

SOVEREIGN 3261

Chapter 3261: Prodigious Disciples

After the ten remaining participants from the under 100-year-old age group had been determined, they were led out of the Sword Trial Pavilion to complete their registration to join the Heavenly Pool Palace.

At this time, those in the group between the age of 100 to 200 had begun to prepare for the test. The number of people in this group was fewer than the previous group, but there were still roughly 100 of them.

“Begin.”

As soon as Lei Ying the Merciless Celestial Emperor and the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace’s Sword Trial Pavilion finished speaking, everyone began to attack.

Naturally, the participants were only allowed to use their Celestial Weapons. Celestial Talismans were strictly prohibited; those who broke the rule would be instantly killed.

As time passed, the participants began to fall one after another. There were also some who surrendered.

About half an hour later, only twenty people were left standing. It was also at this time that the battle intensified.

Perhaps, they had learned from the mistake of the strongest person from the previous group; everyone seemed to be holding back their strength and exhibiting roughly the same strength. However, as time passed, they gradually grew stronger and stronger. After a while, when a few participants exhibited more power, the others would join forces to take them down. In the end, ten participants remained.

At this moment, Lei Ying said, “For those from the under the age of 100 group who were eliminated, you can choose to challenge any of these ten people. If you win, you’ll be able to join the Heavenly Pool Palace without taking any more tests.”

Those who were previously eliminated were naturally excited and eager when they heard these words.

It did not take long before two participants under the age of 100 stepped forward to issue a challenge. However, both of them failed again. It was not surprising since the remaining ten participants from the group between ages 100-200 were incredibly strong. It was a tall order for those below the age of 100 to succeed in this challenge.

Following that, there were several more people who stepped forward. Similar to the first two participants, all of them failed.

Finally, Lei Ying looked at those who were eliminated but were still alive and said indifferently, “Wait at the side. Someone will send you out once the third test ends.”

Then, Lei Ying looked at one of the nine elders from the Sword Trial Pavilion and said, “Lead the ten of them out to complete the registration.”

Finally, it was time for those between the ages of 200 to 300 to fight. Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er both belonged to this age group.

When everyone stepped onto the vast platform, the other participants were all looking at Duan Ling Tian warily with a hint of helplessness. It was only natural since they had witnessed the duo's outstanding performances during the first and second test. They were aware that even if they joined forces, they would not be able to defeat the duo. Moreover, the duo was clearly together so they would definitely help each other out.

Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor said to Lei Ying through Voice Transmission, "I don't think anyone will dare to attack them. It's pointless putting them through the third test..."

Indeed, Xu Lang was right. As soon as Lei Ying gave the green light for the participants to start, everyone began to attack, but they were also consciously giving Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er a wide berth. No one dared to attack the duo at all. They fought each other valiantly while the duo stood at the side peacefully.

The sounds of thunderous attacks continued to ring in the air, but the attacks did not come close to Duan Ling Tian or Huan'er at all.

With this, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, naturally, became the focus of everyone's attention.

"They... No one dares to attack them..."

"Earlier, I heard that both of them injured an examiner who's a Six Combos Celestial Lord during the first test. With such strength, the others definitely won't stand a chance of defeating the duo even if they join forces."

"Who are they? Is it possible for a sectless cultivator to be this strong?"

"To think they're so strong when they're not even 300 years old. There aren't many like them in the Boundless Heaven's heaven-grade forces."

"They'll definitely be part of the young prodigies once they join the Heavenly Pool Palace."

"I agree."

Many participants from the other groups who did not pay attention to Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er earlier learned about their terrifying strength at this moment.

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Finally, after about an hour had passed, only ten people were left. Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were part of the ten participants. It was as though the other eight people had tacitly agreed to leave two places for the duo.

Lei Ying looked at those who were between the ages of 100 to 200 as she said loudly, "Similar to earlier, those who are previously eliminated may challenge any of ten people here. If you succeed, you'll be able to join the Heavenly Pool Palace."

The eliminated participants were reinvigorated. Although they knew their opponents were strong, they still wanted to try to join the Heavenly Pool Palace. Naturally, none of them planned to challenge Duan Ling Tian or Huan'er; they were not stupid and were aware of the duo's strength.

Meanwhile, the other eight participants were challenged one after another.

However, at this moment a young man dressed in a luxurious robe sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian, trying to make a deal with him, "Duan Ling Tian, what if I challenge you, and you let me win? I'll give you an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon in return. What do you think? With your strength and talent, the Heavenly Pool Palace will definitely make an exception and accept you even if you lose."

'Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself disdainfully. He only glanced at the young man briefly before ignoring him.

Upon seeing that, the young man sent a similar Voice Transmission to Huan'er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian. Alas, she was even colder than Duan Ling Tian. She did not even deign to look at him.

Similar to before, nobody succeeded in their challenge.

At this moment, Lei Ying said as she looked at an old man, "Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, stay back. The rest of you follow Elder Qian to complete your registrations."

"Follow me." The old man, Elder Qian, led the others away.

Meanwhile, the third test was temporarily delayed by Lei Ying. She looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er and smiled amicably as she said, "Duan Ling Tian, Huan'er, would you like to follow me or Xu Lang? You don't have to acknowledge us as masters if you're unwilling; we can be your teachers."

Based on her words, it was obvious Lei Ying had considered the fact that the duo might already have a master and did plan to force the issue with them. Since she did not deliberately lower her voice, those who were present heard her words as well.

In just a moment, burning gazes filled with envy and jealousy turned to Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er. They whispered among themselves and waited for the duo's answers.

"Who would have expected this? Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er received invitations from two titled Celestial Emperors from the Heavenly Pool Palace before they even left the Sword Trial Pavilion... You know, there's only a handful of titled Celestial Emperors in the entire Heavenly Pool Palace."

"With their talents, it's not a surprise at all."

"Both of them are prodigies. I'm sure any one of the Heavenly Pool Palace's titled Celestial Emperors would be happy to accept them as disciples or students, right?"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was communicating with Huan'er through Voice Transmission, "Huan'er, you should follow Lei Ying the Merciless Celestial Emperor, and I'll follow Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor. This way we will have two means to look for your parents. Moreover, this also means we have the support of two titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace." He had planned this since earlier.

