

Chapter 3251: Hot Potatoes

The expressions of the members from the Blood Skull Gang changed drastically when they saw Duan Ling Tian directly killing Leng Ye.

“Chen Yuan Shan!” the red-clad middle-aged man, the Leader of the Blood Skull Gang, called out as he turned to look at one of the members standing behind him. Following that, he said in a deep voice, “Back then, it was your son who accepted the job to assassinate Duan Ling Tian. If the Blood Skull Gang is destroyed today, the sin will fall on you!”

“My lord, this isn’t the time to be blaming each other,” Chen Yuan Shan said with a bitter smile, “It’s obvious Duan Ling Tian doesn’t intend to let the Blood Skull Gang go. Otherwise, why would he destroy our headquarters?”

The expression of the red-clad middle-aged man changed as soon as he heard Chen Yuan Shan’s words. Indeed, Chen Yuan Shan had a point.

Without waiting for the red-clad middle-aged man to respond, Chen Yuan Shan continued to say, “My lord, let’s attack all at once. Even if we do nothing, we’ll still die anyway...”

With Chen Yuan Shan’s instigation, the Blood Skull Gang high-ranking officials present on the scene made a move immediately.

Dazzling energies in various colors shot toward Duan Ling Tian in just a blink of an eye.

“Perfect,” Duan Ling Tian said as his fighting spirit rose. Subsequently, he flew forward as he activated his space energy to deal with the attacks from the high-ranking officials of the Blood Skull Gang.

With the first move, Duan Ling Tian killed Chen Yuan Shan; with his second move, he killed the Leader of the Blood Skull Gang. Following that, he continued to kill the high-ranking officials of the Blood Skull Gang one after another.

In the end, after witnessing the deaths of their comrades, the surviving high-ranking officials of the Blood Skull Gang lost all will to fight and began to flee in different directions.

In one move, Chen Yuan Shan was killed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian cast his Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity and sent nine sword rays after them. Needless to say, all of them died.

From the beginning to the end, Zhuge Yun only watched indifferently. When the battle ended, she could not help but ask Zhuge Feng who was standing next to you, “Hey, at his age, you didn’t manage to become a Celestial Lord, right?”

Zhuce Feng responded indifferently, “Isn’t it the same for you?”

At Duan Ling Tian’s age, the Zhuge siblings were only Celestial Kings, unlike Duan Ling Tian who was a Celestial Lord. It should be noted that the twins had joined the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect since

they were young and enjoyed the vast resources the sect provided them. Even then, their achievement at Duan Ling Tian's age was inferior to Duan Ling Tian's achievement now. Therefore, they were slightly embarrassed when they witnessed Duan Ling Tian's performance.

After a brief moment, Zhuge Yun asked with a smile, "Are we going to return to the Jade Emperor Heaven now?"

"Senior, I'd like to go to the Heavenly Territory's Phantom Fox Clan... I'm worried the He Clan will spread the word about my connection to the Profound Nether Mansion. If that happens, the main Phantom Fox Clan might cause trouble for the Profound Nether Mansion." Then, he glanced at Huan'er before he continued to say, "Moreover, as long as Huan'er is still alive, they won't stop trying to capture her or kill her..."

"They want to capture Huan'er?" The smile on Zhuge Yun's face disappeared immediately and was replaced with a frosty expression. "The Phantom Fox Clan is really bold..."

Duan Ling Tian explained, "Huan'er is a rare Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Only one would appear every 1,000,000 years. She's from the Du Clan, but the Phantom Fox Clan here is mainly controlled by the Zhang Clan and Yuan Clan. Therefore, there's no way they would allow her to leave since she's a threat to their power. Since both of you are here, I'd like to ask you to give the Phantom Fox Clan a warning so they won't dare to target her anymore..."

"A warning? I'm afraid that's not all they'd get." Zhuge Yun smiled icily. "We should kill at least a few of their Celestial Emperors."

Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless by Zhuge Yun's words. Kill a few Celestial Emperors? She spoke about killing Celestial Emperors as though they were as easy to kill as ants. He thought to himself with a sigh, 'When will I be powerful enough to utter such words with confidence?'

Duan Ling Tian was aware that despite his cultivation base, his strength was currently comparable to an ordinary One Basic Celestial Emperor. However, to exert all his strength meant that he would have to expose many of his techniques that he would prefer to keep hidden. In fact, he even had no intention of revealing his true strength to the Zhuge siblings. Although the siblings seemed to harbor no ill intentions at this moment, would they be able to resist the temptation if they knew about the treasures in his Little World?

In the mundane realms, there was no shortage of usually affectionate siblings fighting for inheritance. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian knew he could not carelessly reveal his strength unless it was absolutely necessary.

The people Duan Ling Tian had met in the past were not very exposed and their knowledge was limited. Therefore, they did not know about the Five Divine Elements. However, the people around him now were different. There was no doubt they knew what the Five Divine Elements were. It was entirely possible that the Zhuge siblings knew about the Five Divine Elements and were able to identify them.

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During their journey to a Devata Realm Transporting Formation to head to the Seven Upper Provinces' Heavenly Territory in the Spirit Overarching Realm, Duan Ling Tian decided to test the water. He asked, "Seniors, have you heard about the Five Divine Elements?"

"Of course," Zhuge Yun replied without any hesitation. "All Five Divine Elements are priceless. If you're able to evolve one to the highest form, it'd be able to increase your strength tremendously. I heard that if you possess one Divine Element at the sixth form, their potential to become a god is really high!" A hint of longing could be seen in Zhuge Yun's eyes when she finished speaking.

'I see.' Duan Ling Tian inhaled sharply inwardly upon hearing Zhuge Yun's words. This confirmed his earlier thoughts. He was even more determined not to expose the fact that he possesses all Five Divine Elements. He was now even more certain he could not use any of the Five Divine Element's power because Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun would definitely be able to recognize them. Unlike the others he had encountered in the past, they would not mistake the Five Divine Elements' energies as energies from the profundities of a law.

"Why did you ask?" Zhuge Yun asked curiously.

"When I was in the Genius Secret Realm, I heard one of the grassroots prodigies talking about the Chaos Divine Flame. They said it could replace the Pill Fire," Duan Ling Tian replied, "It was then I learned that there's such an amazing thing in this world."

"The Chaos Divine Flame is just one of the Five Divine Elements," Zhuge Yun shook her head and said with a smile, "There are also the Profound Divine Metal, the World Cleansing Divine Water, the Clear Heavens Divine Wood, and the Chaos Divine Earth... Perhaps, no one would be able to recognize them as Divine Elements if they were in their first form. In fact, most people would think they were useless. The Five Divine Elements are indestructible, even gods might not be able to destroy them, most people would still think the Divine Elements are useless. This applied to the gods as well. After all, there were many things that don't have much use but are indestructible in the Realms of Gods."

Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian recalled Xia Jie, Ke'er's third uncle in her past life, who had given him the first-form Profound Divine Metal. There was no doubt Xia Jie knew about the Five Divine Elements. However, at that time, the Profound Divine Metal was still in its form so Xia Jie, a god from the Realm of Gods, did not recognize it.

Earlier, when he heard Zhuge Yun's words, he was baffled. If she knew about the Five Divine Elements, why did Xia Jie, a god, not know about the Five Divine Elements. However, he now realized it was not that Xia Jie did not know about the Five Divine Elements. It was because the Profound Divine Metal was still in its first form so Xia Jie could not tell it was one of the Five Divine Elements.

Zhuce Yun continued to say, "Once the Five Divine Elements reach their second form, we'll be able to identify them. Needless to say, if a second-form Divine Element appears, people would fight to the death for it, and this includes Celestial Emperors and titled Celestial Emperors."

Duan Ling Tian stiffened slightly upon hearing these words. "Even titled Celestial Emperors would fight for a second-form Divine Element?"

In his Little World, Duan Ling Tian had all five of the Divine Elements! If words spread about this, would Heavenly Emperors from different Devata Realms hunt him down to obtain the Five Divine Elements in his Little World? He inhaled deeply when he thought about this possibility.

After listening to Zhuge Yun, Duan Ling Tian felt the Five Divine Elements were like hot potatoes. However, those who possessed them might invite disaster if they were not kept a secret. Based on the way Zhuge Yun spoke about the Divine Elements, she might even be the first to try to snatch them away from him if she found out that he possessed the Five Divine Elements.

...

“We are here.”

After a while, Duan Ling Tian and the others finally arrived at a Devata Realm Transporting Formation. They did not waste time and stepped into the Formation and were immediately transported to the Heavenly Territory.

After arriving at the Heavenly Territory, it took them a few days before they found the Phantom Fox Clan’s estate. Naturally, they did not waste time and made their way there immediately.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘Although the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory is a grade-one force. Their strength is only comparable to the Nan Dou Territory’s Profound Sky Dao Sect, the Thousand Hands Devil Sect, and the Profound Cat Clan. All these forces are not a match for the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect at all.’ He came to this conclusion because he knew the ruler of the Heavenly Territory was only a titled Celestial Lord. There were no titled Celestial Lords in the Phantom Fox Clan. Even if there were other titled Celestial Lords, they were elusive and mostly kept to themselves.

If a grade-one force had a titled Celestial Lord, they would not allow an unknown titled Celestial Lord to rule the Heavenly Territory. This situation was somewhat similar to how the Nan Dou Territory’s Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, the Ancient Phoenix Clan, and the Baili Clan did not allow a titled Celestial Emperor to rule the Nan Dou Territory since they were strong enough to govern the territory.

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After two days, Duan Ling Tian and the others finally arrived at the Phantom Fox Clan’s estate. The estate was divided into two areas; one belonging to the Zhang Clan and the other belonged to the Yuan Clan.

As Duan Ling Tian looked at the Phantom Fox Clan’s estate from afar, he thought to himself, ‘Zhang Jin Yi from the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory who went to the Southern Heaven Territory to capture Huan’er should be from the Zhang Clan. Moreover, he’s likely a direct descendant of the Zhang Clan.’

Chapter 3252: The Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox

“The Leaders of the Phantom Fox Clan, the Zhang Clan, and the Yuan Clan, come out!” Duan Ling Tian said as he stared at the estate in front of him. His voice contained his powerful Celestial Origin Energy so his voice was instantly transmitted throughout the Phantom Fox Clan’s estate.

Needless to say, everyone in the Phantom Fox Clan was stunned upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. It caused a commotion in the earlier peaceful estate. Who was the person out there? He even dared to summon the two clan leaders?

"Did some powerhouse come to visit our clan leaders?"

"I don't think so. He doesn't sound like a guest. I wonder who it could be?"

...

Meanwhile, in a palace located on a stone platform halfway up a mountain that was part of the Phantom Fox Clan's Zhang Clan's territory.

A middle-aged man who was sipping tea in a courtyard frowned upon hearing the commotion. He was none other than Zhang Han Tian, the Clan Leader of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan. He was also the strongest person in the Zhang Clan at the moment. Although he was not comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor, he was still a Celestial Emperor.

Zhang Han Tian who was dressed in a light grey robe continued drinking tea as he sent a message out expressionlessly. "Grand elder, go and have a look outside. See who is so bold to make a commotion in front of our Phantom Fox Clan's estate."

