inscribe whatever name they wanted on the Identity Jade Token as long as the name did not coincide with the name of another participant. With this, Zhang Jin Yi easily took over Dong Yue’s identity to enter the upper realm.

...

At this moment, Zhang Jin Yi hovered above a blood-red forest. He looked at the scoreboard through the Identity Jade Token before he muttered under his breath, “It has been four months, and they still haven’t entered the upper realm?”

“Did they enter using someone else’s identities as well?” Zhang Jin Yi speculated out loud.

With that thought in mind, Zhang Jin Yi sent a message to Zhang Dong Nan, the Branch Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan’s branch in the Southern Heaven Territory.

After receiving Zhang Jin Yi’s message, Zhang Dong Nan contacted Zhang Yun Ting’s son and told him to check the scoreboard for any abnormalities.

It did not take long before Zhang Dong Nan received a reply from Zhang Yun Ting’s son. “Branch leader, the names on the scoreboard are all familiar. There’s nothing different or strange regarding the names on the scoreboard. In my opinion, Duan Ling Tian and the woman just haven’t entered the upper realm yet.”

With that, Zhang Dong Nan relayed this information to Zhang Jin Yi. “Lord Envoy, it’s likely that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er haven’t entered the upper realm yet. Please wait a little longer...”

...

In the end, Zhang Jin Yi who was told to wait a little longer ended up waiting for 100 years.

“This will be the final time I enter the upper realm. Even if I don’t run into Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er, I can go home.”

Up until now, Zhang Jin Yi still entered the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm using Dong Yue’s name.

Over the past 100 years, Zhang Jin Yi maintained Dong Yue’s rank slightly below the 10th place. He would enter the secret realm every year in hopes of running into Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er. When he could not find the duo, he lost all interest in staying in the secret realm and would crush his Identity Jade Token to leave.

In the beginning, when only a few years had passed, Zhang Jin Yi had already grown impatient and planned to return to the Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory after failing to meet Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er. Alas, his plan to leave was thwarted by a message from a Grand Elder of the Phantom Fox Clan.

"Jin Yi, I know you don't want to stay in the Southern Heaven Territory, but it's imperative that we find the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Why don't you wait for 100 years? At that time, if you still can't find them, you can return."

As such, Zhang Jin Yi could only stay in the Southern Heaven Territory for 100 years.

"I can finally return!" Zhang Jin Yi's mood was exceptionally good this time when he entered the upper realm. He would be able to leave the Southern Heaven Territory once the scoreboard was refreshed.

"Since this is my final time here, I'm going to go all out. This year, Dong Yue will rank first on the scoreboard!" For more than 99 years, Zhang Jin Yi had never once used his full strength when he fought. After all, he did not want to attract attention to himself. Now that he was going to leave, he decided to fight without holding back and raise the name he had been using over the last 100 years to the top.

...

The Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

"Senior."

The old man who was fishing was startled by the sudden noise. He put down his fishing rod and turned around to see the purple-clad young man standing nearby. A white-clad lady stood next to the young man. The duo looked like a match made in heaven.

The old man asked with a smile, "Both of you have been in closed-door cultivation for almost 100 years... How did it go? What are your cultivation bases now?"

The old man did not expect Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to enter closed-door cultivation for almost 100 years. Nevertheless, he continued to ask the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion to gather cultivation resources for the duo.

Over the last 100 years, at least half of the Profound Nether Mansion's wealth was spent on the duo's cultivation resources.

Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile, "Huan'er is now a Ten Directions Celestial King. She just needs to wait for the right opportunity to break through and become a Celestial Lord..."

In fact, even Duan Ling Tian did not expect to be away for so long.

After he consumed the Flaming Green Striped Fruits, Huan'er had also given him ten drops of her blood essence. With that, he directly broke through several stages and became a Seven Stars Celestial King from a Three Talents Celestial King.

Unfortunately, Huan'er was greatly weakened after giving him ten drops of her blood essence. For each drop of blood essence, she would need to cultivate ten years. Therefore, she needed to cultivate for 100 years after giving up ten drops of her blood essence. Although she was greatly weakened, it was fortunate that her cultivation base was not affected, and she could continue to comprehend the law of space through the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity.

In the beginning, Duan Ling Tian thought to enter the upper realm without Huan'er. However, when he saw how reluctant she was to part with him, he changed his mind. Moreover, he had promised her that he would never leave again. With this, he accompanied her for 100 years.

"What about you?" the old man asked.

"I... I'm still not a Ten Directions Celestial King." Duan Ling Tian smiled in embarrassment.

After cultivating for 100 years and being provided with an endless supply of cultivation resources by the Profound Nether Mansion, Duan Ling Tian merely broke through and became a Nine Palaces Celestial King after he became a Seven Stars Celestial King.

"So, what's next?" the old man asked again.

Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate to reveal his plan to the old man. "We're going to enter the upper realm one last time. Then, we'll leave the Spirit Overarching Heaven for the Jade Emperor Heaven. Once Huan'er and I grow powerful enough, we'll return to avenge the former Imperial Tutor..."

The old man furrowed his brows, puzzled. "Why do you want to go to the Jade Emperor Heaven?"

"It's dangerous for Huan'er here. The Phantom Foxes' main clan in the Heavenly Territory is already suspicious of Huan'er. Although they have yet to confirm she's a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, it's still dangerous for her here. Leaving the Spirit Overarching Heaven is a good way to avoid the Phantom Fox Clan."