Naturally, Huan'er agreed to Duan Ling Tian's suggestion obediently.

"Duan Ling Tian..."

Since the duo was communicating via Voice Transmission, to Xu Lang and Lei Ying, it looked like they were hesitating.

With that, both titled Celestial Emperors sent Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian, promising him many things, in hopes that he would follow them. Naturally, if they had to pick between Duan Ling Tian or Huan'er, they would definitely pick Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, it was obvious Huan'er listened to Duan Ling Tian. There was a high chance she would follow Duan Ling Tian's decision.

"Senior Xu Lang, I'll join you," Duan Ling Tian said as he looked at Xu Lang.

Xu Lang's eyes brightened immediately while Lei Ying's smile froze.

Then, Duan Ling Tian turned to Lei Ying and said, "Pavilion Master Lei Ying, Huan'er will join you..."

Lei Ying's expression eased when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. After all, she was certain Huan'er would follow Duan Ling Tian.

"Alright."

"Xu Lang, you got the longer end of the stick," Lei Ying complained through Voice Transmission. Then, she turned to Huan'er and said amicably, "Huan'er, you can follow Xu Lang and Duan Ling Tian to complete the registration. I'll look for you once the test ends."

After saying that, Lei Ying turned to Xu Lang and said, "Xu Lang, you should be fine with this arrangement, right?"

"Yes, yes." Xu Lang laughed. Then, he motioned Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to follow him.

After they left, the test began once again.

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Duan Ling Tian asked after leaving the Sword Trial Pavilion, "Senior Xu Lang, the place we were at wasn't formed from a Formation but a Little World, right?"

Xu Lang nodded. "That's right. It's a Little World created by Pavilion Master Lei Ying."

Chapter 3262: Xu Lang's Prodigious Disciples

The registration process to join the Heavenly Pool Palace was simple. Moreover, with Xu Lang, a titled Celestial Emperor, accompanying them, everything went smoothly.

"This is the cultivation place of those under my care," Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, said as he led Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to another floating island. Then, he brought them to a vast mountain range where several courtyards could be seen. There were also a few cultivators flying in the sky.

"I have six prodigious disciples... These people you see are their families and friends," Xu Lang said as he looked at the mountain range, "There are ten peaks here. The tallest peak in the middle is my cultivation

place. Six of the other nine peaks are already occupied by my prodigious disciples. You can pick any of the three remaining peaks as your cultivation place.”

After a moment, Xu Lang continued to say, “You can rest for a day or two before going to the Sword Trial Pavilion to register for the assessment of prodigious disciples. Being a prodigious disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace comes with a lot of benefits.”

“Prodigious disciple?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up. Previously, he had heard people talking about the prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. However, he was unaware that one would have to go through an assessment to become a prodigious disciple?

“How do I pass the assessment?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

“By challenging other prodigious disciples of your age... It’s similar to the disciple selection’s test. Those between 200 and 300 years old are considered a group. In each group, there will be ten prodigious disciples. If you and Huan’er want to become a prodigious disciple, both of you would have to challenge those two at the final place.”

“You can check the ranking at the Sword Trial Pavilion when you go there for your assessment,” Xu Lang explained.

“We’ll go to my cultivation place for now. I’ll summon my prodigious disciples and introduce you to them. The seniority of my disciples is based on when they joined me, unlike other Celestial Emperors who based seniority on strength.”

By the time Xu Lang finished talking, they had already arrived at his cultivation place.

There is a wide platform and a palace at the highest peak of the mountain range.

Xu Lang led the duo into the palace’s main hall before he sent out a few messages.

Soon after, the sound of wind whistling rang in the air. A few figures appeared in the hall in just a blink of an eye.

Someone chuckled. “Teacher, where did you find our Seventh Junior Brother?”

Following that, a fat man dressed in a red robe appeared. His features seemed like they were squished together due to the fats on his face. He looked around the main hall with his tiny eyes before he finally saw Duan Ling Tian.

“Your Seventh Junior Brother just joined the Heavenly Pool Palace today,” Xu Lang said.

At the same time, another two people walked into the hall.

An elegant woman dressed in a blue robe with a gentle gaze looked at Duan Ling Tian. She was fairly beautiful. She greeted Duan Ling Tian immediately. “Hello, Seventh Junior Brother, I’m your Fourth Senior Sister.”

The other person was a young man dressed in black who carried a sheathed sword on his back. His expression was hard and cold when he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. However, his eyes seemed kind. He nodded as he said, “Hello, Seventh Junior Brother.”

“Seventh Junior Brother, this is our Second Senior Brother... He’s the strongest among us. Although he’s not even 1,000 years old, he’s already a powerful Celestial Emperor!” the red-clad fat man said happily, introducing the black-clad young man to Duan Ling Tian. After that, he began to introduce himself, “As for me, I’m your Sixth Senior Brother.”

After a beat, the red-clad fat man said with a grin, “If you can defeat me, you can call me by my name!”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, another two people appeared in the main hall. They were a beautiful woman with an alluring body who was dressed in a red robe and a young man who was dressed like a scholar.

“Are you our Seventh Junior Brother?” The red-clad woman with an alluring figure approached Duan Ling Tian immediately.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes widened in shock as the red-clad woman reached out and boldly tipped his chin up. “Not bad, you’re quite handsome... Seventh Junior Brother, are you interested in embarking on an epic romance with your Third Senior Sister?”

The red-clad woman’s actions annoyed Huan’er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian. She scoffed before she tried to slap the woman’s hand away.

The red-clad woman was fast and moved her hand before Huan’er could reach her. “Yo? Is this our sister-in-law? Sorry... I didn’t see you earlier. However, why are you wearing a veil?” As soon as she finished speaking, she reached out and removed Huan’er’s veil.

With this, Huan’er’s peerless beauty was revealed to everyone in the hall.

The main hall was as silent as a graveyard at this moment.

The red-clad woman was the first to regain her senses. She exclaimed, “I didn’t expect to meet someone as beautiful as our Eldest Senior Sister! No, no, I should say I didn’t expect to meet someone more beautiful than our Eldest Senior Sister.”