As one of the Clan Leaders of the Phantom Fox Clan, a grade-one force in the Seven Upper Provinces' Heavenly Territory in the Spirit Overarching Heaven, how could Zhang Han Tian make an appearance just because he was told to do so?

"Understood, Clan Leader." Zhang Ping Ye, the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan was also the person who sent Zhang Jin Yi to the Southern Heaven Territory to verify if Huan'er was truly a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

As the grand elder made his way out, he sent a few messages to a few other people as well. By the time he reached the entrance of the estate, four more men had joined him.

As soon as Zhang Ping Ye arrived, he heard someone calling out to him.

"Elder Ping Ye."

Zhang Ping He looked up and saw another four men coming toward him from various directions in the Phantom Fox Clan's estate.

"Elder Yuan Yue," Zhang Ping Ye greeted the person leading the other three men.

The person in the lead was the Yuan Clan's Grand Elder while the three people standing behind him were elders in the Yuan Clan.

Yuan Yue did not beat around the bush and asked, "Elder Ping Ye, who do you think dares to make a commotion in front of our estate? Moreover, he has the audacity to summon our two clan leaders!"

"I don't know... Nonetheless, since he dares to act so boldly, he must be somewhat confident," Zhang Ping Ye said.

Usually, the Zhang Clan and Yuan Clan did not interfere with each other's affairs much. They only presented themselves as a united front in public. In other words, there was also internal strife in the Phantom Fox Clan between the Zhang Clan and the Yuan Clan.

"Let's go! We'll see for ourselves," Yuan Yue said. Then, he led the others from the Yuan Clan with him to the estate's entrance.

Similarly, Zhang Ping Ye led the other four from the Zhang Clan with him as well to the entrance of the estate.

When the people from the Zhang Clan and the Yuan Clan of the Phantom Fox Clan arrived at the entrance of the Phantom Fox Clan's estate, they saw four people.

"Two Celestial Emperors!"

As soon as Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue drew close to the four people, they could tell there were two Celestial Emperors among the four people. As for the remaining two people, they could not see through the cultivation base of one of them, therefore, they were not certain if he was a Celestial Emperor or not while they could only sense a peculiar vibe from the remaining person.

"This aura..."

The nine elders from Phantom Fox Clan, including Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue, were instantly attracted to Huan'er's aura.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue as he asked, "Are you the Clan Leaders of the Zhang Clan and the Yuan Clan?" Since the duo was clearly the leaders of the group, he addressed them first.

Moreover, Zhuge Yun had sent Duan Ling Tian a Voice Transmission, informing him that two people in the lead were Celestial Emperors while the others were only Celestial Lords.

'This voice...' Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's voice, Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue immediately confirmed he was the person who had demanded the clan leaders to show themselves.

Zhang Ping Ye took the initiative to speak first. He looked at Duan Ling Tian intently and said, "I'm the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan, Zhang Ping Ye. Why are you looking for the clan leader?"

Following that, Yuan Yue chimed in, "I'm Yuan Ye, the Grand Elder of the Yuan Clan. Not everyone is worthy of meeting our clan leaders. Even if you want to meet our clan leaders, you'd at least have to announce your identity first. At that time, our clan leaders will decide if they want to meet you or not..."

Upon hearing their words, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and sneered. "Do you think so highly of your clan leaders?"

At this moment, Zhuge Yun scoffed and stepped forward. She glowed dazzlingly for a brief moment before a sword ray appeared above her. It emitted a terrifying destructive aura as it shot out.

"No!" The expressions of Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue changed drastically when they saw Zhuge Yun's attack.

Meanwhile, the others could not react in time at all.

Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Ye felt death breathing down their necks at this moment. They hurriedly mobilized their Celestial Origin Energies and brought their purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons out. Apart from that, they brought out their offensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons as well to deflect Zhuge Yun's sword ray with all their might. After that, both of them joined forces; their energies merged into one before it collided with Zhuge Yun's sword ray.

Zhang Ping Ye's energy felt scorching out and was red. Clearly, it had been boosted with the law of fire.

On the other hand, Yuan Yue's energy felt cold and was blue, indicating that his Celestial Origin Energy had been boosted with the law of ice.

Swoosh!

The sword ray shot out with great momentum. It felt as though it was capable of destroying heaven and earth. It easily shattered Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue's energies when they collided.

After the collision, although the power of the sword ray had depleted somewhat, it suddenly split into two and shot toward Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue respectively.

Boom! Boom!

Two loud explosions rang in the air.

Zhang Ping Ye and Yuan Yue's purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons had managed to block the remaining power of the sword ray. Nonetheless, the price they had to pay was the destruction of their purely defensive Celestial Weapons.

The duo was sent flying back, spitting out mouthfuls of blood. The blood that spurted out their mouths drew an arc in the air, looking dazzling like red roses in full bloom.

"If your respective clan leaders don't show up in ten breaths, both of you will die here today," Zhuge Yun said icily in her melodious voice.

Zhang Ping Yue and Yuan Yue were badly shaken by Zhuge Yun's show of strength. Although they were Celestial Emperors, the woman had easily shattered their defenses and severely injured them with just a wave of her hand even after they had joined forces. They were aware even their clan leaders were not as powerful as this woman. If they still could not tell the people before them were not simple people, they would have lived their lives in vain.

"My lady, I'll speak to the clan leader now," Yuan Yue said hurriedly. He knew the woman was capable of killing him in just a blink of an eye if he continued to be stubborn.

Earlier, the woman had only struck casually without using any Celestial Weapon. If she had intended to kill them, they would not even be able to withstand one move from her.

Similarly, Zhang Ping Ye hurriedly sent a message to his clan leader as well.

For a moment, it was as silent as a graveyard.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian broke the silence and said to Huan'er with a smile, "Huan'er, when the clan leaders arrive, show them the silhouette of your true form."

Huan'er's true form was that of a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Duan Ling Tian planned to show the clan leaders her true form when they arrived. He wanted to see if they would still dare to act against her.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Just about five breaths had passed when the sound of wind whistling rang in the air. In just an instant, a middle-aged man dressed in grey robes and an old man with white eyebrows who was dressed in green robes appeared.

"Greetings from the Phantom Fox Clan's Zhang Clan in the Heavenly Territory!"

"Greetings from the Phantom Fox Clan's Yuan Clan in the Heavenly Territory. I'm Yuan Ming Xun."

The two clan leaders bowed and greeted Zhuge Yun as soon as they arrived. Since they had received the message from their respective grand elders, they knew the woman was incredibly powerful. In fact, she was probably not any weaker than a titled Celestial Emperor.

"Huan'er," Duan Ling Tian called out, reminding her of his instructions earlier.

In just a blink of an eye, the gigantic silhouette of a white fox as tall as a mountain appeared behind Huan'er. It possessed nine sacred tails and emitted a cold aura.

"This is..."

Upon seeing this, the clan leaders and the others who were present changed their expressions immediately.

"T-the T-thousand Phantoms Ice Fox?!"

The eleven people from the Phantom Fox Clan stared at the silhouette of the white fox behind Huan'er with jealousy brimming in their eyes.

The Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox was incredibly rare. Only one would appear every 1,000,000 years in the Phantom Fox Clan. They were given priority to become the Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan in whichever Devata Realm they were in.

This time, the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox appeared in the Du Clan that was the enemy of the Yuan Clan. Therefore, the Yuan Clan spared no effort in trying to kill Huan'er, the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox from the Du Clan.

In order to kill Huan'er, the Yuan Clan even made a deal with the Zhang Clan. If the Zhang Clan helped them to kill Huan'er, the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, the Yuan Clan would pay whatever price that was demanded of them.

Chapter 3253: Zhuge Feng Attacks

Cold killing intent flashed in the eyes of Yuan Ming Yun, the Clan Leader of the Yuan Clan in the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory, when he saw the silhouette of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox behind Huan'er. His Celestial Origin Energy raged and surged instinctively.

“The Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox!” Yuan Ming Yun did not have any enemies in his life, but there was nothing more he wanted than to kill the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. The Yuan Clan and the Du Clan were sworn enemies after all. The appearance of a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox in the Du Clan was a threat to the Yuan Clan. Therefore, he needed to kill Huan’er. He would not allow the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox to disrupt the power balance in the Phantom Fox Clan.

“Are you planning to kill Huan’er?” Duan Ling Tian asked icily as he narrowed his eyes. Enemies of Huan’er were also his enemies, after all.

At this moment, upon sensing Yuan Ming Yun’s killing intent, Zhang Han Tian, the Clan Leader of the Zhang Clan in the Phantom Fox Clan, reminded Yuan Ming Yun through Voice Transmission. “Yuan Ming Yun, don’t forget about the two Celestial Emperors with them. Do you think she’ll reveal her identity as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox for no reason?”

Yuan Ming Yuan was so overwhelmed with discovering the identity of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that he had briefly lost his sound judgment and could not control the killing intent that rose from his body. Fortunately, Zhang Han Tian’s prompt reminder pulled him back to his senses.

“So you’re the one who wants to kill Huan’er?” Zhuge Yun asked as her eyes glinted and she took a step forward.

Yuan Ming Yun felt a heavy pressure bearing down on him when Zhuge Yun stepped forward. He already knew how powerful she was through Zhang Ping Ye’s message, and he knew he was no match for her. In the end, he looked at her and asked in a submissive tone, “May I know who you are?”

“Zhuge Yun, the Leader of the Mo Xie Progeny in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect,” Zhuge Yun replied indifferently.

Upon hearing Zhuge Yun’s reply, Yuan Ming Yun and Zhang Han Tian’s expressions changed dramatically. Although the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect was in the Jade Emperor Heaven, their reputation had spread far and wide. After all, the sect used to be a heaven-grade force. Although it was now a grade-one force in the Nan Dou Territory, the sect was still incredibly powerful. Although the Phantom Fox Clan was also a grade-one force like the sect, the Phantom Fox Clan was not a match for the sect.

Rumors had it that there were a few powerhouses in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect who were comparable to titled Celestial Emperors. Among them, there was a pair of powerhouses who were known to be able to kill titled Celestial Emperors when they joined forces. They had only heard of this pair of Celestial Emperors from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and were not too familiar with the other powerhouses in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect.

They knew the pair of powerhouses from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect were called Zhuge Feng from the Gan Jiang Progeny and Zhuge Yun from the Mo Xie Progeny. Individually, their strength was comparable to a Celestial Emperor. However, if they joined forces, they were more than capable of killing titled Celestial Emperors.

Zhang Han Tian looked at Zhuge Yun in disbelief before he shifted his eyes to the cold and aloof person standing behind her. He asked, “You’re Lord Zhuge Yun... Then, a-are... are you Lord Zhuge Feng?”

“What do you think?” Zhuge Yun retorted.

“Greetings, my lords... I’m Zhang Han Tian, the Clan Leader of the Zhang Clan Leader in the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory. I apologize for our lack of hospitality. Please forgive us.” Zhang Han Tian formally bowed again to pay respect to Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun. At this moment, his back was drenched in cold sweat. If he had known their identities earlier, he would have been even more respectful.

When Zhang Han Tian bowed and Yuan Ming Yuan was about to follow suit, Zhuge Yun scoffed.

Zhuce Yun raised her hand as a sword shot out toward Yuan Ming Yun. Those in the know would be able to tell that the sword was the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect’s legendary and precious sword, the Mo Xie Celestial Sword. It was naturally not the famous Mo Xie Sword from earth, a planet in the Yan Huang Realm. It was an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon that the founders of the sect asked a weaponsmith to forge.