Upon hearing this, the old man reminded Duan Ling Tian, "There's a Phantom Fox Clan in the Jade Emperor Heaven as well. However, the Phantom Fox Clan in the Spirit Overarching Heaven is stronger since the clan in the Jade Emperor Heaven can be considered as a branch of the main clan here."

Duan Ling Tian smiled and replied, "The Jade Emperor Heaven's Phantom Fox Clan is made out of those from the Du Clan. They won't harm Huan'er."

Duan Ling Tian had learned that the Phantom Fox Clan in the Jade Emperor Heaven was ruled by those from the Du Clan from a Memory Celestial Talisman in the Profound Nether Mansion a hundred years ago. At that time, he thought it was fated. After all, he was supposed to ascend to the Jade Emperor Heaven. However, due to some mishap, he came to the Spirit Overarching Heaven instead and met Huan'er whose clan members were in the Jade Emperor Heaven.

"I see." The old man nodded after listening to Duan Ling Tian's explanation. "Since you've already made up your mind, I won't dissuade you. I only hope you'll visit this old man once in a while even if you haven't grown strong enough to avenge the former Imperial Tutor."

After all, the old man was usually alone. His only visitor was the Mansion Master of the Profound Nether Mansion. Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had spent so many years in the Imperial Tutor Pavilion that he had

also grown fond of the duo. He knew the duo's future was incomparably bright and would definitely surpass his own achievements. In fact, if everything went smoothly, he had no doubt they would become even stronger than titled Celestial Lords or ordinary Celestial Emperors.

"Senior, we aren't leaving just yet... We'll talk about this when we return from the upper realm," Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head.

Duan Ling Tian did not wait for the old man's reply before he brought the Formation Compass out. He quickly inserted Celestial Crystals into the slots on the compass and was soon transported to the upper realm along with Huan'er.

This would be his second and final time in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. After that, he would bring Huan'er away from the Spirit Overarching Heaven to the Jade Emperor Heaven.

Chapter 3207: Jun Chong Shan

It felt like a lifetime had passed when Duan Ling Tian entered the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm after 100 years.

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, naturally, attracted a lot of attention when they appeared in one of the safe zones in the upper realm. Most of it was due to Huan'er's beauty.

Most people could not look away from Huan'er at all.

"What a beautiful woman!"

"I've never seen a woman as beautiful as her! Her face is flawless..."

"I think she's comparable to that woman, Huan'er, who briefly made an appearance in the upper realm 100 years ago."

At this moment, a voice overwhelmed all the chattering in the surroundings. "Wait! She's Huan'er! I was eliminated by her 100 years ago so I know what she looks like!"

The person who had spoken was a middle-aged man standing nearby. At this moment, he was looking at Huan'er warily.

"Isn't that Xiao Hong Kun!"

Many people recognized the middle-aged man immediately. After all, he was relatively famous in the upper realm. Xiao Hong Kun frequently ranked in the top 30 so it was only natural that people recognized him.

"As it turns out, she's Huan'er!"

"She disappeared 100 years ago, right?"

"Back then, she wasn't even 100 years old. I wonder how much she has improved after 100 years have passed"

“If she didn’t enter the upper realm again, I would’ve thought she had become a Celestial Lord. In my opinion, she’s probably a Ten Directions Celestial King now.”

“She managed to rank 15th when she was just a Six Combos Celestial King... Now that 100 years have passed, I’m sure her comprehension of the law of space has deepened as well. If she’s a Ten Directions Celestial King now, she’s likely as strong as Yan Ru Yv.”

“That’s possible.”

Due to Huan’er’s shocking strength 100 years ago, most people agreed that she had most likely grown even stronger now.

Meanwhile, under everyone’s watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er collected their Identity Jade Tokens and left the safe zone. Similar to the previous time they were here, they did not trigger the invisibility Formation when they left. Even so, everyone in the safe zone only watched them leave and did not dare to follow or attack them.

Those people who lingered outside the safe zone soon learned from those in the safe zone that the woman who just left was the Huan’er from 100 years ago. Similarly, they did not dare to act against the duo.

Just like that, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er openly walked out of the safe zone without encountering any problem. Moreover, they did not meet anyone for quite some time. It was as though everyone had disappeared.

“Huan’er, this time we should aim to rank between 31st and 100th place. The only secret realm that will be challenging for you is the grade-three secret realm,” Duan Ling Tian said to Huan’er. Since he did not plan to rank at the top, he was not anxious even if they had yet to encounter anyone. The only reason he decided to enter the upper realm again before heading to the Jade Emperor Realm was to help Huan’er look for a fortuitous encounter that could help her break through and become a Celestial Lord.

...

While Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were wandering the upper realm, Zhang Jin Yi, who was using the name Dong Yue, was on a killing spree. His ranking rose rapidly, and in just a month, he was ranked 39th.

“Hm?” While Zhang Jin Yi was looking for his next target, he casually glanced at his Identity Jade Token. It did not take long before he saw the name that he had been waiting to see for the last 100 years.

96th place. Huan’er.

“She’s here?” Zhang Jin Yi widened his eyes in surprise. When he regained his senses, he began to laugh. “Who knew she’ll finally enter the upper realm during my last time here. It seems like luck is on my side!”