As soon as the red-clad woman finishes speaking, the black-clad young man scoffed, causing the red-clad woman to smile sheepishly. Then, she said apologetically, “Second Senior Brother, I was just joking. It’s a joke!”

At this moment, the young man who was dressed like a scholar smiled and said to Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er, “Seventh junior brother, sister-in-law, Third Senior Sister bears no ill intention. Anyway, I’m your Fifth Senior Brother, Ouyang Qi Fei.”

Subsequently, Xu Lang the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor took over and began to formally introduce his prodigious disciples to Duan Ling Tian. He pointed at the black-clad young man and said, “Duan Ling Tian, this is your Second Senior Brother, Lu Ji.”

Lu Ji nodded at Duan Ling Tian with a stiff smile on his face.

“This is your Third Senior Sister, Hu Mei,” Xu Lang said as he looked at the red-clad woman.

Hu Mei winked at Duan Ling Tian in response and only stopped joking around when she saw Huan'er glaring at her.

"This is your Fourth Senior Sister, Wen Wan'er," Xu Lang said as he turned to look at the blue-clad woman.

Wen Wan'er nodded and smiled gently at Duan Ling Tian. Her smile reminded one of the gentle spring breeze caressing one's face.

Xu Lang looked at the young man who was dressed like a scholar and said, "This is your Fifth Senior Brother, Ouyang Qi Fei. He has introduced himself earlier. He's also the most normal among your seniors."

As soon as Xu Lang finished speaking, the red-clad fat man feigned an exaggerated sad expression and said, "Teacher, how can you simply make things up? You're my teacher, after all. Tell me, how am I, Hong Fei, abnormal? If you don't explain yourself, I won't let go of your thigh!" As soon as he finished speaking, he rolled toward Xu Lang like a ball and really hugged Xu Lang's thigh.

"Get lost!" As titled Celestial Emperor, it was naturally easy for Xu Lang to get rid of Hong Fei. A powerful energy surged out of his body and carried Hong Fei away, sending Hong Fei crashing against one of the pillars in the hall.

Boom!

A thunderous noise rang in the air, and it felt like the ground even trembled a little.

Nevertheless, Hong Fei was fine. A dark yellow energy had shielded him. He continued with his act. "Teacher, how can you treat me like this?"

The corners of Duan Ling Tian's lips twitched as he watched the scene in front of him. It seemed like Xu Lang's prodigious disciples did not treat him like a master or a teacher; it seemed more like they were a group of friends.

"Little Junior Brother, are you curious why we act so casually?" Hu Mei, the red-clad woman and Duan Ling Tian's Third Senior Sister, asked with a smile. "Actually, all of us respect him a lot. However, he's really down-to-earth and treats us like friends. We can't reject the only thing he asked of us. If you treat him like an elder, he would be unhappy. So just treat him like how you would a friend."

"Hu Mei, you're the one who corrupted Fatty, and now, you want to corrupt Duan Ling Tian as well?" Xu Lang said sternly.

Even then, Duan Ling Tian could tell Xu Lang was also playing along with them. It was obvious Xu Lang was not angry at all.

At this moment, Wen Wan'er, Duan Ling Tian's Fourth Senior Sister, said with a gentle smile on her face, "Little Junior Brother, you'd get used to this once you stay with us long enough. Although teacher is a titled Celestial Emperor, he's very friendly."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded. At the same time, warmth inexplicably suffused his heart. For a moment, it felt like he was home. Perhaps, it was due to this group of people's interaction that was similar to how one would interact with one's family.

During their journey here, Xu Lang had been rather serious. However, Duan Ling Tian thought, perhaps, this was the only place Xu Lang could be himself.

Hong Fei, Duan Ling Tian's Sixth Senior Brother, sighed before he lamented, "Now that we have a Seventh Junior Brother, I'm no longer the baby of the group. I'm just the extra that no one loves."

"Fatty, you're wrong. It's not like anyone loves you even before Seventh Junior Brother's arrival," Hu Mei said. Then, she sized Hong Fei up before she added, "If you're as cute as your Seventh Junior Brother, perhaps, I would have loved you... Alas, with your appearance, I just can't do it..."

Chapter 3263: Shocking News

Initially, Duan Ling Tian only joined Xu Lang to help Huan'er discover her parents' whereabouts. However, he was now enjoying his time with Xu Lang and his prodigious disciples.

After Hu Mei mocked Hong Fei, she moved closer to Duan Ling Tian. Her eyes darted between Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er as she asked with a meaningful smile, "Little Junior Brother, tell me... How did you get such a beautiful woman?"

"Third Senior Sister, are you... are you always so straightforward?" Although Duan Ling Tian knew Hu Mei bore no ill intentions and he knew she was just frank and direct based on the earlier spectacle, he was still embarrassed.

"Little Junior Brother, this is how she is. She bears no ill will. You'll get used to it," Ouyang Qi Fei said with a laugh. His gentlemanly behavior made him seem like a young teacher.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded. He knew Ouyang Qi Fei's words were true.

"Little Junior Brother, I'll take my leave so I can return to cultivate. Let me know if you need anything," Lu Ji said with a rare smile on his face before he left like a bolt of lightning. In fact, there were faint flashes of lightning bolts around him when he moved. Based on this, it was obvious he had comprehended the law of thunder.

Hong Fei's eyes looked even smaller as he laughed and said, "Little Junior Brother, what Second Senior Brother means is you can look for him if anyone dares to bully you. Second Senior Brother is one of the five most powerful prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. They call him the Thunder Sword Celestial."

Following that, Xu Lang spoke to Duan Ling Tian briefly before he returned to cultivate.

After Xu Lang left, Duan Ling Tian continued chatting with his two senior brothers and two seniors sisters who had yet to leave. With this, he slowly gained a deeper understanding of the Heavenly Pool Palace.

The prodigious disciples in Heavenly Pool Palace were outstanding disciples below the age of 1,000. After they passed the age of 1,000, they would no longer bear the title of a prodigious disciple.

For that reason, Lu Ji was also one of the five strongest people among all the disciples below the age of 1,000 in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

“Little Junior Brother, since you have just joined the Heavenly Pool Palace, you haven’t had time to register as a prodigious disciple, right?” Wen Wan’er asked with a faint smile on her face.