In the past, the founders of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect had hired weaponsmiths to forge ten Emperor Grade Celestial Swords. They had traveled far and wide in various Devata Realms to search for the necessary materials. Therefore, the ten Emperor Grade Celestial Swords in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect were much more powerful than ordinary Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons. In fact, they were comparable to Devata Artifacts. Moreover, a soulless Devata Artifact was no match for them at all.

Swoosh!

The Mo Xie Celestial Sword glow red. It looked peculiar; there seemed to be blood vessels on it with blood constantly flowing through them.

Meanwhile, after discovering the two Celestial Emperors were Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun, Yuan Ming Yun knew he would have to face the consequences since he had offended them.

As Yuan Ming Yun unleashed his Celestial Origin Energy without holding back to defend against Zhuge Yun’s Mo Xie Celestial Sword, he pleaded, “Lord Zhuge Yun, please have mercy.”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of earth-shattering explosions rang in the air as the energies from both sides collided.

The Mo Xie Celestial Sword continued on its path toward Yuan Ming Yun after breaching his defenses.

At this moment, Yuan Ming Yun’s eyes glinted as his Celestial Origin Energy surged and seemed to intensify. Following that, he hurriedly brought out Celestial Talismans and quickly crushed them.

Whoosh!

A defensive barrier created from the numerous talismans was instantly erected in front of Yuan Ming Yun and deflected Zhuge Yun’s Mo Xie Celestial Sword. After deflecting the sword, the barrier trembled violently before it disappeared.

“As expected of a Clan Leader of the Phantom Fox Clan. I didn’t expect to see so many high-grade defensive Celestial Talismans,” Zhuge Yun said airily as she looked at Yuan Ming Yun disdainfully.

Meanwhile, the Mo Xie Celestial Sword returned to Zhuge Yun’s hand.

“Lord Zhuge Yun, how... How did I offend you? Why must you kill me?” Although Yuan Ming Yuan possessed many defensive Celestial Talismans, he still felt frightened and vulnerable when he saw the killing intent in Zhuge Yun’s eyes that did not abate at all. Moreover, Zhuge Yun had Zhuge Feng by her side now. If both of them joined forces, all his defensive Celestial Talismans would be useless. The Celestial Talismans could only defend against ordinary Celestial Emperors at most. Moreover, the number of attacks the barrier could withstand was not infinite.

“You want to kill my Mo Xie Progeny’s only disciple... How could I spare you?” Zhuge Yun scoffed.

Yuan Ming Yuan was shocked upon hearing Zhuge Yun’s words. His expression turned grave immediately. The Thousand Phantom Ice Fox that he wanted to kill was the only disciple of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect’s Mo Xie Progeny?

Since Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun were rather famous, the progenies they belonged to were known to everyone as well. Apart from that, people also knew the Gan Jiang Progeny and the Mo Xie Progeny never had disciples at all.

Now that Yuan Ming Yun learned that the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox had become the only disciple of the Mo Xie Progeny, he knew he could no longer kill the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox today. He would have to scheme and do it in secret; he also had to make sure not to leave any traces that would lead back to him. Otherwise, a disaster would fall on the Phantom Fox Clan’s Yuan Clan.

Zhuce Yun might not be capable of annihilating his clan alone, but with Zhuge Feng, it would not be a difficult feat at all. Since Zhuge Yun and Zhuge Feng were twins, would Zhuge Feng do nothing to help his sister?

Yuan Ming Yun’s expression was dark as he was lost in thoughts.

Whoosh!

At this moment, Zhuge Feng disappeared into thin air and reappeared behind Yuan Ming Yun.

A sword cry rang in the air as Zhuge Feng raised his hand. A sword shot out toward Yuan Ming Yun immediately.

Meanwhile, Yuan Ming Yuan did not even notice Zhuge Feng was behind him since his attention was focused on Zhuge Yun. As expected, just like that, he was killed by Zhuge Feng.

“How fast!” Duan Ling Tian could not help but exclaim when he saw Zhuge Feng move. Zhuge Feng’s speed was not inferior to the speed of the Teleportation Profundity so one could imagine just how terrifyingly fast Zhuge Feng’s speed that was boosted by the law of wind was. He thought to himself, ‘His speed is too fast. With his speed, it’s not difficult for him to catch up to me even if I use the Teleportation Profundity.’

Yuan Ming Yun, the Clan Leader of the Yuan Clan Leader of the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory, was killed in a blink of an eye before Zhang Han Tian and the other elders. All of them, apart from Yuan Yue, the Grand Elder of the Yuan Clan, did not dare to move a muscle at all when they

witnessed Yuan Ming Yun's death. Since the twins were capable of killing Yuan Ming Yun, it would be no harder than flicking their fingers if the twins wanted to kill them.

Zhang Han Tian gulped. He did not expect to watch his rival for so many years die before his eyes. Despite being rivals, they were in the same clan after all. He could not help but feel sympathetic over Yuan Ming Yun's death. Nevertheless, he did not want to end up like his rival so he said resolutely, "My lords, the Zhang Clan will never harm Miss Huan'er."

Zhang Han Tian was relieved that he was not very insistent about killing the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Although the appearance of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox in the Du Clan might pose a threat to the Zhang Clan, the relationship between both clans was not as tense compared to the Yuan Clan. If he truly harbored hatred toward Huan'er, he would not have been able to suppress his killing intent when he saw Huan'er's true form.

At this moment, Yuan Yue, the Grand Elder of the Yuan Clan, hurriedly said in earnest, "My lords, the Yuan Clan will never ever attack the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox as well." He looked at Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun fearfully as he spoke.

Chapter 3254: Huan'er's Mother's Past

Yuan Ming Yun was one of the two strongest members of the main Phantom Fox Clan's Yuan Clan in the Heavenly Territory. His strength was almost comparable to that of a titled Celestial Emperor, and yet, he had been so easily killed by Zhuge Feng. Although Zhuge Feng's attack was a sneak attack, the Phantom Fox Clan members present on the scene knew if Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun joined forces, Yuan Ming Yun would still not be a match for them. Let alone one Yuan Ming Yun, even if they were ten Yuan Ming Yun, they still would not be a match for Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun if they joined forces. Since they were aware of this, even after Yuan Ming Yun's death, Zhang Han Tian and the others could only submit to the twins out of fear of the twins venting their anger on them.

"From today onward, if I find out any of you dare to plot against Huan'er... I'll annihilate your entire clan!" Zhuge Yun said as her eyes glinted coldly while stared at Zhang Han Tian and the others.

"Rest assured, my lord. Even if our Zhang Clan has 100 times the courage, we still won't dare to plot against Miss Huan'er," Zhang Han Tian said with a bitter smile on his face.

"My lord, the same goes for the Yuan Clan as well," Yuan Yue, the Grand Elder of the Yuan Clan, hurriedly added. It was as though he was afraid Zhuge Yun would attack him if he was slow to reply.

"I hope you'll keep your promises." Zhuge Yun stared at Zhang Han Tian and the rest sternly before she, Zhuge Feng, Duan Ling Tian, Huan'er turned around and left.

Only when the group of domineering people left that Zhang Han Tian and the others regained their senses. All of them could only smile bitterly.

"Clan leader, it seems the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox is the woman I sent Zhang Jin Yi to investigate... I heard them calling them Huan'er," Zhang Ping Ye, the Grand Elder of the Zhang Clan, said as realization dawned on him.

"There's no point in bringing this up now... I didn't expect this generation's Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox had joined the prestigious Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect." Zhang Han Tian shook his head. If it was

not absolutely necessary, he did not want to provoke or offend the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect. Moreover, Zhuge Yun could be considered as one of the most powerful people in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect.

All of them heaved a sigh of relief, having escaped death. Following that, Yuan Yue bade farewell to Zhang Han Tian and let his clan members back. Their clan was in a crisis now that their clan leader had been killed. The clan would definitely be in chaos for some time.

After the people from the Yuan Clan had left, Zhang Ping Ye's eyes gleamed as he said, "Clan leader, the Yuan Clan just lost their leader. It's going to be chaotic for them. Why don't we seize the opportunity and gain control of their Celestial Crystal veins?"

Although the Zhang Clan and Yuan Clan were members of the Phantom Fox Clan and were usually united against outsiders, there were many small disputes between them.

"We, naturally, can't let go of such a good opportunity," Zhang Han Tian said as his eyes glinted. His expression turned solemn as he continued to say to Zhang Ping Ye, "Grand Elder, pass down my order... From today onward, all members of the Zhang Clan are prohibited from hunting down the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. In fact, if anyone sees the members of the Yuan Clan trying to the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, they must help her with all their might. If they're no match for the people from the Yuan Clan, report it to me immediately."

Zhang Han Tian looked in the direction where the Yuan Clan was located meaningfully as he continued to say, "I hope the members of the Yuan Clan will not give up and plot against the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. If we're able to help the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, we might be able to establish a relationship with the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect." A hint of expectation could be seen gleaming in his eyes as he said, "It seems like I should prepare a grand gift to the Du Clan of the Phantom Fox Clan in the Jade Emperor Heaven to congratulate them."

...

Meanwhile, after leaving the main Phantom Fox Clan's estate in the Heavenly Territory, Zhuge Yun said, "Duan Ling Tian, although there aren't titled Celestial Emperors in the Phantom Fox Clan's estate, it doesn't mean there aren't any out there... The Phantom Fox Clan has existed for so many years, they must have incredibly powerful elites in the Spirit Overarching Territory. To be precise, they're likely at the center of the Spirit Overarching Heaven. Therefore, it's unwise for us to completely annihilate the Phantom Fox Clan for now unless they cross the line."

Chills ran up Duan Ling Tian's spine when he heard Zhuge Yun's words. Her words indicated that it crossed her mind to annihilate the main Phantom Fox Clan in the Heavenly Territory? No matter what, the Phantom Fox Clan was still a grade-one force! At this moment, he acutely felt his weakness even though his strength had improved tremendously. He was still a far cry from Zhuge Yun. After he calmed down, he replied, "Senior, this is more than enough... I think the Phantom Fox Clan won't dare to act against Huan'er anymore..."

"Are there any other places you want to go next?" Zhuge Yun asked Duan Ling Tian.

"No." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "We can return now."

However, as soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Huan'er looked at him and said, "Brother Ling Tian, I want to look for my mother."

Upon hearing Huan'er's words, Duan Ling Tian felt distressed for her. He looked at Zhuge Yun and said, "Senior, can we return to the Phantom Fox Clan here to ask about Huan'er's mother's whereabouts?"

Zhuce Yun nodded in response. She was more than willing to help Huan'er find her mother since Huan'er was her Mo Xie Progeny's disciple. Moreover, she was rather satisfied with her disciple.

Needless to say, since Zhuge Yun had agreed to accompany Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, Zhuge Feng would definitely follow suit. He would not allow his twin sister to wander outside of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect alone.

...

Zhang Han Tian, the Clan Leader of the Zhang Clan of the Phantom Fox Clan, certainly did not expect Duan Ling Tian and the others would return so soon. He greeted them respectfully and led them into the Zhang Clan's main hall. He looked at Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun and asked respectfully, "My lords, is there anything I can do for you?"