The woman he had been waiting for over the last 100 years was finally here!

‘Well, there’s no need to raise my ranking now... I’ll wait for her to catch up to my rank or vice versa before I track her down,’ Zhang Jin Yi thought to himself, dismissing his plan to rise to the top of the scoreboard. He was not anxious at all as he waited for his chance.

...

In just a blink of an eye, 15 days had passed.

Huan'er was ranked 82nd while Duan Ling Tian was ranked 85th.

'I'll continue waiting for now.' Zhang Jin Yi found a quiet place to hide in the upper realm. There was rarely any cultivator who would come to this place. On the rare occasion that a cultivator came to this place, he would only chase them away and did not kill or eliminate them.

For that reason, Zhang Jin Yi's rank dropped from 39th to 46th.

This time, Zhang Jin Yi was very patient. He had already waited for 100 years, what was another few more months?

...

Months passed one after another until there was only one month left before the scoreboard would be refreshed.

"Hm?" Zhang Jin Yi discovered Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian's ranks had stopped rising and were fixed in the top 50 for a long time now.

The duo's ranks remained the same since half a year ago. Huan'er was ranked 35th while Duan Ling Tian was ranked 37th.

Zhang Jin Yi frowned as he thought to himself, 'Did someone else use their names? How's it possible that she can't even make it into the top 30 when she was ranked in the top 15 previously?'

'Whatever. It doesn't matter. I don't care about the rankings in the upper realm. I have nothing to lose by following them to the grade-three secret realm. If those two are impostors, they'll have to pay for their stupidity with their lives!' Zhang Jin Yi's eyes flashed with a vicious glint.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Zhang Jin Yi finally left the place he stayed in for almost a year to gather points again. His rank had dropped so low that he was no longer on the scoreboard. Naturally, he was not anxious at all. With this strength, he could easily make it into the top 100 within a month.

...

The Enforcement Hall in the Wind Thunder Dao Sect's estate.

"That woman, Huan'er, has reappeared in the upper realm?"

The eyes of Jun Chong Shan, the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall, brightened when he received this news. However, soon after, a frown appeared on his face as he muttered to himself, "They've been in there for almost a year, and yet, both of them are only ranked in the top 40? Instead of becoming stronger, is it possible that they grew weaker over the last 100 years?"

In the end, similar to Zhang Jin Yi, Jun Chong Shan concluded the duo had to be impostors.

“Even when she wasn’t even 100 years old, she was already so powerful. Now that 100 years have passed, she must have grown even stronger. In my opinion, there’s a chance that the Tao Scholar Profound Sect’s Yan Ru Yv isn’t a match for her. There’s also a chance that she has become a Celestial Lord. Wang Chen, Qiu He, grandpa is useless! I’m unable to avenge both of you!” Although Jun Chong Shan was filled with hatred, he knew it was almost impossible for him to avenge his great-grandchildren.

At this moment, a voice rang from outside the hall. “Vice Hall Master, a core disciple requests to see you.”

Jun Chong Shan regained his senses and gestured for the core disciple to be brought into the hall.

Soon after, the core disciple arrived. He greeted Jun Chong Shan. “Vice Hall Master.”

“What is it?” Jun Chong Shan asked indifferently. At this time, he had already composed himself and looked no different from usual. No trace of sadness could be seen on his face at all.

“Vice Hall Master, 100 years ago, I was eliminated by Huan’er. This time, I was eliminated by Duan Ling Tian,” the core disciple said without beating around the bush, “Vice Hall Master, I’m here to inform you that those two people have entered the upper realm again!”

“What?! Are you sure they’re Huan’er and Duan Ling Tian? Are you sure they aren’t impostors?” Jun Chong Shan’s eyes lit up. After all, he had concluded the duo were impostors earlier.

“I’m certain.” The core disciple nodded confidently. “Huan’er eliminated me 100 years ago, and Duan Ling Tian was there at that time. I know what they look like...”

Jun Chong Shan muttered under his breath, puzzled, “Then, why are their rankings so low this time? It’s a far cry from their previous rankings...”

“I’m not sure... Perhaps, they want to enter the grade-three secret realm? After all, in the history of the upper realm, there were many powerful Ten Directions Celestial Kings who intentionally lowered their ranks so they could enter the grade-three secret realm,” the core disciple speculated out loud.

Jun Chong Shan’s eyes lit up again when he heard the core disciple’s speculation. Soon after, a bold plan appeared in his mind.

After a moment, he said, “You better not be lying... Otherwise, I won’t let the matter go.”

After Jun Chong Shan finished speaking, he stared at the core disciple intently, wanting to see if there were any signs that the core disciple was lying. When he was finally satisfied, he dismissed the core disciple.

After the core disciple left, Jun Chong Shan’s eyes shone with determination as he murmured, “Even the heavens are on my side. Wang Chen, Qiu He, it seems like grandpa will be able to avenge both of you!”

Subsequently, Jun Chong Shan brought out a glowing black pill and swallowed it without any hesitation.

In just a blink of an eye, Celestial Origin Energy began to leak out of Jun Chong Shan’s body.

In two hours, Jun Chong Shan reverted to a Ten Directions Celestial King from a One Basic Celestial Lord.