“That’s right.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I plan to go have a look at the Sword Trial Pavilion tomorrow.”

“I heard from Teacher that he wanted your lover to join us as well, but you asked her to join Pavilion Master Lei Ying. Is that true?” Ouyang Fei Qi asked.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Little Junior Brother, we’ve been chatting for so long, and yet, I still don’t know how I should address your lover,” Hu Mei said as she smiled at Huan’er.

“Third Senior Sister, her name is Huan’er,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“Huan’er?” Hu Mei studied Huan’er again. “She’s really beautiful that it’s almost unreal... If I didn’t see her, I would have thought Eldest Senior Sister is the most beautiful woman in the world.”

“Eldest Senior Sister?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, “Is she not in the Heavenly Pool Palace?”

“That’s right.” Hu Mei nodded. “If she was here in the Heavenly Pool Palace, she would’ve come to greet you if she knew we have a new Little Junior Brother. She left to deal with some things.”

Hong Fei smirked and chimed in, “Little Junior Brother, Eldest Senior Sister is no longer a prodigious disciple because she has passed the age of 1,000. However, she’s incredibly powerful. Before the age of 1,000, she was the strongest prodigious disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace!”

The strongest prodigious disciple in Heavenly Pool Palace?

Duan Ling Tian was slightly startled by this revelation. This meant his Eldest Senior Sister was once the most powerful person below the age of 1,000 in the Heavenly Pool Palace. With this, his curiosity was piqued. He asked about his senior sister whom he had yet to meet, “Is our Eldest Senior Sister truly so powerful?”

Hong Fei chuckled and said, “When Eldest Senior Sister returns, don’t stare at her for too long. Otherwise, Second Senior Brother will beat you up.” Then, he said energetically, “Let me tell you a secret! Second Senior Brother likes our Eldest Senior Sister, but she doesn’t feel the same way. It is unrequited love.”

“This is not a secret alright!” Hu Mei said as she rolled her eyes, “There’s no secret among us. You’re just being gossipy.” Then, she added with a laugh, “Nevertheless, you have to listen to Eldest Senior Sister... It’s okay for us to joke around with Teacher or disobey him. However, you must always listen to Eldest Senior Sister. This is because even Teacher has to listen to Eldest Senior Sister!”

Upon hearing Hu Mei’s words, Duan Ling Tian grew even more curious and confused. Xu Lang, a titled Celestial Emperor, had to listen to his Eldest Senior Sister?

Upon seeing the confusion on Duan Ling Tian’s face, Ouyang Qi Fei promptly explained, “Little Junior Brother, Eldest Senior Sister is Teacher’s daughter. However, the matter isn’t so simple. In fact, Eldest Senior Sister doesn’t really care about Teacher, but he still tries to please her to make up for the past.

We don't know what caused their strained relationship though... We suspect it had something to do with Teacher's wife who passed away."

After getting to know these people a little better, Duan Ling Tian finally could not help but ask, "Seniors, how many mastery-stage profundities did the current strongest prodigious disciple comprehend?"

Duan Ling Tian felt troubled by this matter. Only those below the age of 1,000 could be a prodigious disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace. He wanted to know how many profundities at the mastery stage did the strongest disciple below the age of 1,000 comprehend.

"Little Junior Brother, apart from the Thunder Elemental Profundity that can't be improved on, Second Senior Brother has comprehended all eight profundities of the law of thunder to the mastery stage... So what do you think?" Hong Fei said with a smile.

Duan Ling Tian was stunned by the reply. At the same time, it dawned on him how terrifying the prodigies from a heaven-grade could be.

Lu Ji was not even 1,000 years old, but he was already a Celestial Emperor who had comprehended all of the profundities from the law of thunder to the mastery stage.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian asked again, "Sixth Senior Brother... You said that Second Senior Brother is among the five strongest prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Based on what you said earlier, does this mean the other four have also comprehended all their profundities to the mastery stage?"

"That's right." Hong Fei nodded. "They aren't the only ones. There are a few more prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace who have comprehended all their profundities to the mastery stage."

"Little Junior Brother, why do you ask? Could it be... Did you also comprehend all your profundities to the mastery stage?" Hong Fei asked as his eyes widened in shock.

"I heard from Teacher that Little Junior Brother injured a Six Combos Celestial Lord during the first test for the disciple selection," Ouyang Qi Fei stared at Duan Ling Tian intently as he said, "Moreover, Little Junior Brother's cultivation base is only that of a Four Phenomenon Celestial Lord. That Six Combos Celestial Lord had comprehended four of the law of fire's profundities to the Mastery Stage... So Little Junior Brother is extraordinarily strong..."

"Fifth Senior Brother, how did you obtain this information from Teacher?" Hong Fei looked at Ouyang Qi Fei in surprise.

Ouyang Qi Fei seemed a little embarrassed as he said, "I was just curious about our Little Junior Brother..."

"I think you're just curious about how Teacher found Little Junior Brother, right?" Hu Mei said as she rolled her eyes.

With this, Ouyang Qi Fei grew even more embarrassed since his thoughts had been exposed. He hurriedly changed the topic and said, "It's not just that. I heard Huan'er injured the Six Combos Celestial Lord as well!"

“Huan’er?”

Upon hearing Ouyang Qi Fei’s words, Hong Fei, Hu Mei, and Wen Wan’er looked at Huan’er in shock. They did not expect Huan’er to be so powerful.

Ouyang Qi Fei continued to say, “Don’t underestimate her! Although she’s not even 300 years old like our Little Junior Brother, her cultivation base is higher than his! She’s already a Six Combos Celestial Lord!”

“So that’s why Teacher wanted her to join us as well. As it turns out, Huan’er is as talented as Little Junior Brother,” Hu Mei said.

“Wait a minute.” Hong Fei looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er in shock. “Little Junior Brother, you and Miss Huan’er aren’t even 300 years old?”

With Hong Fei’s words, Hu Mei and Wen Wan’er who had missed this point finally reacted.

recalled this point which Ouyang Qi Fei but they had missed as well.