Upon seeing Zhuge Yun looking at Duan Ling Tian, Zhang Han Tian shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian as well.

Duan Ling Tian bluntly asked, "Clan Leader Zhang, do you know Du Xuan from the Du Clan?"

"Du Xuan?" Zhang Han Tian's expression changed upon hearing these words. "My lord, why would you ask about Du Xuan? Do you know her?"

"Du Xuan is Huan'er's mother." Duan Ling Tian glanced at Huan'er before shifted his gaze back to Zhang Han Tian. "Based on Clan Leader Zhang's expression, it seems like you know Huan'er's mother."

"She... S-she's really Du Xuan's daughter?" Zhang Han Tian's expression was complex. He said with a sigh, "This must be karma."

"Karma?" Duan Ling Tian frowned.

Huan'er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask Zhang Han Tian, "You know my mother?"

"Of course... There's no one in the Phantom Fox Clan who doesn't know your mother." Zhang Han Tian smiled wryly. "In fact, your mother and I were childhood friends. Before the Du Clan migrated from the Spirit Overarching Heaven to the Jade Emperor Heaven, the Du Clan's estate was located near the Zhang Clan and Yuan Clan's estates. She was a beauty..." His eyes seemed to soften and were filled with nostalgia when he spoke.

Du Xuan was a fascinating beauty. At one point, even Zhang Han Tian had tried to court her. Alas, she had rejected him. However, it did not negatively affect their friendship. After Du Xuan was expelled from the Du Clan, she left the Jade Emperor Heaven and returned to the Spirit Overarching Heaven to ask him

for help. However, he really did not expect Du Xuan's daughter to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that would only appear once every 1,000,000 years.

"Now that I had a closer look, I have to say you really resemble your mother. However, you resemble your father more. You're much more beautiful than your mother..." Zhang Han Tian said.

"Y-you know my father as well?" Huan'er's eyes widened. She was overwhelmed with emotions when she heard these words.

"Your mother went to look for your father." Zhang Han Tian sighed. "I don't know if they're still alive. After all, they had provoked a heaven-grade force, and there's no way that heaven-grade force would forgive them."

"A heaven-grade force?" Duan Ling Tian frowned. He did not expect Huan'er's mother to be involved with a heaven-grade force. When the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect was in their prime, they were also a heaven-grade force.

"Clan Leader Zhang, can you explain further?" Duan Ling Tian asked solemnly.

Zhang Han Tian's words so far did not explain much and left Duan Ling Tian confused. How did Huan'er's mother and father get involved and provoke a heaven-grade force?

"Huan'er's mother, Du Xuan, was the most beautiful woman in our Phantom Fox Clan... She had countless pursuers in the clan, and I was one of them as well," Zhang Han Tian said, "However, the man who successfully captured her heart wasn't a member of the clan. He was a proud prodigy from a heaven-grade force. However, this isn't the main point. The point is this proud prodigy already had a pending arranged marriage to a female prodigy from another heaven-grade force. Since he annulled the arranged marriage, he had completely provoked the force he belonged to. Not only was he expelled, the force he belonged to even handed him over to the female prodigy's force. Du Xuan came to look for me at that time to get information. All that I told you is the information I found for her. Afterward, all I know is that she went to that heaven-grade force to look for your father." He looked at Huan'er and continued to say, "I didn't expect both of them to have a daughter, and their daughter turns out to be the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.... Karma... This is really karma..." He shook his head after he finished speaking.

Zhang Han Tian remembered that not long after Du Xuan left, the Du Clan in the Jade Emperor Heaven instantly announced her expulsion from the clan because they feared retaliation from the heaven-grade force the female prodigy belonged to.

"If the Du Clan finds out that the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox they have been searching for is Du Xuan's daughter... I wonder what their reactions would be like..."

Although the Phantom Fox Clan knew that a rare Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox had appeared, they only knew the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox was from the Du Clan. No one knew the identity of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

Chapter 3255: Senior Feng Qing Yang Is Still Alive?

"Which heaven-grade force is it?" Duan Ling Tian asked Zhang Han Tian when he saw Huan'er's face turn pale after listening to Zhang Han Tian's words.

“Du Xuan went to the Heavenly Pool Palace of the Boundless Heaven... Miss Huan’er’s father was handed over to them by the force he belonged to,” Zhang Han Tian said as he glanced at Huan’er.

“The Heavenly Pool Palace?”

Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er did not react much upon hearing the name since they were not familiar with it. However, Zhuge Yun’s expression changed drastically. Even Zhuge Feng’s expression was grim at this moment.

Duan Ling Tian had turned to look at the twins to ask about the Heavenly Pool Palace when he saw the expressions on their faces. Based on their expressions, he knew the twins not only knew about the force, but the force had to be extraordinary as well. Nevertheless, he still asked, “Seniors, based on your expressions, is it safe to assume that the Heavenly Pool Palace is very strong?”

“Duan Ling Tian.” Zhuge Yun’s expression eased before she smiled wryly and said, “The Heavenly Pool palace is an upper-middle class heaven-grade force... However, what’s formidable about them isn’t the strength of their titled Celestial Emperors, but the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven, the Devata Realm, is their palace master’s biological maternal grandfather! Moreover, the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven ranks in the top ten among the 81 Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms. This is the reason the Heavenly Pool Palace is formidable.”

Before Duan Ling Tian could speak, Zhang Han Tian smiled wryly and added, “Moreover, the woman who was arranged to be married to Miss Huan’er’s father is the youngest daughter of the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace. It’s said that the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven favors this granddaughter of his very much. The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless was naturally furious when Miss Huan’er’s father canceled the marriage. This is the reason the force that Miss Huan’er’s father belonged to had to expel him and hand him over to the Heavenly Pool Palace.” It was clear that he knew quite a lot about Du Xuan’s matter.

“The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven ranks in the top ten among the 81 Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms?” It had been almost 200 years since Duan Ling Tian ascended to a Devata Realm, therefore, he had some knowledge about Devata Realms. He knew about the rankings for the Heavenly Emperors of the 81 Devata Realms even though he had never seen the ranking before. There was no doubt that a Heavenly Emperor was the strongest in the Devata Realm he or she ruled. One could only imagine how powerful a Heavenly Emperor who managed to rank in the top ten was.

‘Being able to rank in the top ten means he’s one of the ten strongest Heavenly Emperors among the 81 Heavenly Emperors.’ Duan Ling Tian could not help but gasp inwardly when he thought about the strength of the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven.

“Huan’er.” Duan Ling Tian could sense Huan’er’s turbulent emotions so he held her hands.

Zhang Han Tian said to Zhuge Yun, “Du Xuan’s man was from the Heavenly Sword Mountain, a heaven-grade force in the Solitary Destructive Heaven. My lord, you should know that it’s a Sword Celestial sect.”

Zhuce Yun nodded. “The former Heavenly Emperors of the Solitary Destructive Heaven were mostly Sword Celestials. For these reasons, many Sword Celestials prosper in the Solitary Destructive Heaven...

The Heavenly Sword Mountain is one of the two strongest Sword Celestial forces in the Solitary Destructive Heaven.”

“The Solitary Destructive Heaven?” Duan Ling Tian felt his heart sink slightly when the Solitary Destructive Heaven was mentioned; he was reminded of Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. Because of him, Feng Qing Yang had gotten into trouble. Although he had never met Feng Qing Yang, he sincerely treated Feng Qing Yang as his master. When he was in the mundane realm, the Saint Province Realm, he had obtained Feng Qing Yang’s legacy, the Sovereign Heart Sword. When he told Zhuge Feng he could not accept Zhuge Feng as his master, it was all because of Feng Qing Yang.

Cold killing intent flashed in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes as he thought to himself, “I hope that Senior Feng Qing Yang survives the Asura Hell. Otherwise, not only will I kill Yun Qing Yan, but I’ll annihilate the entire Yun Clan as well!”

“Anyway, this is all I know.” Zhang Han Tian smiled wryly. Then, he looked at Huan’er and advised her, “Girl, with your strength now, there’s nothing you can do to help your parents. However, I can tell you for sure your mother is still alive.” After he finished speaking, he took a Soul Pearl out and handed it to Huan’er. “This Soul Pearl belongs to your mother.”

“Mother.” Tears began to well up in Huan’er’s eyes as she held onto the Soul Pearl tightly.

“Girl, I suggest that you don’t act recklessly before you become a titled Celestial Emperor....” Zhang Han Tian could tell that Huan’er could not wait to rush to the Heavenly Pool Palace in the Boundless Heaven to look for Du Xuan so he decided to remind her.

“Thank you, Clan Leader Zhang.” After Duan Ling Tian expressed his gratitude, he held Huan’er’s hand and left with Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun.

...

A heavy atmosphere lingered around the quartet even after they left the Phantom Fox Clan.

“Brother Ling Tian, I want to go to the Boundless Heaven,” Huan’er said to Duan Ling Tian.

“Okay.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. He understood Huan’er’s feelings so he did not object to it, especially when she was probably only going there to obtain information.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Zhuge Yun said vehemently, “No! With your current strength, you’re only seeking death if you go to the Heavenly Pool Palace in the Boundless Heaven now.

“Senior...” Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. He wanted to persuade Zhuge Yun to let them go.

However, Zhuge Yun interjected, “I understand Huan’er’s feelings, but you can’t go. Why don’t we return to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect first? Both of you stay in the sect while my brother and I will go to the Boundless Heaven to obtain information.”

Upon hearing her words, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up. It was great that the duo was willing to go to the Boundless Heaven to help Huan’er. Since they could kill a titled Celestial Emperor if they joined forces, it should not be difficult for them to gather information about the Heavenly Pool Palace.

“Thank you, seniors.” Duan Ling Tian sincerely expressed his gratitude. After all, Zhuge Yun was not obligated to help them but she did so anyway. He felt indebted to her.

Zhuce Yun turned to Huan’er and said, “Huan’er, Zhuge Feng and I will go to the Heavenly Pool Palace in the Boundless Heaven to investigate your parents’ whereabouts... If your mother isn’t imprisoned by them, I’ll bring her back to you.”

“Thank you, Progeny Leader,” Huan’er thanked Zhuge Yun sincerely.

...

As they traveled to the Devata Realm Transporting Formation to bring them back to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect in the Nan Dou Territory of the Jade Emperor Heaven, Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask, “Senior, have you heard about Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in all Devata Realms?”

“Asura Hell?” Zhuge Yun’s expression changed upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words.

Even Zhuge Feng’s expression had a slight change.

“Duan Ling Tian, why are you asking about the Asura Hell?” Zhuge Yun asked.

“An elder of mine was forced to escape into the Asura Hell,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a bitter smile on his face.

“The Asura Hell is known as one of the most treacherous places among the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realm. It’s said that only Heavenly Emperors who rank in the top three are capable of surviving in the Asura Hell, and that’s under the condition that they don’t venture too deep into the Asura Hell,” Zhuge Yun said gravely, “Unless that elder of yours has become a god, it’s unlikely that he can survive the Asura Hell.”

After a beat, Zhuge Yun suddenly said, “Wait, I heard recently there’s someone who managed to come out from the Asura Hell even though he hasn’t become a god. In fact, he even ventured deep into the Asura Hell”

“Who is it?!” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously with a hopeful expression on his face. Since someone who was not a god managed to escape from the Asura Hell, there was a chance that Feng Qing Yang could survive as well.