“It works! My cultivation base has reverted to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King! Fortunately, I still retained my comprehension of all nine profundities from the law of fire. The four profundities that I’ve comprehended to the initial stage didn’t regress as well. With my current strength, even Yan Ru Yv isn’t a match for me! If she’s still stronger than me, then there’s nothing else I can do. However, if she’s weaker than me, then she’s destined to be buried in the upper realm!”

Jun Chong Shan’s eyes glinted as he retrieved a Formation compass and traveled to the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Chapter 3208: Grade-Three Secret Realm

The glowing black pill that Jun Chong Shan had consumed was called the Reversal Poison Pill. Most people used the pill to harm others. It could even cause a Celestial Lord’s cultivation base to regress if the antidote was not taken.

In Jun Chong Shan’s case, however, he had taken the pill so that his cultivation would regress back to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King, which would then allow him to enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Due to Jun Chong Shan’s precise and tight control over the pill’s effect, he was able to retain part of the strength of his Celestial Origin Energy that was akin to that of a One Basic Celestial Lord despite having reverted to a Ten Directions Celestial King.

To raise his cultivation base back to that of a One Basic Celestial Lord, he would first need to cleanse the poison left behind by the Reversal Poison Pill in his body. It would take him at least thirty to fifty years to do so.

Nevertheless, Jun Chong Shan did not feel regretful. Nothing mattered as long as he could enter the upper realm to avenge his great-grandchildren.

...

When Jun Chong Shan appeared in one of the safe zones in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there was a core disciple from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect present in the safe zone.

“V-vice Hall Master Jun?” The core disciple of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect discovered Jun Chong Shan immediately. He was dumbfounded when he saw his sect’s Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall in the upper realm. He was certain the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall was a Celestial Lord so how did the vice hall master enter the upper realm?

It was an unbreakable rule in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm that those who were above the stage of a Ten Directions Celestial King would not be able to enter. This meant Celestial Lords would not be able to enter the upper realm at all. Even those Ten Directions Celestial Kings who suddenly had a breakthrough and become a One Basic Celestial Lord in the upper realm would be transported out immediately.

Soon after, a shocking thought appeared in the mind of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect's core disciple. 'Don't... Don't t-tell me Vice Hall Master Jun took the Reversal Poison Pill just to avenge his great-grandchildren?!'

The Wind Thunder Dao Sect's core disciple was no stranger to the Reversal Poison Pill. This was because one of the chief alchemists in the sect specialized in refining the Reversal Poison Pill. However, the pills were usually used to harm others. No one, at least not to his knowledge, had ever knowingly and willingly consumed the pill.

'It seems like Vice Hall Master Jun had heard about that Huan'er reappearing in the upper realm...' The Wind Thunder Dao Sect's core disciple sighed as he watched Jun Chong Shan collect an Identity Jade Token before he left the safe zone.

"Hm?" All of a sudden, a contemptuous expression appeared on the face of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect's core disciple. He had seen a few people following Jun Chong Shan out of the safe zone. He said with a sneer, "Those people are seeking death!"

Although Jun Chong Shan's cultivation base had regressed to that of a Ten Directions Celestial King, he had been, up until recently, a One Basic Celestial Lord, after all. As the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall and a former One Basic Celestial Lord, ordinary Ten Directions Celestial Kings were naturally no match for him. Moreover, he had retained his comprehension of all nine profundities from the law of fire.

Perhaps, in the entire upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Huan'er was the only one who was a match for him in terms of comprehension of their respective laws. Even the Tao Scholar Profound Sect's Yan Ru Yv who topped the scoreboard continuously for 100 years could not beat Jun Chong Shan in this aspect.

...

A month later, somewhere in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Zhang Jin Yi had just killed a middle-aged man. He waved his hand and obtained the middle-aged man's points.

'It seems like they've returned to the safe zone or intentionally stopped eliminating others like I did previously.' When Zhang Jin Yi checked the scoreboard through the Identity Jade Token, he discovered Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian's rankings had dropped.

During this one month, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's points did not change. As a result, their ranks began to drop. Since the scoreboard would be refreshed tomorrow, no matter how low their ranks dropped, it was impossible for them to fall below 50th place.

'Just you wait.'

Currently, Zhang Jin Yi's points put him in 40th place. With this, he would be able to follow Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian into the grade-three secret realm.

Up until now, he was still uncertain if the duo were impostors or not. However, based on the duo's performance this time, he was inclined to believe they were impostors. Nevertheless, he still planned to confirm the matter.

...

Meanwhile, Jun Chong Shan who entered the upper realm a month ago looked at the scoreboard through his Identity Jade Token as well. He saw he was ranked 59th.

Jun Chong Shan did not use his real name. Instead, he used the name Jun Qiu Chen, a portmanteau of his two great-grandchildren's names.

His eyes flashed coldly as he muttered to himself, "It's almost time. The scoreboard will be refreshed tomorrow, and the secret realms will open... The grade-three secret realm will be their burial ground!"

...

The Imperial Tutor Pavilion in the Profound Nether Mansion's estate.

"Let's go." Duan Ling Tian held Huan'er's hand after he brought the Formation compass out so they could enter the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm again.

After the duo left the upper realm a month ago, they returned to the Imperial Tutor Pavilion. During that time, they spent most of their time with the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion.

Since the scoreboard would be refreshed in an hour, and the secret realms would open, it was, naturally, time for Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to return to the upper realm.