Their Little Junior Brother and his lover were not even 300 years old, and yet, they were already a Four Phenomenon Celestial Lord and a Six Combos Celestial Lord respectively. Moreover, they had defeated a Six Combos Celestial Lord who had four profundities from the law of fire to the mastery stage.

“It seems like Teacher really got himself a monstrous talent!” Hu Mei said as she looked at Duan Ling Tian with bright eyes. She turned to Huan’er and said, “Huan’er, do you mind if your Brother Ling Tian has one more woman?”

Huan’er immediately looked at Hu Mei warily when she heard those words.

Upon seeing Huan’er’s reaction, Hu Mei laughed. She shook her head as she said, “I’m kidding. Just kidding... Look at how anxious you were.” She felt as though Huan’er was going to fight if she continued joking.

Duan Ling Tian was filled with a sense of helplessness when faced with Hu Mei. He was afraid she would anger Huan’er so he quickly said before he left, “Seniors, I think we should return to our cultivation.”

However, inwardly, Duan Ling Tian was still in shock. ‘I thought it’s extremely rare that I managed to comprehend all of the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage... Who knew that there are almost ten people below the age of 1,000 in the Heavenly Pool Palace who achieved the same feat as well?’

Chapter 3264: Lei Ying’s Disciples

After leaving Xu Lang’s cultivation place, Duan Ling Tian brought Huan’er to one of the vacant peaks. The peak he chose was roughly similar to Xu Lang’s cultivation palace, but everything here was covered in a thick layer of dust. However, he was not bothered by it. With a wave of his hand, a gust of wind stirred up and blew the dust away, leaving the place dust-free.

Although Huan’er did not participate in the conversation earlier, she had been listening attentively the entire time. She asked, “Brother Ling Tian, who knew the prodigious disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace are so talented. There’s a Celestial Emperor who’s not even 1,000 years old, and there are almost

ten people who have comprehended all their profundities to the mastery stage even though they're not even 1,000 years old."

"Huan'er, the Heavenly Pool Palace is a heaven-grade force. In Devata Realms, there aren't that many heaven-grade forces..." Duan Ling Tian said. During his journey here, he had been thinking about this matter. "Although a Heavenly Emperor's force is above heaven-grade forces, it's only due to the existence of the Heavenly Emperor. What this means is that the disciples from heaven-grade forces aren't inferior to the disciples from a Heavenly Emperor's force. This also means that the disciples of heaven-grade forces can be considered as outstanding individuals in their own rights."

Duan Ling Tian continued to say, "Moreover, think about it... The Heavenly Pool Palace has 100 prodigious disciples. There are ten prodigious in each of the ten age groups. Therefore, it's not strange that there are individuals who became Celestial Emperor before turning 1,000 years old or comprehend all the profundities from a law to the mastery stage."

After listening to Duan Ling Tian's words, Huan'er fell deep into her thoughts. She found herself agreeing with Duan Ling Tian's words.

"Huan'er, although you've joined Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, you still can cultivate at my place. I don't think she'll have an opinion about it," Duan Ling Tian said. He was aware Lei Ying only wanted to recruit Huan'er due to her talent and the high chance of Huan'er becoming a prodigious disciple. Therefore, it would not matter if Huan'er cultivated at Xu Lang's place or her place. After all, if Huan'er wanted to betray Lei Ying, she would not have joined Lei Ying in the first place. Huan'er had already shown her respect by agreeing to join Lei Ying. someone with Lei Ying's status would not care about controlling their disciples. Instead, they cared more about their reputation. Therefore, he was sure it did not matter where Huan'er cultivated. As long as Huan'er performed brilliantly, Lei Ying would be happy. Moreover, as a titled Celestial Emperor, Lei Ying did not need any help or support from Huan'er at all.

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Early the next morning.

Duan Ling Tian made his way to the Sword Trial Pavilion with Huan'er.

Yesterday, Xu Lang had already helped him and Huan'er complete their registration. Therefore, the duo was now officially disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace. They had also already received their identity tokens that were now hanging by their waists. Apart from some forbidden areas, they were free to wander the Heavenly Pool Palace.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er arrived at the Sword Trial Pavilion, Duan Ling Tian approached a pavilion elder. Coincidentally, it was one of the ten elders whom he had met yesterday.

Duan Ling Tian said, "We're here to challenge a prodigious disciple."

The Sword Trial Pavilion elder greeted Huan'er first. "Miss Huan'er." Only then did he continue to say, "There are ten prodigious disciples in all the age groups... Since both of you aren't prodigious disciples yet, you can only challenge the person who's ranked tenth. If they don't respond to the challenge within

three months, you will automatically replace them. Once you're ranked at tenth place, you can begin to challenge those who are ranked ahead of you..."

In fact, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder explained the entire process to them patiently. It was clear he was afraid to offend Huan'er, the newest disciple of the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion.

Duan Ling Tian asked, "What if I miss a challenge while I was away? Will I be replaced as well if I didn't manage to respond in time because I was away?"

"Yes." The Sword Trial Pavilion elder nodded. "If you're away for a long time, and you're no longer a prodigious disciple, you'll have to start all over again by challenging the person who's ranked tenth."

Duan Ling Tian gained an understanding of how it worked with the elder's explanation. He did not waste time and bluntly said, "I want to challenge the person in tenth place from the group of disciples between the ages of 200 and 300."

"Give me your identity token, and leave your Soul Pearl with me. I'll contact the prodigious disciple you want to challenge. Once he accepts the challenge, I'll inform you of the time and place," the Sword Trial Pavilion elder said. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and explained to him, "Since you've issued a challenge, you're not allowed to leave the Heavenly Pool Palace or enter closed-door cultivation for three months. Do you agree?"

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Very well. I'll inform you once I have news," the Sword Trial Pavilion elder said. Then, when he turned to look at Huan'er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, a smile appeared on his face as he asked, "Miss Huan'er, do you want to challenge a prodigious disciple as well?"

"Yes." Huan'er nodded.

"If there are two people from the same group issuing a challenge at the same time, the people who are ranked ninth and tenth would receive the challenge," the Sword Trial Pavilion elder said. Similar to before, he asked for Huan'er's identity token and Soul Pearl.