“It’s Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven,” Zhuge Yun said.

Upon hearing Zhuge Yun’s words, Duan Ling Tian froze. He did not expect the person who survived the Asura Hell would be Feng Qing Yang. He seemed to be in a daze as he asked, “Senior... A-are you sure Senior Feng Qing Yang came out from the Asura Hell?”

“Yes.” Zhuge Yun nodded. A hint of reverence could be seen in her eyes as she said, “Not only did he survive the Asura Hell, but he even returned to the Solitary Destructive Heaven to kill the Heavenly Emperor who usurped his position.”

Duan Ling Tian could not conceal his joy and relief when he heard Zhuge Yun's words. All this time, he had been feeling guilty because it was his fault that Feng Qing Yang had gotten into trouble. After finding out that Feng Qing Yang had left the Asura Hell alive, he felt as though a burden had been lifted off his shoulders.

At this time, the quartet finally arrived at the Devata Realm Transporting Formation. It did not take long before they returned to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect in the Jade Emperor Heaven's Nan Dou Territory.

Meanwhile, during the entire journey, Duan Ling Tian kept thinking if he should visit Feng Qing Yang in the Solitary Destructive Heaven. Moreover, he could possibly ask for Feng Qing Yang to help with Huan'er's matter. However, he eventually dismissed that idea.

"Senior Feng Qing Yang is the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, after all. I'm sure he has left many of his legacies behind, and he has many inheritors of his legacies. I'm probably one of many. Moreover, the legacy I inherited is from the mundane realm so it's probably not that important. Apart from that, just because I ask for a favor, it doesn't mean he'd agreed to it. He's a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm after all"

After returning to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun immediately left for the Boundless Heaven while Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er stayed in the sect.

Chapter 3256: Farewell

"Huan'er, don't worry... Your mother will be fine."

After Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun left, Duan Ling Tian brought Huan'er to the Gan Jiang Peak. He consoled her as they climbed up the peak.

"Brother Ling Tian, what about my father... Do you think he's fine as well?" In the past, all she knew was her mother. She did not know anything about her father. Now that she learned more about her father, it was only natural that she began to think and worry about him as well.

"I'm sure he'll be fine," Duan Ling Tian smiled and said, "After all, all he did was cancel the marriage arrangement. They can't just take his life because of that, right? It's likely that they only imprisoned him in the Heavenly Pool Palace to make him reflect on his mistake." Despite his words, he was, in fact, not that optimistic. The Heavenly Pool Palace was not an ordinary heaven-grade force since they had the support of the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven. Otherwise, the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Sword Mountain would not have handed Huan'er's father to the Heavenly Palace Pool.

Duan Ling Tian continued to console Huan'er. "Huan'er, what you can do now is to cultivate while we wait for the return of the two progeny leaders. If your father is truly imprisoned, it'd be quite impossible for your mother to rescue him on her own. You need to improve your strength in order to help her. Naturally, I'll help you as well."

Huan'er grew calmer after listening to Duan Ling Tian's words. Her eyes shone with determination as she said, "Brother Ling Tian, I must become stronger!"

Since the beginning, Huan'er did not place much importance on growing stronger. When Duan Ling Tian was weaker, she was only motivated to grow stronger so she could help him. However, after Duan Ling

Tian had surpassed her, she had begun to neglect her cultivation. Needless to say, now that she found out the predicament her parents were in, she was determined to grow stronger.

“I’ll accompany you. Let’s cultivate together,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

Before Zhuge Feng left, he had told Duan Ling Tian that he could cultivate anywhere in Gan Jiang Peak. Since Zhuge Feng was not around, apart from Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er, it was empty. Moreover, since it was just the duo cultivating, the Heaven and Spirit Earth Energy was better than that at the Tai-Ah Peak.

After exploring for a while, Duan Ling Tian discovered a damaged stone platform midway up Gan Jiang Peak. Further in the damaged stone platform was a cave. Inside the cave, there was a dusty chamber. Clearly, this place used to be a place for cultivation. Since it was secluded, he decided to cultivate here.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A gust of wind stirred up in the chamber with a wave of Duan Ling Tian’s hand, clearing the dust away.

Then, he said, “Huan’er, let’s cultivate here.”

Duan Ling Tian sat crossed-legged on a stone bed in the chamber with Huan’er next to him and began to cultivate.

When he cultivated, he released the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy just enough to surround him and Huan’er. Since he could not constantly maintain the output of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy while he was cultivating, he had asked the World Cleansing Divine Water for help.

In his Little World, the Divine Tree of Life had grown even bigger. At this moment, the two Ning Dragons were lying under the Divine Tree of Life, looking as though they were asleep. However, the fact was they were cultivating.

Meanwhile, five energies of different colors that belonged to the Five Divine Elements revolved around it. All the Five Divine Elements in his body had already evolved to their sixth form. However, it would be difficult for them to further evolve to their seventh form through the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy, which he obtained from the remnant of a Realm of Gods, in his Little World. The only way for them to evolve now was to devour another Divine Element. Naturally, the Divine Elements could only devour Divine Elements similar to them. For example, the Profound Divine Metal could only devour other Profound Divine Metals to evolve. Devouring other Divine Elements would be useless. It was also for this reason, Duan Ling Tian did not have to worry there would be internal fighting between the Five Divine Elements in his body.

At this moment, the World Cleansing Divine Water’s voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears. “Little Tian, I’ve spoken to the Ning Dragons. They’re willing to acknowledge you as their master only if you promise to return their freedom to them after you’ve become a god.”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened as soon as he heard the World Cleansing Divine Water’s words.

The World Cleansing Divine Water continued to say, “After you become a god, they won’t be able to help you anyway so I think you should agree to their condition.”

Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate to agree to the two Ning Dragons’ conditions.

While Huan'er was immersed in her cultivation, Duan Ling Tian and the Ning Dragons in his Little World made a pact under the guidance of the World Cleansing Divine Water. With the pact, both parties would not be able to go back on their words.

After it was done, the two Ning Dragons roared to acknowledge Duan Ling Tian as their master.

Alas, Duan Ling Tian could not understand them at all. However, it was not important. It did not matter if they could not understand each other as long as the Ning Dragons understood when or who he wanted them to attack.

After dealing with the Ning Dragons, Duan Ling Tian began to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy and began to cultivate.

...

After a year, Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun finally returned.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian saw the twins, he looked at Zhuge Yun and asked without beating around the bush, "Senior, did you find out anything?"

Zhuge Yun glanced at Huan'er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian before she said, "Huan'er's father is still alive..."

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's eyes lit up immediately upon hearing Zhuge Yun's words.

Zhuge Yun continued to say, "There's good news and bad news..."

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er stiffened immediately.

Zhuge Yun bluntly said, "Huan'er's mother is also imprisoned by the Heavenly Pool Palace."

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's expressions drastically changed. This was indeed bad news. In other words, both of Huan'er's parents were imprisoned by the Heavenly Pool Palace, a heaven-grade force in the Boundless Heaven.

"Senior, do you know their exact location in the Heavenly Pool Palace?" Duan Ling Tian asked Zhuge Yun. He knew the Heavenly Pool Palace's treatment of Huan'er's parents would not be good; they were not guests but prisoners.

"I have no idea." Zhuge Yun shook her head. "We've tried using the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect's name to visit the Grand Elder of the Heavenly Pool Palace to find out more. I tried probing him with words, but he clearly avoided talking about the matter. Huan'er's parents are probably not treated very well in the Heavenly Pool Palace as you may have guessed..."

Huan'er's beautiful limpid eyes were filled with anxiety when she heard Zhuge Yun's words.

Even Duan Ling Tian's expression was grim at this moment. Although Huan'er's parents were alive, there was no doubt they were suffering. Although he had already guessed her parents would not be treated well, he did not know the extent of her parents' mistreatment by the Heavenly Pool Palace.

At this moment, Huan'er looked at Duan Ling Tian and said resolutely, "Brother Ling Tian, I want to go to the Heavenly Pool Palace."

"Huan'er, we'll definitely go to the Heavenly Pool Palace. However, we have to have a plan in place; we can't act recklessly. It would only be counterproductive if we act rashly. Even the progeny leaders couldn't find out much. It's useless if we were to go there right now," Duan Ling Tian said, trying to dissuade Huan'er from going to the Heavenly Palace Pool now.

Huan'er fell silent upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. She knew he was right.

At this moment, Zhuge Yun said, "If you really want to go to the Heavenly Pool Palace, it's not completely impossible... Every 1,000 years, the Heavenly Pool Palace would recruit disciples from outside. What I want to say is that they'll be recruiting disciples after 20 years. Those who are under the age of 1,000 and are capable of passing their tests would be accepted as disciples. The tests are based on one's cultivation base and age. With your strength and young age, both of you shouldn't have a problem joining the Heavenly Pool Palace."

"Join the Heavenly Pool Palace?" Huan'er's eyes lit up again.

Duan Ling Tian frowned slightly.

Duan Ling Tian slightly frowned. Although it was a rather good solution, he did not feel it was the right thing to do since he had just joined the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect.

Zhuge Feng who seemed to be able to see through Duan Ling Tian's dilemma looked at Duan Ling Tian appreciatively.

Zhuge Yun said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, your main reason for joining the Heavenly Pool Palace is only for Huan'er's parents, nothing more. You will still remain a disciple of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and the Gan Jiang Progeny. We will always welcome you back to the sect."

"Thank you, Senior." Duan Ling Tian was truly appreciative of Zhuge Yun's words and accepted her good intentions.

"Thank you, Progeny Leader," Huan'er said solemnly as she looked at Zhuge Yun, "I, Huan'er, will forever be a disciple of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect's Mo Xie Progeny. This will never change no matter what!"

"The same goes for me." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Although their time in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect was short, the sect felt like home to them due to Zhuge Feng and Zhuge Yun's kindness. The sect felt like a home they could always return to no matter where they went.

"Now, go on." Zhuge Yun casually threw a Spatial Ring to Duan Ling Tian before she waved her hand and said, "During our return to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, we have already foreseen you leaving to the Boundless Heaven. The things in this Spatial Ring will be able to help during critical moments!"

After Duan Ling Tian claimed ownership of the Spatial Ring, he discovered there were dozens of Celestial Talismans in the ring. There was no doubt the Celestial Talismans given to him by Zhuge Yun were extraordinary. His expression turned solemn again.

Before Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er left, Zhuge Yun reminded them, "The Heavenly Pool Palace is located in the Boundless Territory of the Boundless Heaven... You can get to the Heavenly Pool Palace through the Devata Realm Transporting Formation. The Heavenly Pool Palace covers a vast area. All you need to do is ask around to get to the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate."

Chapter 3257: Lei Ying the Merciless Celestial Emperor

The Boundless Heaven was one of the 81 Devata Realms. The Boundless Territory is the largest territory in the Boundless Heaven. It was also a place where most powerhouses were gathered; Celestial Emperors and Celestial Lords were a dime in a dozen in the Boundless Territory.