...

When Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er appeared in the safe zone, they did not attract much attention.

Most people were focused on their Identity Jade Token, watching the scoreboard.

An hour passed by quickly, and the rankings for the year were finalized.

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's rankings dropped all the way below 60th place. Nevertheless, their ranks would still grant them entry to the grade-three secret realm.

"There will be 70 people in the grade-three secret realm, and all of us only have ten days in there." Although Duan Ling Tian had never been to the grade-three secret realm, he had heard a thing or two about it. Not only was the duration one was allowed to stay in the grade-three secret realm shorter compared to the other two secret realms, but the tests and obstacles were also the most difficult. Compared to the grade-three secret realm, one would feel like they were strolling in a park in the grade-one secret realm.

'I wonder if seventy of us will be transported to the same place in the grade-three secret realm,' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian felt the Identity Jade Token in hand warming up. His hand instinctively tightened its grip around Huan'er's hands.

Darkness crowded his vision, and when his sight was restored, he discovered he was in a cage.

Apart from that, he discovered there were many huge bear-like beasts chained outside of the cage. There were a few smaller beasts as well. Despite their size, they looked incredibly terrifying and ferocious.

Apart from that, there were other cages as well.

“Brother Ling Tian, these beasts are all an illusion.”

Huan’er’s voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears, pulling him back to the present.

As a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, Huan’er was a master of illusions. She did not need to care about Illusory Formations or techniques at all. It was only natural that she easily saw through the illusions outside the cage.

After Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he discovered there were another eight people in the cage. ‘I thought all seventy of us would be transported to the same place... It seems like we’re split into groups of ten instead...’

After Duan Ling Tian swept his eyes across the other eight people, he found two familiar faces. The others were complete strangers.

As though they could sense Duan Ling Tian’s gaze, the two people turned around. They seemed pleasantly surprised when they saw him and Huan’er.

“It’s Miss Huan’er and Duan Ling Tian.”

When the other six people heard these words, they turned around immediately to look at Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er. The duo was hard to miss, especially Huan’er with her beauty that eclipsed everything in her surroundings.

“Huan’er? Duan Ling Tian?”

“Hey, it’s really Huan’er!”

“It’s really them! I didn’t expect this. I thought they were impostors”

“Why are they in the grade-three secret realm?”

“It doesn’t matter why. Their presence in the grade-three secret realm is beneficial to us.”

The six people seemed pleased that Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were with them.

When the seventy people were transported to the grade-three secret realm, they were split into seven groups. One lucky group would be able to enter the secret realm immediately while the other six groups would have to fight. Out of the six groups, only the three victorious groups would be able to enter.

At this moment, someone cried out, “Hey, we’re in group three!”

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian discovered a sign with the number three had appeared at some point in midair in the cage.

At this moment, a monotonous voice rang in the air. "Group five will have a bye¹."

Everyone in Duan Ling Tian's cage heard it as well. In fact, everyone in the seven cages heard these words.

Someone laughed. "It's us! We're group five!"

"We just have to wait before we can enter the secret realm! I didn't think I'd be so lucky to draw a bye."

"After twenty years, this is my first time drawing a bye."

Group five's cage was noisy. Everyone, except for one person who stood in a corner with a frown on his face, was excited and delighted.

At this moment, a middle-aged man approached the frowning young man and said with a good-natured smile, "Brother, we drew a bye. Aren't you happy?"

"F*ck off," the young man said coldly.

The middle-aged man's expression darkened immediately,

Meanwhile, the other eight people in cage five looked on as though they were watching a show.

"Brother, I'm merely asking if you're happy. There's no need for you to be so hostile, right?" the middle-aged man said in a deep voice. He, naturally, felt humiliated and embarrassed, especially since everyone was watching.

"One more word from you, and I'll kill you," the young man said tonelessly as he looked at the middle-aged man.

"Did you say you'll kill me?" The middle-aged man laughed mockingly. "Brother, do you know I rank 33th on the scoreboard?"

The young man sneered at the middle-aged man's words. It did not seem like he had moved at all, but a faint wave of energy brewed in the air suddenly.

Thud!

Just like that, the middle-aged man fell to the ground, dead. His mocking smile was frozen on his face.

Chapter 3209: Group Three Versus Group Six

The middle-aged man's sudden death stunned the other eight people in the cage. Their expressions were one of horror when they shifted their eyes back to the young man, looking as though they had seen a ghost. All of them were familiar with the middle-aged man who died. They knew the middle-aged man was stronger than them, and yet, the young man had easily killed the middle-aged man in just a blink of an eye.

Most of them were confused and shared the same thought at this moment. Why was the young man in the grade-three secret realm when he could easily enter the grade-two secret realm with his strength?

Despite being convinced by the young man's strength, they were unaware that they had grossly underestimated the young man at this time. After all, if the young man so wished, he could easily top the scoreboard of the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm during the nine years he spent in the upper realm. Even the Tao Scholar Profound Sect's Yan Ru Yv was far from being a match for him.

The young man was none other than Zhang Jin Yi who was currently using the name 'Dong Yue'. He had assumed he would be able to meet Huan'er as soon as he entered the grade-three secret realm. Who knew he would be transported into a cage? Most importantly, Huan'er was not even among the nine people who were in the same cage as him.