"Miss Huan'er, I'll contact your opponent immediately and get back to you when there's news," the Sword Trial Pavilion elder said to Huan'er before he returned Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian's identity order to them. Following that, he returned to work.

"Huan'er, you have much more influence than I do in the Sword Trial Pavilion," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, "It seems like my decision is right, sending you to the Sword Trial Pavilion. Based on what just happened, it seems like we won't have much trouble in the Sword Trial Pavilion."

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were just about to leave the Sword Trial Pavilion when Lei Ying returned.

"Senior," Duan Ling Tian greeted Lei Ying, and Huan'er followed suit.

During the tests, Lei Ying could tell Huan'er was taciturn and rather aloof. Therefore, she did not take offense to Huan'er's behavior. Finally, she said, "Huan'er, let me show you the cultivation places of my disciples."

Lei Ying led Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to her disciples' cultivation places. It was located in a huge valley. There were many buildings in the valley and people could be seen flying in the sky.

"Apart from my prodigious disciples, the others are mostly their families and friends. I have five disciples, including you," Lei Ying said to Huan'er.

Under Lei Ying's lead, they arrived at a vast stone platform located halfway up a mountain. A majestic palace could be seen in the place.

"My disciples' seniority is ranked by strength... Huan'er, since you just joined me, you're the junior. You'll have to address the others as your senior brothers or senior sisters. However, as long as you're strong enough, you can be the Eldest Senior Strength if you want," Lei Ying continued to explain to Huan'er.

After a moment, Lei Ying sent a few messages out.

Soon enough, four people arrived at Lei Ying's cultivation palace. Among the four disciples, there are three males and one female.

"Teacher."

As soon as Lei Ying's four disciples arrived, they bowed at her respectfully. The atmosphere was solemn, the complete opposite of what it was like at Xu Lang's place.

"Huan'er, this is your Eldest Senior Brother, Ximen Lin Jie," Lei Ying said as she looked at a tall and muscular young man with strong features dressed in a maroon robe.

When Ximen Lin Jie saw Huan'er, his eyes lit up immediately. Although Huan'er was wearing a veil, it could not conceal her beauty.

At this moment, Lei Ying looked at an honest-looking grey-clad young man who resembled Lei Ying. "This is your Second Senior Brother, Lei Jun. He's also my only son."

"Hello, Little Junior Sister." Lei Jun smiled at Huan'er warmly.

Then, Lei Ying turned to the previously only female disciple of hers. "This is your Third Senior Sister, Linghu Yuan."

The woman was dressed in a green robe and had an average appearance. When she looked at Huan'er, there was a hint of jealousy flashing in the depths of her eyes. Nonetheless, she concealed it rather well.

Unfortunately, it did not escape Duan Ling Tian's notice. He thought to himself, 'Women's jealousy is a really terrifying thing...'

Finally, Lei Ying turned to look at a short man who could possibly be a dwarf and said, "This is your Fourth Senior Brother, He Wen."

He Wen nodded at Huan'er in response before he shifted his attention to Linghu Yuan. His eyes were filled with adoration and admiration when he looked at her.

Linghu Yuan who sensed He Wen's gaze seemed slightly disgusted.

At this moment, Lei Ying finally introduced Huan'er to her four disciples, "This is your Fifth Junior Sister, Huan'er... Don't underestimate her. Although she's not even 300 years old, she's capable of defeating a Six Combos Celestial Lord who had comprehended four of the law of fire's profundities to the mastery stage. She's also a Six Combos Celestial Lord. In fact, she's not necessarily any weaker than Linghu Yuan and He Wen..." As she said these words, she shot a look at both Linghu Yuan and He Wen.

"A Six Combos Celestial Lord who hasn't even reached 300 years old?"

Lei Ying's words shocked her four disciples.

After a few moments, Linghu Yuan stepped forward and smiled at Huan'er as she said, "Little Junior Sister, you're rather strong. Would you like to spar with me? If you win, you can be the Third Senior Sister."

Chapter 3265: The Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox?!

"Junior Sister Linghu, you're over 700 years old, and you're an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord. Isn't it unfair for you to have a duel with Little Junior Sister?" Lei Jun frowned slightly when he heard Linghu Yuan challenging Huan'er to a duel.

"Second Senior Brother, didn't you hear master's words? Little Junior Sister isn't any weaker than He Wen and me. Don't you think you're worrying too much?" Linghu Yuan said with a smile.

Meanwhile, Lei Ying's response was different from Lei Jun. She turned to Huan'er and asked with a faint smile, "Huan'er, your Third Senior Sister wants to have a duel with you. What do you think?"

Lei Ying was not entirely certain of Huan'er's strength. Since she wanted to see the extent of Huan'er's strength, she was naturally not displeased by Linghu Yuan's request for a duel with Huan'er.

"Alright." Huan'er nodded

"In that case, you may have a duel." Lei Ying's eyes lit up when she heard Huan'er agreeing to the duel. Then, she led the others out of the pavilion and flew up into the sky above the valley.

Duan Ling Tian and the others, naturally, followed suit.

'An Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord?' As he was flying, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Linghu Yuan discreetly. Earlier, Lei Jun had said Linghu Yuan was over 700 years old and was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord. Based on this, he did not think it was likely that she had comprehended all the profundities from a law to the mastery stage. At most, she might have comprehended seven profundities to the mastery stage. Even then, considering her relatively young age, the chances were not very high. It was more likely that she had comprehended six profundities to the mastery stage.

"Huan'er, since she initiated the duel, there's no need for you to hold back. Do what you want; just don't kill her..." Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er through Voice Transmission. He was aware of Huan'er's true strength; she was definitely stronger than what she had shown so far. Her advantage was not her cultivation base or the profundities from the law of space that she had comprehended. Her advantage was the inherent techniques she was born with as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox.

In a fight, Huan'er was not a match for Duan Ling Tian if she did not use her inherent techniques as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. However, if she used her inherent techniques, he thought it was likely that he would be defeated by her unless he asked for help from the Five Divine Elements. With that, he would be able to see through her illusions.

"Okay," Huan'er replied, "Brother Ling Tian, I won't hold back because I don't really like her..."