The east region of the Boundless Territory was ruled by the Heavenly Pool Palace, a heaven-grade force in the Boundless Heaven. However, it was not comparable to the other heaven-grade forces; its strength was mediocre at best. However, it was famous among its peers in the Boundless Heaven due to its connection to the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven; the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace was the grandson of the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven. Since it had the backing of the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven, naturally, even stronger heaven-grade forces would avoid offending the Heavenly Pool Palace as long as it did not cross the line.

There were 12 years left before the commencement of the selection of disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace that took place every 1,000 years. Therefore, many people had already arrived at the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate. There were men and women from various backgrounds; some came with their elders and some came alone. The only commonality they shared was they were all under the age of 1,000. This was the only requirement to join the disciple selection of the Heavenly Pool Palace. As long as one was under the age of 1,000, one would be able to participate regardless of one's cultivation base. After all, each participant's test was set according to their cultivation bases and ages.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were standing a distance away from the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate. He looked at her and said reassuringly, "We have another 12 years to go... Let's find a place to settle down and cultivate for 12 years before we participate in the Heavenly Pool Palace's disciple selection."

Huan'er nodded slightly in response as her gaze remained fixated on the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate. However, since the estate was shrouded by a cloud of mist, only a vague silhouette of the estate could be seen.

"Let's go." Duan Ling Tian held Huan'er's hand and pulled her away. He knew if he did not bring her away, she would stand here all day long staring at the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate where her parents were imprisoned.

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The duo traveled for a while before they arrived at a mountain range.

Duan Ling Tian set off to work immediately by carving out a cave at the side of a cliff, preparing to go into closed-door cultivation for the next 12 years.

When Duan Ling Tian was about to start cultivating, he could see Huan'er's body trembling from her overwhelming and raging emotions. He quickly said to her, "Huan'er, calm down... How are you going to cultivate in such a state?"

"Brother Ling Tian... I have a strong gut feeling that my parents are in the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate. I can acutely feel the restlessness of the blood in my veins."

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly as he tried to console her. "Even so, we have to wait for 12 years before we can enter the Heavenly Pool Palace. Huan'er, listen to me and try to calm down so you can cultivate. If our performances are outstanding during the disciple selection of the Heavenly Pool Palace, it'd be easier for us to catch the eyes of the high-ranking officials of the Heavenly Pool Palace. The higher their ranks and authority, the more matters they'd be privy to."

After listening to Duan Ling Tian's persuasion, Huan'er forced herself to calm down. It did not take long before she was immersed in her cultivation.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, relieved. Following that, he closed his eyes and began to cultivate as well.

Since they were in a foreign and open place, Duan Ling Tian had asked the World Divine Cleansing Water to set up a Formation that would block the fluctuating energies from their cultivation. This was to avoid others from discovering the secrets of his Little World.

'It doesn't matter if no one would be able to claim my Little World or snatch away the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in my Little World; I'd still die if someone discovers the secrets of my Little World.' Duan Ling Tian was very certain of this.

He continued thinking to himself, 'My current cultivation base is too low. I must break through and become a Four Phenomenon Celestial Lord after 12 years!' He had only broken through and become a Three Talents Celestial Lord when he was in the Genius Secret Realm's God's Secret Treasure.

Duan Ling Tian was aware that the majority of his current strength was mostly from the law of space and the powers of the Five Divine Elements.

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For inhabitants of Devata Realms, 12 years passed by in just a blink of an eye.

Now that 12 years had passed, the crowd outside the Heavenly Pool Palace had grown even bigger. There were men, women, young men, middle-aged men, and even the elderly.

There was an eye-catching group that was led by a skinny old lady who was dressed in a loose gray robe. Although her skinny frame made her look fragile, the keenness in her eyes made one felt as though she could see through one's thoughts. At this moment, she swept her eyes across the crowd gathered outside of the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate and introduced herself, "I'm Lei Ying, the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace's Sword Trial Pavilion."

Upon hearing these words, the crowd furtively whispered among themselves.

"She's the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion?"

“The Heavenly Pool Palace’s Sword Trial Pavilion is responsible for the selection of disciples and inner disciples. However, the pavilion master rarely oversees the selection of disciples in the past. I wonder why she’s making an appearance this time.”

“Lei Ying? She’s known as the Merciless Celestial Emperor, right?”

“That’s right! She’s one of the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. The title she was given was ‘Merciless’. Not only is she Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion, but she’s also the Vice Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace!”

“Rumor has it that she’s really strong and that she has killed five titled Celestial Emperors...”

“I heard that the Merciless Celestial Emperor is one of the five strongest powerhouses in the Heavenly Pool Palace.”

There were many people who wore a bitter smile on their faces when they saw Lei Ying would be personally overseeing the selection of disciples.

“Heavens! Her title is rather apt. I heard she’s notoriously ruthless. It seems like this time she’ll be personally overseeing the selection of disciples. There’s no doubt the tests would be much more stringent compared to the past.”

“She oversaw the selection of disciples once 10,000 years ago. Apparently, the disciples that were accepted were not even 20% of the usual number.”

“Why are we so unfortunate?”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who was standing among the crowd narrowed his eyes when he heard Lei Ying’s introductions. “Lei Ying the Merciless Celestial Emperor, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion?”

12 years ago, when Duan Ling Tian had just arrived in the Boundless Heaven, he had gathered and studied information about the Heavenly Pool Palace. Therefore, he was rather familiar with all the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Lei Ying was one of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heaven Pool Palace. In regard to strength, her strength was ranked in the top five among the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian said to Huan’er who was standing next to him, “Huan’er, we’re in luck! The Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion rarely oversees the selection of disciples. If we perform brilliantly, we’ll definitely catch her attention. If she accepts us as her disciples, with her status, it won’t be difficult for us to find more information about your parents.”

Today, Huan’er did not wear a bamboo hat. However, she still wore a veil to conceal her face to avoid unwanted attention and trouble. Alas, due to her overwhelming beauty, the veil did very little to conceal her beauty.

At this time, Lei Ying said again, “I’ll be setting up an Age Detection Formation that covers a three-mile radius soon. At that time, those who are above 1,000 years old who have yet to leave would be instantly killed!” A terrifying killing intent flashed in her eyes when she finished speaking.

As soon as Lei Ying finished speaking, those elders who had accompanied their juniors here hastily left the range of the Formation. In just a blink of an eye, the 10,000-strong crowd was reduced to only 6,000 people.

6,000 participants were considered little. After all, those who were not confident would not waste their time participating in the disciple selection of the Heavenly Pool Palace. Usually, out of 6,000 people, only 600 people would be selected. However, since Lei Ying was personally overseeing the selection this time, it would be considered good if 100 people managed to join the Heavenly Pool Palace.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, Lei Ying brought a Formation compass out. In just an instant, energy shrouded the 6,000 people within a three-mile radius. As the Formation scanned the ages of the people within its range, it did not sound any alarm at all. Therefore, she did not waste any more time and put the Formation compass away.

Subsequently, she looked at the 6,000 participants and said, "Now, you'll be divided according to your age. Those who are under the age of 100, head to that side. Those between the ages of 100 to 200, that side! 300 to 400 years old, move to that side..."

In the end, Lei Ying divided the 6,000 people into ten groups.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The 6,000 participants moved swiftly to the groups they belonged to.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er moved to the 200 to 300 years old age group.

The number of people in each group varies. The largest group was those under the age of 100 while the smallest group was those between the ages of 900 and 1,000.

'It seems like there are many young people who want to join the Heavenly Pool Palace.' Duan Ling Tian was not surprised. After all, the younger one joined the Heavenly Pool Palace, the longer one would be able to enjoy the cultivation resources of the Heavenly Pool Palace.

Chapter 3258: Two Monsters

Those who joined the Heavenly Pool Palace before the age of 100 would undoubtedly have better achievements compared to those who joined when they were almost 1,000 years old.

"I'll repeat one more time. Those who are under the age of 100, move here. Those who are between the ages of 100 to 200, here..." Lei Ying looked at the ten groups of people. "The tests for each group are different so it's important that you're in the right age group."

As soon as Lei Ying finished speaking, six people began to move to the group of those below the age of 100.

Swoosh!

'Are they trying to cheat?' Duan Ling Tian shook his head. He had a feeling those people would be in trouble soon. He did not think those people were under the age of 100. Otherwise, why would they only move to that age group after hearing that the tests would be based on one's age and cultivation base?

After a dozen breaths, Lei Ying brought out a Formation compass that was different from the one before. The Formation compass hovered in the air as a ring of light appeared above each of the ten groups.

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian noticed a ring of light appearing above at least a dozen of people's heads in the group of people under the age of 100. On the other hand, the rest of the groups did not have any abnormalities.

A young man standing near Duan Ling Tian looked at the dozen people with a ring of light above their heads with a sympathetic expression as he said, "Fools! Did they not study the rules of the Heavenly Pool Palace? They're seeking death!"

As soon as the young man finished speaking, Lei Ying's gaze fell on the dozen people. She said in a deceptively nonchalant tone, "13 of you have failed..."

The 13 people wore varying expressions of gloominess on their faces as soon as they heard Lei Ying's words. As they moved to leave, a middle-aged man standing behind Lei Ying suddenly stepped forward in the air.

The middle-aged raised his hand, and in just an instant, thirteen waves of energies swept out toward the 13 people.

The 13 people tried to deflect the attacks with all their might, but they were all killed by the middle-aged man's attacks in just a blink of an eye.

'A Celestial Emperor!' Duan Ling Tian exclaimed inwardly. He could tell the middle-aged man was a Celestial Emperor. On the other hand, the strongest among the 13 participants was only a Two Talents Celestial Lord; how could it be possible for them to withstand the attacks from a Celestial Emperor?

Although the middle-aged man had only attacked casually, there were many people who were shocked and frightened. Those who planned to cheat and moved to the under 100 years old group earlier felt their backs drenched in cold sweat. If they had acted on their thoughts, they would have died.

"Go," Lei Ying said curtly.

As soon as Lei Ying finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian and the other participants saw ten figures stepping out from behind her. The middle-aged man who had attacked earlier was among these ten people as well. Unlike the others, the middle-aged man made his way to the group of people between the ages of 900 to 1,000.

The expressions of the participants in the 900 to 1,000 age group changed drastically when they saw the middle-aged man approaching them with a fierce expression on his face.

Each of the ten people had made their way to a group.

Suddenly...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of earth-shattering explosions rang in the air as the ten people attacked the respective age groups.

Colorful energies sailed in the air as these ten people attacked the participants.

'Seven Celestial Lords and three Celestial Emperors...' Duan Ling Tian sensed the ten people's cultivation bases.

The three Celestial Emperors were attacking the three groups of people above the age of 700 while the seven Celestial Lords were attacking the seven groups of people under the age of 700. The higher the age group, the stronger the Celestial Emperors or the Celestial Lords. For example, the group Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er belonged to was being attacked by a Six Combos Celestial Lord. Although the Six Combos Celestial Lord was rather strong and his comprehension of the law was good, he was no match for Huan'er, let alone Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er through Voice Transmission, "Huan'er, destroy his attacks."

A Six Combos Celestial Lord was nothing to the duo.

"Yes, Brother Ling Tian." Huan'er quickly attacked as instructed by Duan Ling Tian. The power from the law of space surged in the air in just an instant.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of thunderous explosions rang in the air as Huan'er easily destroyed the Celestial Lords' attacks.