"With his strength, we'll definitely be able to defeat the other group and enter the grade-three secret realm even if our group didn't draw a bye."

At this moment, the others in group five finally realized why the young man was not moved when they learned that their group had drawn a bye. With his strength, it made no difference if they had drawn a bye or not.

...

Meanwhile...

'I'm not in the same group as that woman Huan'er?' Jun Chong Shan who was using the pseudonym 'Jun Qiu He' was assigned to group six. When he looked around, he discovered his group was composed of all men.

At this moment, an old man looked at Jun Chong Shan and asked with a smile, "Brother, I've never seen you before... How should I address you?"

Among the ten men in group six, apart from the old man who had spoken and Jun Chong Shan, the others had the appearances of a young man or a middle-aged man. For this reason, the old man felt a sense of solidarity with Jun Chong Shan.

Jun Chong Shan glanced at the old man and replied indifferently, "Jun Qiu Chen."

"Jun Qiu Chen?" The old man was momentarily taken aback when he heard Jun Chong Shan's reply. Then, he smiled and said, "I've heard a lot about you..."

In truth, the old man had never heard of the name 'Jun Qiu Chen', he had only said those words out of courtesy.

Jun Chong Shan did not hesitate to expose the old man's fake pleasantries as he said, "This is my first time entering the upper realm using this name..."

The old man's smile froze on his face immediately. Then, he said indignantly, "How rude! Don't push your luck!"

"I don't need luck." Jun Chong Shan's voice was dripping with disdain when he spoke. He was the lofty Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, after all. How could the old man, an ordinary Ten Directions Celestial King, compare to him? Moreover, the old man's presence in the grade-three realm also proved that he had only comprehended one profundity of a law to the initial stage at most. Someone like that was incredibly average.

"Rookies nowadays are really arrogant creatures..." The old man's voice and gaze turned frosty. It felt as though the temperature in the cage had dropped.

Jun Chong Shan sneered before he asked mockingly, "So what? Are you going to teach me a lesson?"

"That's right!" The old man mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy immediately, forming a sea of flames. Then, he swept toward Jun Chong Shan like a ball of flames.

"Amateur! You dare play with fire in front of me..." Jun Chong Shan smirked. Then, similar to the old man, his Celestial Origin Energy formed a sea of flames as well.

Under everyone's watchful gaze, Jun Chong Shan's sea of flames easily devoured the old man.

The old man did not even have time to put up resistance. Just like that, he was burned into nothing. The only thing left of him was a lone Spatial Ring, which Jun Chong Shan casually collected.

When the people in the cage regained their senses, they inhaled sharply. At the same time, they looked at Jun Chong Shan with a puzzled expression. What was this person

doing here when he could easily rank in the top 20 or top 30 with his strength? A moment later, the puzzled expressions on their faces were replaced with one of delight. With someone so strong in their group, it would be easy for them to defeat the other group and enter the grade-three secret realm.

...

Time continued to tick by...

After an hour, an entrance to the realm that seemed to be filled with trees, flowers, and birds appeared in front of group five's cage.

Before everyone left the cage, Zhang Jin Yi stopped them and asked, "How big is the grade-three secret realm?"

Now that these people had witnessed Zhang Jin Yi's terrifying strength, they, naturally, did not dare to act boldly.

One of them hurriedly answered in a flattering tone, "My lord, the grade-three secret realm isn't big. An ordinary Ten Directions Celestial King would be able to cover all the grounds in just a day or two. Despite its size, the tests and obstacles here are incredibly difficult to pass. The more precious a treasure is, the harder the tests would be... However, with your strength, the tests won't pose any difficulty to you at all..."

'It would only take a day or two for an ordinary Ten Directions Celestial King to cover all the grounds of the grade-three secret realm?' Zhang Jin Yi's eyes brightened. With these words, he was not worried he would not be able to find Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian.

After walking out of the entrance, Zhang Jin Yi turned back. He discovered that there were another three entrances that were still closed next to group five's entrance.

Upon seeing Zhang Jin Yi looking at the closed entrances, a middle-aged man hurriedly explained, "My lord, the other groups are behind these entrances. Once they're finished with their fights, the entrances would open, and they would be able to come out. On the other hand, our entrance will close once everyone from our group leaves. The only way to leave is to crush our Identity Jade Tokens or wait until ten days have passed."

"You're saying those who win the fight will all come out through these entrances?" Although Zhang Jin Yi had already guessed this, his eyes still brightened when he heard these words.

"Yes, my lord." The middle-aged man nodded. "They'll come through these entrances. Similarly, after all of them come out, the entrances will disappear as well."

"Okay." Zhang Jin Yi nodded.

"My lord, if there is nothing else, can I take my leave?" The middle-aged man only dared to leave after seeing Zhang Jin Yi nod.

'It seems like there's no need for me to search for them. All I need to do is wait here,' Zhang Jin Yi thought to himself as he looked at the other three entrances.

At the same time, the entrance where Zhang Jin Yi exited closed after everyone had left.

...

Meanwhile...

At this time, a monotonous voice rang in the room where the other cages were located.

"Group three versus group six."

"Our opponent is group six!"

"No matter which group it is, we don't have to be afraid since Miss Huan'er and Lord Duan Ling Tian are here!"

The other eight people in group three were confident since they had Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er in their group.