A hint of glee flashed in the depths of Duan Ling Tian's eyes when he heard Huan'er's reply. He knew someone was about to get unlucky.

Huan'er rarely got angry. However, when she was angry, it was not something anyone could bear. Duan Ling Tian was well aware of this.

Meanwhile, Linghu Yuan looked at Lei Jun and asked through Voice Transmission, "Second Senior Brother, do you have a crush on our Little Junior Sister?"

"What are you talking about?" Lei Jun frowned.

"Then why did you take her side earlier? Regardless, I advise you to give up. Look at her. It's obvious she's wholeheartedly devoted to the man next to her," Linghu Yuan continued to say through Voice Transmission. A hint of laughter could be heard in her voice.

Soon after, Lei Ying came to a stop on an empty ground.

Then, Huan'er and Linghu Yuan got into their positions and faced each other from a distance.

"Little Junior Sister, let me see how powerful you are," Linghu Yuan said with an insincere smile on her face.

As soon as Linghu Yuan finished speaking, Huan'er had already disappeared from where she had stood. Then, she reappeared behind Linghu Yuan.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Nine spatial tears appeared in just a blink of an eye. Then, a grey saber ray shot out from each of the nine spatial tears toward Linghu Yuan.

Upon seeing this, Linghu Yuan instinctively moved to dodge the attacks.

At the same time, Huan'er used her powerful spiritual energy to interfere with Linghu Yuan.

"No!" Linghu Yuan cried out in a shrill voice as she flew away like a gust of wind. Nonetheless, blood could be seen on the ground where she was standing earlier. It was clear that a few of the grey saber rays had landed on her.

'That... Was that a soul attack?' Everything happened in a split second; even Lei Ying was stunned. She was not very certain since soul attacks were not her strongest suit. Nevertheless, she could still sense the fluctuations in Huan'er's spiritual energy with her Divine Consciousness.

Earlier, when the gray saber rays from the Cross Dimensional Slash Profundity were about to land on Linghu Yuan, Lei Ying had already mobilized her Celestial Origin Energy, preparing to rescue Linghu Yuan. However, this was not because she favored Linghu Yuan. It did not matter if it was Huan'er or Linghu

Yuan, she would save them if they were in danger. After all, she only had a handful of prodigious disciples. It was only natural that she did not want any harm to come to them.

'By now, Linghu Yuan should've stopped underestimating Huan'er.' Duan Ling Tian stood aside and watched indifferently. He could see that Linghu Yuan had gotten injured because she had underestimated Huan'er.

Lei Jun was slightly surprised. "Little Junior Sister... is so powerful?"

"That soul attack seems strange," Ximen Lin Jie said as he narrowed his eyes. However, his expression remained dignified.

"Little Junior Sister, I've underestimated you. I won't hold back anymore," Linghu Yuan, who had retreated quite a distance away, said coldly. At this time, the smirk on her face had completely disappeared. It was obvious from the look in her eyes that she was about to get serious.

"No one asked you to hold back," Huan'er replied indifferently.

Huan'er's indifference and words felt like a slap to the prideful Linghu Yuan.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Linghu Yuan swept out like a gust of wind toward Huan'er. However, her attack missed. By the time she arrived in front of Huan'er, Huan'er had already disappeared from where she was standing.

The two women kept going back and forth; one chasing as the other teleported away. It seemed like they were in a stalemate.

"Little Junior Sister, do you only know how to run away?" Linghu Yuan said impatiently. She was clearly annoyed by Huan'er's continuous use of the Teleportation Profundity.

For those who comprehend the law of wind, those who comprehend the law of space were their undefeatable rivals. Although Linghu Yuan felt she could catch up with Huan'er's speed, it would require more effort and time. She did not wish to waste any more time.

"I worry you won't last long if I stop teleporting," Huan'er replied indifferently again.

A slightly unnatural expression appeared on the others' faces, including Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian felt the corners of his lips twitch. He wondered when Huan'er learned to talk like that? Moreover, her tone and words seemed rather familiar. It seemed like he had said something similar before?

"Show me." Linghu Yuan was infuriated by Huan'er's words. The sharp sound of wind whistling in the air rang in everyone's ears.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, Huan'er no longer used the Teleportation Profundity. Her eyes began to glow faintly as a huge silhouette of a fox appeared behind her. It was as huge as a mountain and emitted an icy aura.

Then, without any warning, the eyes of the white fox silhouetted began to glow as well.

Time seemed to stand still at this moment.

Everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, watched as Linghu Yuan abruptly came to a stop when she was near Huan'er. Then, Linghu Yuan began attacking the air; all her raging attacks missed again and again.

"An illusion?"

At this time, everyone could tell Huan'er had cast some illusory techniques, and Linghu Yuan was now caught in the illusion.

Lei Jun and the others were still in shock while Lei Ying looked at the gradually disappearing silhouette behind Huan'er. 'That... Is that a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox?!

As a titled Celestial Emperor, Lei Ying naturally knew about the Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes. Although the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox seemed to be just a legend due to their rarity, she knew about their characteristics.

With this knowledge, even if Xu Lang wanted to trade Duan Ling Tian for Huan'er, Lei Ying definitely would not agree to it. In a fight, Huan'er might not be as powerful as Duan Ling Tian, but if Huan'er used her skills as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, Duan Ling Tian might not be able to defeat Huan'er. Most importantly, most of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes that had appeared had successfully transitioned into a god!

'More than 90% Heavenly Emperors can't even attain godhood... If Huan'er really becomes a god, doesn't this mean that I, Lei Ying, would have a connection with a god?' With this thought in her mind, Lei Ying felt Huan'er becoming more and more pleasing to the eyes.

When the silhouette of the Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox disappeared, Linghu Yuan finally came out of the illusion that Huan'er had weaved. When she saw the unharmed Huan'er, she said in disbelief, "You... You're not injured!"

How could Linghu Yuan not be surprised? She had seen Huan'er retreating in a fluster under her raging attacks. She did not understand why Huan'er was completely unharmed at this moment. After a while, she took a deep breath to calm down and prepared to attack again.