The Six Combos Celestial Lord was a young man. When his attacks were destroyed by Huan'er, his expression changed drastically. After all, a person who was not even 300 years old managed to destroy his attacks. Although he did not attack with all his might, he had used about 80% of his strength, after all. Since there were quite a lot of people in the group, the test would be too easy if he held back too much of his strength.

'Again!' The young man narrowed his eyes as he attacked again. This time, he did not hold back his strength at all and specifically directed some of his attacks toward Huan'er.

Naturally, Huan'er's performance did not escape Lei Ying's eyes. A surprised expression could be seen on her face as she looked at Huan'er.

Boom!

Lei Ying continued to watch as Huan'er attacked again. The powers from the law of space surged again and destroyed the young man's attacks like a bolt of lightning.

The young man grunted from the impact of Huan'er's attack and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Unlike the other groups of people who were busy dealing with the attacks from the Heavenly Palace Pool powerhouses, the people from Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's group looked at Huan'er in a daze.

How was this white-clad lady wearing a veil so powerful when she was not even 300 years old? Even the prodigies under 300 years old in the Heavenly Pool Palace were not as powerful as her, right?

“Excellent!” Lei Ying was not angered at all that Huan’er injured the young man. Instead, she seemed to be subconsciously cheering for Huan’er as she looked at Huan’er with bright eyes. She did not waste time and immediately said as she looked at Huan’er, “You pass.”

Following that, Lei Ying directed Huan’er to stand at the side, away from the people in her group. After all, with Huan’er in the group, it would only hinder the Celestial Lord from testing the others since she could easily destroy his attacks.

After the young man consumed a Celestial Pill to mend his injuries, he looked at Huan’er with a slight hint of fear. Then, as he shifted his gaze back to Duan Ling Tian and the others, his eyes glinted coldly. His anger, at this moment, was palpable. It was obvious he was going to vent his anger on the remaining people in the group.

Swoosh!

The young man attacked again. He released his Six Combos Celestial Lord’s energy that was boosted with the law he comprehended.

“No!”

“He’s venting his anger on us because he was injured by that white-clad woman!”

“Why is he taking his anger out on us when it wasn’t us who injured him?”

“Then, do you think he’s capable of seeking revenge from that white-clad woman to assuage his anger? He can only vent his anger on those weaker than him!”

“Who’s that woman? She’s not even 300 years old, but she’s clearly stronger than him. Not even the prodigies in the Heavenly Pool Palace were as capable as her at her age, right?”

The people in Duan Ling Tian’s group were under immense pressure as they tried to deflect and avoid the young man’s attacks. Alas, they could only grit their teeth and continue to defend themselves.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally raised his hand nonchalantly.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Once again, the powers from the law of space surged in the air again. Soon after, a grey energy could be seen shooting toward the young man, destroying his attacks again.

The young man who was injured once again cried out in pain before spitting out a mouthful of blood.

At this moment, compared to earlier, Lei Ying was even more shocked. Another talented monster appeared after one had just appeared not too long ago?

Similar to before, the people in Duan Ling Tian’s group were dumbfounded. Was the duo really not even 300 years old?

Duan Ling Tian pointed at the place where Huan'er was standing and took the initiative to ask Lei Ying who was still in shock, "Senior, can I move to the side?"

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Lei Ying nodded blankly. She could easily tell the purple-clad young man was even stronger than the white-clad woman. When she saw Huan'er holding onto Duan Ling Tian's arm, she realized the duo was acquainted.

'Who are they?' Two monstrous talents who were no weaker than the Heavenly Pool Palace's prodigies appeared together, how could Lei Ying not feel suspicious and wary?

Meanwhile, a group of Heavenly Pool Palace disciples who were standing behind Lei Ying was also shocked by Duan Ling Tian's display of strength.

"So powerful!"

"Are they really under the age of 300?"

Meanwhile, the poor young man, the Six Combos Celestial Lord, had taken another Celestial Pill to mend his injuries. Unfortunately, the recovery rate of the pill could not keep up with the injuries he had sustained.

Lei Ying looked at the young man and said lightly, "Return and rest."

"Yes, Pavilion Master."

With this, a disciple stepped forward and substituted the young man. The disciple's expression was grim as he looked at the remaining participants warily. He was worried there would be another talented monster among this group of people. However, once he began to attack, he realized he had been worried for nothing.

At this moment, Lei Ying looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er and asked in a lowered voice, "Who are both of you?"

Duan Ling Tian feigned an expression of confusion on his face as though he did not understand Lei Ying's words and said, "Senior, what do you mean? We're sectless cultivators so we came here today in hopes of joining the Heavenly Pool Palace."

"What are your names?" Lei Ying asked.

"Duan Ling Tian," Duan Ling Tian replied before he replied on Huan'er's behalf as well. Then, he asked, "Senior, is there a problem? Is the Heavenly Pool Palace rejecting us? In that case, we'll have to try our luck at another heaven-grade force..." Then, he did not wait for Lei Ying's reply before he pulled Huan'er with him and flew away.

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had only flown a couple of miles out when a voice rang in the air.

"Come back!"

Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er did not even look back when they left, clearly showing no signs of hesitance, the frown on Lei Ying's face eased. Then, she asked rhetorically, "Who said the Heavenly Pool Palace is rejecting you?"

Chapter 3259: Entering the Heavenly Pool Palace's Estate

The purple-clad young man and white-clad woman in front of Lei Ying were even stronger than a Six Combos Celestial Lord, and yet, they were not even 300 years old. Moreover, the Six Combos Celestial Lord they defeated was a disciple of the Heavenly Pool Palace. Although he was not a prodigy, he was still stronger than most ordinary Six Combos Celestial Lords. Even then, he was no match for the duo. In the Heavenly Pool Palace, there were less than 20 people with such capabilities under the age of 300. Therefore, she was suspicious of the duo. After all, with their strength, they should be highly coveted by other heaven-grade forces. It would be easy for the duo to join a heaven-grade force of their choosing.

After Lei Ying stopped them from leaving, Duan Ling Tian said solemnly, "Senior, we choose the Heavenly Pool Palace because we're aware of the connection between the Heavenly Pool Palace and the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven... Otherwise, we would have gone to another heaven-grade force."

In the end, Lei Ying said, "As long as you perform well in the Heavenly Pool Palace, I'll introduce you to the Heavenly Emperor when he visits our Heavenly Pool Palace."

Although Lei Ying had suspected the duo's identities earlier, after further thoughts, she felt she had no reason to reject them regardless of their identities since they did not break any rules when they participated in the test.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er returned to their original spots at the side and watched the various groups defend against and withstand the attacks from the Celestial Emperors and Celestial Lords of the Heavenly Pool Palace. Eventually, some participants could no longer withstand the onslaught of attacks and vomited blood, causing them to be eliminated.

After some time had passed, only 1,000 people remained out of 6,000 people.

At the same time, the Celestial Emperors and Celestial Lords of the Heavenly Pool Palace also stopped their onslaught of attacks and retreated back to Lei Ying's side.

Lei Ying glanced at the remaining participants as she said, "All of you have passed the first test. The second test will take place here as well, and everyone will still be divided into ten groups."

While Lei Ying was talking, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er returned to stand with the others from their group. Their group members enthusiastically greeted them when they returned. After all, even fools would be able to tell the duo would definitely be accepted into the Heavenly Pool Palace.

"They've achieved so much at such a young age. The Heavenly Pool Palace will definitely place great importance on them once they join the palace. How envious!"

"What's there to be envious about when we're nowhere near as capable as they are? In any case, I'm convinced by their abilities."

"They're not even 300 years old, and yet, they're so strong. Even in the Heavenly Pool Palace, there are only a few people under the age of 300 who are as talented as them."

“All of you are missing a point. Both of them came to participate in the disciple selection of the Heavenly Pool Palace. This means they were sectless cultivators with no amazing resources like those in heaven-grade forces are provided with!”

“They must have come across some fortuitous encounters.”

“Even if that’s the case, their innate talents and comprehension skills are monstrously high.”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly in response to the greetings he received.

As for Huan’er, she did not even deign to look at those people.

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After a while, the second test started.

The second test was to break out of an Attack Formation. The first 500 people to break out of the Formation would qualify for the third test.

Many of the participants’ expressions turned gloomy when they heard Lei Ying announced the second test.

Meanwhile, those who were eliminated but stayed back to watch felt relieved at this moment.

“They’re going to eliminate half of the participants during the second test?”

“Out of 1,000 people, only 500 people will advance to the next round. Even if I manage to pass the first few rounds, I doubt I’ll be able to make it all the way to the end.”

“The Merciless Celestial Emperor really lives up to her title and reputation. It seems like less than 100 people would be chosen this time to join the Heavenly Pool Palace.”

“In any case, compared to the first test, the second test is more direct. The stronger ones will definitely finish the test faster.”

Lei Ying arranged and divided 40 of her people into groups of four. A group of examiners would surround each group of participants from all four corners. It was obvious the examiners were going to join forces to cast the Attack Formation.

“Let’s begin,” Lei Ying said indifferently.

The examiners in charge of their respective groups of participants began to cast the Attack Formations. Different energies surged and raged like the sea before they merged and swept toward the 1,000 participants who had been divided according to their ages.

“You may begin.”

As soon as Lei Ying finished speaking, 998 people out of 1,000 people charged out immediately, attempting to break out of the Formation. However, as time passed, no one had succeeded yet.

Up until now, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had not made their moves.

Lei Ying was still confused by Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's inaction when she suddenly saw Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er disappearing into thin air. When the duo reappeared, they were standing not far away from her.

'The Teleportation Profundity?' Lei Ying narrowed her eyes. Although the four people in charge of casting the Formation for Duan Ling Tian's group were only Celestial Lords, the laws they comprehended were strong. Unless one of them had comprehended the law of space's Teleportation Profundity to the mastery stage, it was impossible to teleport out of the Formation cast by the Celestial Lords. In other words, she had no doubt one of them had comprehended the Teleportation Profundity to the mastery stage.

After a while, Lei Ying looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er nonchalantly and said, "Both of you have violated the rules. You must break out of the Formation on your own; you can't help another person. Which one of you used the Teleportation Profundity? I'll have to send the other person who didn't use the Teleportation Profundity back into the Formation to retake the test."

In fact, with Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's performances so far, they should have directly been accepted into the Heavenly Pool Palace. However, Lei Ying wanted to see their performance so the duo had to continue with the tests.

Upon hearing Lei Ying's words, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er exchanged a look. Then, without saying a word, Huan'er teleported back into the Formation before she teleported out again. Following that, before Lei Ying could even react, Duan Ling Tian also teleported back into the Formation and teleported out again.

'Both of them comprehended the Teleportation Profundity to the mastery stage?' Lei Ying was in shock. Not even in her wildest dreams did she expect such an outcome.

Similarly, the group of the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples was also in shock and disbelief when they saw Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's performances.

"I really didn't expect we'll be able to see not one, but two, monstrous talents during this selection!"

"When I was their age, I didn't even possess 10% of their capabilities."

"Me too."

Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were both the first to pass the second test.

Although Lei Ying and the other members of the Heavenly Pool Palace were not surprised the duo had passed the test, they were shocked by the way the duo had left the Formation.

After 15 minutes had passed, one participant finally broke out of the Formation.