At this moment, one side of the cage opened up. A chain bridge leading out of the cage appeared outside the cage as well.

"Miss Huan'er, Lord Duan Ling Tian, the bridge leads to the battlefield. If you're in danger, you can leave by crushing your Identity Jade Tokens," someone explained to Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

At the same time, the eight people in group six were feeling extremely confident as well. After all, even with their collective strength, they knew they were not a match for Jun Chong Shan. With someone like

that in their group, they, naturally, were confident they would be able to defeat group three and enter the grade-three secret realm.

“My lord, please.”

The men in group six were extremely respectful toward Jun Chong Shan, allowing him to walk first.

Jun Chong Shan did not hesitate and took the lead to walk out onto the chain bridge that would lead them to the people from group three.

‘I hope those two are in group three. Otherwise, I’d have to defeat my opponents as fast as I can so I can leave this place and wait for them to arrive.’ When Jun Chong Shan was a mere core disciple in the Wind Thunder Dao Sect, he had entered the upper realm before. Therefore, he was familiar with all the secret realms.

The battlefield seemed to be located in space. Stars could even be seen twinkling from afar. Two chain bridges could be seen at the sides of the battlefield.

Group six that was led by Jun Chong Shan was the first to arrive.

It did not take long before the people from group three arrived as well. Among this group of people, there was a young man and a breath-taking beauty dressed in all white.

“What a beauty!”

“In my opinion, she’s even more beautiful than the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect’s Ouyang Yu Wei!”

“She’s Huan’er!”

“I thought it’s an impostor since it’s not difficult for Huan’er to enter the grade-one secret realm!”

“I wonder why she decided to come to the grade-three secret realm.”

When the men in group six discovered the beauty in group three was Huan’er, their expressions turned grave immediately.

On the contrary, the eyes of the de facto leader of group six, Jun Chong Shan, shone with killing intent.

Chapter 3210: Jun Chong Shan’s Death

Duan Ling Tian immediately discovered Jun Chong Shan’s killing intent toward Huan’er. His heart thumped heavily when he thought to himself, ‘Who’s he? Why is he so hostile toward Huan’er?’

At this moment, Jun Chong Shan could no longer hold back. He cried out, “Indeed, a beauty who only brings disaster... Today, this old man will kill you on behalf of the gods!”

As soon as these words rang in the air, the people from group three and group six made a move immediately.

Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were the only ones who remained calm as Jun Chong Shan charged toward them.

Jun Chong Shan cast all the profundities from the law of fire as he shot toward Huan'er.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Raging flames shrouded Jun Chong Shan's body as he swept toward Huan'er like a ball of flames.

'The initial stage of the Burning Profundity, the Explosion Profundity, the Pillaging Profundity, and the Fire Style Profundity!' Based on this, Duan Ling Tian could tell Jun Chong Shan was powerful. 'Who's he? Even the person who's ranked first in the upper realm isn't as strong as he is, right?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

A Ten Directions Celestial King who had comprehended all nine profundities from the law of fire and with four of the profundities at the initial stage was almost invincible in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Even the pride of the 10,000 Battles Heaven Sect from 100 years ago only comprehended three profundities to the initial stage at that time before he was replaced by the true disciple from the Tao Scholar Profound Sect.

Duan Ling Tian hurriedly reminded Huan'er through Voice Transmission. "Huan'er, don't kill him yet. We need to find out his identity and why he seems to hold a grudge against you."

At this moment, Jun Chong Shan abruptly came to a stop. He directed his energy toward the space next to Huan'er as he exclaimed excitedly, "He'er, Chen'er, great-grandfather will be able to avenge both of you today! Both of you can finally rest in peace!"

Upon hearing Jun Chong Shan's words, Duan Ling Tian grew even more confused. He did not recognize the two names that the old man mentioned.

Huan'er voice promptly rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Brother Ling Tian, he's the great-grandfather of Jun Wang Chen and Jun Qiu He from the Wind Thunder Dao Sect."

At this moment, Jun Chong Shan had already been caught in the Illusory Formation that Huan'er had cast. Due to her being a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, the effects from the formation were rather strong. Apart from that, the Illusory Formation also allowed her to read the old man's thoughts. This technique that was unique to a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox was somewhat similar to mind-reading techniques as well.

'So he's Jun Wang Chen and Jun Qiu He's great-grandfather!' Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian. He recalled Jun Wang Chen was the first person he and Huan'er killed in the upper realm. Meanwhile, Huan'er had killed Jun Qiu He in the grade-two secret realm. Now he understood why the old man was so hostile toward Huan'er.

'It seems like he's been trying to seek revenge from us for a long time now... Based on his strength, there's no need for him to enter the upper realm and its secret realms as well. In fact, he was probably not qualified to enter the upper realm with his strength. He must have taken the Wind Thunder Dao Sect's famous Reversal Poison Pill. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to enter the upper realm at all.'