During this time, Duan Ling Tian observed the ten Attack Formations and discovered each Formation had different levels of intensity. Naturally, the Formation for those under the age of 100 was the weakest while the Formation for those between 900 to 1,000 years old was the strongest.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to the participants in the 900 to 1,000 age group. He muttered under his breath, "Five Elemental Celestial Lords, Six Combos Celestial Lords... There are even Seven Stars Celestial Lords."

The strongest people from the group of people between the ages of 900 to 1,000 were Seven Stars Celestial Lords. However, the third person who broke out of the Formation, after Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, among this group of people was a Six Combos Celestial Lord.

This Six Combos Celestial Lord was a young man dressed in green robes. His appearance and bearing were extraordinary. However, the faint smile on his face froze immediately as soon as he saw Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er.

'They broke out of the Formation so quickly?' The green-clad young man thought to himself with a shocked expression on his face. However, when he recalled the duo's performances during the first test, he was no longer shocked. He thought to himself, clearly trying to console himself, 'Based on their performances during the first test, it's only natural that the second test is easy for them as well. Moreover, the level of intensity of their group's Formation isn't even one-third as intense as the Formation for my group.'

However, the green-clad young man seemed to have conveniently forgotten the fact that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were not even 300 years old while he was more than 900 years old.

Lei Ying looked at the young man and said lightly, "You performed well." Then, she asked, "What's your name?"

"Pavilion Master Lei, my name is Jun Hao Xuan," the green-clad young man replied with a smile.

Then, Lei Ying only nodded in response before she shifted her attention back to the other participants.

After another 15 minutes, the fourth person came out.

Following that, more and more people began to come out from the Formations.

After about an hour, there were more than 200 participants who had successfully broken out of the Attack Formations.

After another moment, the 500th and final person finally broke out of the Attack Formation.

With these, the 40 examiners who cast the Formations retreated to their positions.

Meanwhile, those who failed to break out of the Formations wore a gloomy expression on their faces.

"I failed."

"I was almost there... I was so close to leaving the Formation."

"I was only a breath away from leaving the Formation before that person did!"

Although many of the participants felt unwilling about being eliminated, there was nothing they could do about it. Those who failed the two tests outside of the Heavenly Pool Palace could not even enter the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate.

Subsequently, an announcement rang in the air.

“The 500 participants who passed the second test may follow me into the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate.”

Led by Lei Ying, Duan Ling Tian, Huan’er, and the other participants made their way to the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate.

On the other hand, the members of the Heavenly Pool Palace remained outside to evacuate those who might linger around.

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Meanwhile, after passing through the clouds, Duan Ling Tian finally had a good look at the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate. The estate consisted of quite a few floating islands above a vast lake that was covered in a layer of thin mist. The lush greeneries on the islands looked like a utopia from afar.

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian and the other participants followed Lei Ying and landed on one of the 16 floating islands.

Chapter 3260: Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor

“The third and final test will take place in the Sword Trial Pavilion.”

Lei Ying led Duan Ling Tian and the other participants into one of the courtyards on the floating island in the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate. They were then brought into a pavilion.

At this moment, there were many people surrounding the pavilions, watching with curiosity. Naturally, these people were members of the Heavenly Pool Palace. Otherwise, how could they be here?

Duan Ling Tian saw a plaque with the words ‘The Sword Trial Pavilion’ hung on the main entrance of the pavilion. The characters were neatly aligned as though they were printed.

The Sword Trial Pavilion was vast. Perhaps, this place was the location to select and test disciples, it was rather empty.

“Pavilion Master.”

Just as they arrived at the entrance of the pavilion, ten middle-aged and old men stood in a row waiting for Lei Ying and greeted her when she arrived with the participants in tow.

Lei Ying nodded slightly before she said to the ten men, “Bring them into the pavilion.”

Although Duan Ling Tian and the other participants did not know why Lei Ying was not entering together with them, they obediently followed the ten men into the Sword Trial Pavilion.

After Duan Ling Tian and the others left, a tall young man dressed in blue robes flew over from the distance and landed next to Lei Ying. The young man had an ordinary appearance, but he had an aura about him that made him seem amiable and warm. He asked without beating around the bush, “Lei Ying, I heard there are two highly talented participants this time?”

“Xu Lang, you’re really well-informed,” Lei Ying stared at the young man intently as she said, “The Sword Trial Pavilion wants both of them so don’t even think about poaching them”

Xu Lang, the blue-clad young man, was one of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. He was given the title Verdant Prairie, and as a titled Celestial Emperor as well, he was, naturally, not inferior to Lei Ying.

Earlier, Xu Lang had received news about two monstrously talented participants who were not even 300 years but have strength comparable to a titled Celestial Lord.

“Lei Ying, you’re being too greedy.” Xu Lang shook his head. “You must let me have one of them... Don’t forget the favor you owe me 1,000 years ago.”

Lei Ying scoffed. “You shouldn’t have brought this matter up. Hearing it again makes my blood boil! That brat you threw to me was a good-for-nothing troublemaker. He even ended up offending the Heavenly Emperor. If I didn’t let him die a miserable death, the Heavenly Emperor would’ve been displeased with me!”

1,000 years ago, during the disciple selection for the Heavenly Pool Palace, Lei Ying did not oversee the selection of the disciples. Instead, the task was passed onto the Vice Palace Master. There were a few participants with potential, but none as talented as the current ones. Since she did not oversee the selection, when the talented participants were finally accepted into the Heavenly Pool Palace, all the talented participants had been snatched away by others, including Xu Lang. As a titled Celestial Emperor, Xu Lang even managed to get two of the talented participants to follow him. When Lei Ying came to him to ask for one of the talented participants, he let one of the talented participants follow her. However, that participant was arrogant and unruly and ended up offending the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven when the Heavenly Emperor visited. When she saw how furious the Heavenly Emperor was, she personally killed the participant to save herself from trouble.

“Lei Ying, that was an accident. When I let him follow you, I didn’t know his personality and didn’t know he would cause such a huge trouble,” Xu Lang said slightly sheepishly, “Be honest. Did I hesitate when you asked me for one of the participants? This time...”

Lei Ying did not let Xu Lang finish his sentence. She interjected, “Both of them will watch them participate in the third test. If either one of them is willing to be your disciple, then I won’t say anything about it.”

“Don’t worry.” Xu Lang smiled confidently. “As long as you’re willing, I have my means.”

The reason Lei Ying did not enter the pavilion with the others was due to Xu Lang’s message that asked her to wait for him. Now that both of them had reached an agreement, they entered the pavilion together.

...

When Duan Ling Tian and the other participants entered the pavilion, they saw a vast and empty platform in the middle of the pavilion. However, when they turned around, they discovered the entrance had disappeared. At this moment, apart from Duan Ling Tian, the other candidates, and the ten old men who led them onto the platform, there was no one else.

'Is... Is this a Little World?' Duan Ling Tian's heart skipped a beat. Soon after, he saw two figures in the distance. One of them was Lei Ying, and the other person was a young man whom Duan Ling Tian had never seen before since his arrival at the Heavenly Pool Palace and the Sword Trial Pavilion. Therefore, he had no idea who the young man was. However, for the young man to be able to stand side by side with Lei Ying, it was not difficult to guess that the young man's status in the Heavenly Pool Palace was on par with Lei Ying's status.

While Duan Ling Tian was still mulling over the young man's identity, he heard someone say, "In the Heavenly Pool Palace, there are only two young men who are Lei Yin's peers. Based on this person's appearance, he must be Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor."

The person who had spoken was a middle-aged man. Duan Ling Tian remembered seeing him in the group of people between the ages of 900 and 1,000. During the second test, the middle-aged man broke out of the Attack Formation right after the third person, Jun Hao Xuan, came out. Jun Hao Xun was placed behind Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er during the second test.

Upon hearing the middle-aged man's words, many of the participants whispered among themselves and looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er furtively.

"Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor? Why did he come?"

"There has to be a reason why he's here. Would a titled Celestial Emperor come over here just to watch a show?"

"He must have heard about those two people!"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's eyes glinted as he thought to himself, "Another titled Celestial Emperor? Two out of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace are here?"

Following that, Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Huan'er. "Huan'er, if Xu Lang came for either of us, I'll choose to follow Xu Lang at the end of the test. Meanwhile, if Lei Ying wants to accept you as her disciple, agree to it."

Upon hearing these words, Huan'er hurriedly replied through Voice Transmission, "Brother Ling Tian, I don't want to be separated from you."

"Silly girl, we're not truly separated. We need as many advantages as we can get, and we need to use every advantage we have to investigate your parents' whereabouts," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Huan'er's brightened when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words, and she no longer protested.

At this moment, Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion in the Heavenly Palace Pool, began to announce the third test. "The third test is..."

Similar to the first two tests, the participants would be divided into ten groups again. Regardless of the number of people in each group, the last ten men standing would pass the test.

'Survival of the fittest?' Upon hearing Lei Ying's explanation, Duan Ling Tian finally realized for the third test they would have to battle their peers until only ten people remained.

“The battle will take place one group after another... Those who are eliminated will be given a last chance to join the Heavenly Pool Palace through a resurrection match,” Lei Ying continued to say.

The group with the most participants was still the group of people under the age of 100; there were 116 participants in that group. This group would also be the first group to battle each other. All of them were determined to fight without holding back, hoping to be one of the remaining ten so they could be disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace.

Meanwhile, the other participants from the other groups watched the hundred over people on the platform, who were as quiet as a mouse, from the side and spoke among themselves in hushed voices.

“The competition in this group is intense.”

“Only ten are allowed to pass out of 116 people... This means 106 people will be eliminated.”

After getting the green light from Lei Ying, the 116 participants from the group of people below the age of 100 began to attack each other immediately with all their might. There was a lot hanging on the line, after all. Therefore, it did not take long before a few had already died. Upon seeing this, those who knew they did not stand a chance of winning hurriedly surrendered.

After half an hour, there were only 32 participants left on the platform. All of them were scattered around the vast platform, looking at each other warily and fiercely.

As Duan Ling Tian looked at the 32 participants, he asked Huan'er, “Huan'er, who do you think will definitely pass the test?”

“I think it should be him,” Huan'er said as she looked at one of the participants who had performed brilliantly among the 32 remaining participants. Naturally, as outstanding as that person was, he was only slightly stronger than his peers. He could not compare to Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er at all.

“I disagree.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. He had taken notice of the participant that Huan'er had pointed out earlier. Although that person was the strongest among the 32 participants, he was too ostentatious and reckless.

As it turned out, Duan Ling Tian was right. Apart from that person, among the 31 participants, more than 20 people joined forces to kill that person Huan'er mentioned as a potential winner.

Huan'er was slightly taken aback by the accuracy of Duan Ling Tian's prediction.

Upon seeing the surprise on Huan'er's face, Duan Ling Tian patiently explained to her, “Huan'er, one must learn to keep a low profile unless one has absolute strength. If he had known to hide his strength and kept a low profile, there was no doubt he would have passed the test.”

After the strongest person from the group of people under 100 years old died, the other 31 participants began to fight each other again. In just a blink of an eye, many of them died. After another fifteen minutes, only ten participants were left.

At this moment, Lei Ying turned to briefly look at a middle-aged man standing behind her and said indifferently, “Bring them away, and arrange for them to join the palace.”

“Understood, Pavilion Master!” the middle-aged man responded before he brought the ten remaining participants from the first group away.