Previously, after killing Jun Qiu He, Duan Ling Tian had a conversation about the Wind Thunder Dao Sect with the Pavilion Master of the Imperial Tutor Pavilion after he left the upper realm. At that time, the pavilion master had briefly mentioned that Jun Qiu He and Jun Wang Chen's great-grandfather was the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect. He also learned the duo's great-

grandfather was a One Basic Celestial Lord. Since Celestial Lords could not enter the upper realm, it was not difficult to deduce that the old man had taken the Reversal Poison Pill to enter the upper realm. Through the pavilion master, he also learned about the Reversal Poison Pill, which was famous in the Southern Heaven Territory, and its potent effect

‘How courageous! He’s willing to take the Reversal Poison Pill just to avenge his great-grandchildren.’ Duan Ling Tian rather admired the old man’s courage. After all, not many would take the Reversal Poison Pill since it would decrease one’s strength. Most people used the pills to harm others instead.

“Since I’ve obtained the answers I want, it’s time to end this once and for all,” Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself. Then, he vanished into thin air and reappeared behind Jun Chong Shan.

Bang!

When Duan Ling Tian extended his hand and directed his Celestial Origin Energy that was boosted by the law of space’s Space Elemental Profundity toward the old man, the old man recovered from the effects of Huan’er’s Illusory Formation.

“Impossible!” Jun Chong Shan cried out as his eyes widened in disbelief when he saw Huan’er standing not too far away. After that, he exploded into a mist of blood. Just like that, the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect died in the grade-three secret realm in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

...

In the Wind Thunder Dao Sect’s estate.

At this moment, Jun Chong Shan’s Soul Pearl that was kept along with the Soul Pearls of the other high-ranking officials of the sect shattered.

When the disciple who guarded the Soul Pearls discovered Jun Chong Shan’s shattered Soul Pearl, he immediately reported the matter to one of the Vice Sect Leaders of the Wind Thunder Dao Sect.

An investigation was quickly launched to investigate Jun Chong Shan’s death.

It did not take long before they learned that Jun Chong Shan had taken the Reversal Poison Pill so he could enter the upper realm.

...

Back at the grade-three secret realm in the upper realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

After killing Jun Chong Shan with Huan’er’s help, Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to the people from group three and group six. Without his and Huan’er’s interference, both sides seemed equally matched at the moment.

At this moment, one of the men from group six discovered Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er were completely unharmed after killing Jun Chong Shan. He became frightened and hastily crushed his Identity Jade Token to escape.

Upon seeing this, the other men from group six crushed their Identity Jade Tokens one after another as well.

The eight people from Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's group were baffled when they saw their opponents crushing their Identity Jade Tokens and leaving one after another. However, they easily figured out what had happened when they saw Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er standing at the side while the old man who had attacked the duo earlier was nowhere to be seen.

'Jun Chong Shan couldn't even make a move before he died. However, he's fortunate to die in Huan'er's Illusory Formation.'

Although Huan'er Illusory Formation was very powerful, it had a time limit. With her current cultivation base, she could only maintain it for a few breaths. Earlier, Jun Chong Shan regained his senses when Duan Ling Tian made a move, but it was not because Huan'er had dispelled the formation. He had regained his senses because the time was up.

Now that Huan'er had used the Illusory Formation, it would take a few days before she could cast the Formation again.

Duan Ling Tian and the others from group three were, naturally, the winners after Jun Chong Shan died and the others retreated.

In the endless starry sky, an entrance appeared.

"The entrance is open!"

"We can finally enter the grade-three secret realm!"

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"That's fast." Zhang Jin Yi's eyes lit up when one of the entrances showed signs of opening. He speculated inwardly, 'This group must be strong to finish the fight so fast. If Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, who came to this secret realm to gain experience, aren't impostors, they must be among this group of people!'

Soon enough, the entrance opened and eight people walked out. Two people were clearly missing.

When the eight people who just arrived were about to leave, Zhang Jin Yi blocked their paths and asked, "There should be two more people in your group... Do you know who they are?"

An ill-tempered man from group three yelled, "Get lost!"

Needless to say, that man met a miserable end.

Zhang Jin Yi's eyes glinted coldly as he waved his hand.

A golden beam of light shot out, leaving ripples in the air as it shot toward the ill-tempered man.

Just like that, the ill-tempered man died. It happened so fast that he did not even have time to react, let alone crush his Identity Jade Token.

The expressions of the remaining people from group three changed drastically when they witnessed this.

“My lord, the other two people are Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er.” A young man from group three stepped forward immediately. He did not hesitate to betray Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er. After all, faced with such a powerful and cruel person, the only thing he could think of was to preserve his life.

“Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er? Are you sure they’re not impostors?” Zhang Jin Yi asked solemnly.

“I’m sure they’re not impostors,” another man shook his head and said, “Put aside Duan Ling Tian, that woman is so beautiful. I’ve lived for a few thousand years now, but she’s the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen. It’s not an exaggeration to say she’s the most beautiful woman in the world. There’s no doubt she’s Huan’er.”

With this, the others from group three began to chime in one after another.

“Even Ouyang Yu Wei from the Hundred Flowers Celestial Sect who was known as the most beautiful woman in the upper realm isn’t a match for Huan’er’s beauty.”

‘There’s no doubt those two are Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er!’

Zhang Jin Yi’s eyes brightened again when he heard the words of the people from group three.

Swoosh!

An expression of horror appeared on the seven people’s faces when they saw Zhang Jin Yin make a move.

A golden beam of light shot out again.

The seven people were still in a daze, unable to react, when they died.

The technique that Zhang Jin Yi used was exclusive to direct descendants of the main Phantom Fox Clan. This technique affected one’s mind.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, two figures came out of the entrance. They were none other than Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er.