At this moment, Lei Ying interjected, "Enough!" Then, she continued to say, "Three, you've lost. If Huan'er intended to kill you, you would've been dead by now..."

Chapter 3266: The Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit

"Impossible!" Linghu Yuan looked at Lei Ying incredulously. She did not believe Lei Ying at all and suspected that Lei Ying was taking Huan'er's side.

"Junior Sister Linghu," Lei Jun said with a sigh, "You were caught in Little Junior Sister's Illusory Technique for about three breaths... During that time, she could've easily killed you. You'd be dead right now if this was a life-or-death battle."

Not only did Linghu Yuan doubt Lei Ying's words, but she doubted Lei Jun's words as well. However, when she saw Ximen Lin Jie and He Wen nodding in unison, she realized Lei Ying was telling the truth.

“What kind of technique was that?” Linghu Yuan’s expression was grim when she looked at Huan’er. It was not the first time she had encountered an illusion. However, earlier, she did not detect any sign of being caught in an illusion at all; it was so real and detailed.

In fact, Huan’er’s illusion mirrored reality so much that the only difference was Huan’er who looked like she was being attacked was actually standing at the side and watching indifferently.

“It’s only natural you can’t see through Huan’er’s illusion,” Lei Ying said before Huan’er could reply. She glanced at Linghu Yuan as she continued to say, “Huan’er is a rare Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox that only appears once in 1,000,000 years in the Phantom Fox Clan. In Devata Realms, Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes are considered Divine Beasts...”

“A Divine Beast?!”

Linghu Yuan, Lei Jun, and the others were stunned by Lei Ying’s words. They had heard about the Phantom Fox Clan. Although the Phantom Fox Clan was not weak among Celestial Beasts, they were only a grade-one force. However, none of them doubted the talent of an existence that only appeared once in 1,000,000 years even if it was from a grade-one force. They were actually more shocked by the fact that Lei Ying said a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox was considered a Divine Beast in Devata Realms.

The Divine Beasts reigned supreme over all Celestial Beasts. If it lived to its full potential, it would even surpass Ten Directions Celestial Emperors, easily becoming an apex powerhouse in a Devata Realm.

How could Lei Ying’s disciples not be shocked by this revelation?

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er remained calm. After all, it was not like they were unaware of this matter. In the past, he had asked her about the difference between a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox and other Celestial Beasts, and she had told him that Thousand Phantoms Ice Foxes were not Celestial Beasts but Divine Beasts. Apart from that, even the World Cleansing Water had said Huan’er was a Divine Beast when he first obtained it.

At this moment, Lei Ying looked at Huan’er and declared, “Since Huan’er defeated my third disciple, Huan’er will be third on the hierarchy instead. As for Linghu Yuan...” She paused and looked at Linghu Yuan before she continued to say, “You’ll be my fourth disciples now, and He Wen my fifth disciple.”

As soon as Lei Ying finished speaking, Ximen Lin Jie and Lei Jun instantly called out, “Third Junior Sister.”

Needless to say, Linghu Yuan was reluctant and begrudgingly called out, “Third Senior Sister.” The jealousy in her eyes had grown even more intense when she looked at Huan’er.

‘This Linghu Yuan...’ Duan Ling Tian frowned when he saw the jealousy flashing in Linghu Yuan’s eyes. He hoped Linghu Yuan would not do anything foolish such as causing trouble for Huan’er. Otherwise, he would never let her get away with it!

At this time, Lei Ying said to Huan’er with a smile, “Huan’er, from today onward, you can cultivate here.”

Linghu Yuan became even more jealous upon hearing this. Prior to this, only her first and second senior brothers were allowed to cultivate at Lei Ying’s cultivation place where the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was richer than anywhere else in the valley.

“That’s unnecessary.” Huan’er shook her head. “I will cultivate together with Brother Ling Tian.”

Huan'er did not want to be separated from Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, her cultivation speed would be faster if she stayed by his side. Although Lei Ying's cultivation place was good, it could not compare to the Heaven and Spirit Energy in Duan Ling Tian's Little World that originated from the remnant of a Realm of Gods. The Realms of Gods were divine places, it was only natural that their Heaven and Earth Spirit Energies were superior to those in Devata Realms.

"Alright, do as you wish." Lei Ying would have been quite displeased by Huan'er's refusal if she was not aware that Huan'er was a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Moreover, even if she was displeased, there was nothing she could do about it. Currently, she was satisfied as long as Huan'er acknowledged her as a teacher; she could use this relationship to build a better relationship with Huan'er. After all, it would be beneficial to her in many ways if she could build a good relationship with a Divine Beast. Apart from that, if Huan'er managed to become a god, there was a possibility she would receive enlightenment from Huan'er and become a god herself. In Devata Realms, it was the dream of all Celestial Emperors to become a god. Unfortunately, the chances were so slim that even among titled Celestial Emperors, the chances of becoming a god was only 0.1%.

Following that, Lei Ying passed her Soul Pearl to Huan'er and said, "Huan'er, remember that from now on, you're my student. In the future, if there's anything I can help you with, feel free to look for me. Let's exchange Soul Pearls..."

After Huan'er and Lei Ying exchanged Soul Pearls, a Celestial Fruit that emitted a refreshing fragrance and had purple lightning bolts flashing around it suddenly appeared in Lei Ying's hand. Then, she said as she handed the Celestial Fruit to Huan'er, "Huan'er, this is a gift from me. This Celestial Fruit is called the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit. I came across it 1,000 years ago."

The Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit!

Upon seeing this, not only did Linghu Yuan grow even more jealous, but even the other disciples, including Lei Jun, looked at the Celestial Fruit enviously.

The Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit was a grade-one Celestial Fruit. It would boost the cultivation base of a Celestial Lord immensely.

After a brief moment, Lei Jun and Ximen Lin Jie no longer paid attention to the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit. After all, it was useless to them since they were both Celestial Emperors.

"Thank you, Teacher." Huan'er's eyes lit up as she thanked Lei Ying. She knew the benefits of a Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit, after all.

"Huan'er, from today onward, remember that you're my student. No matter what happens, you will have the support of Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor," Lei Ying said seriously.

Huan'er nodded in response.

Lei Jun said with a smile, "Junior Sister Huan'er, if any of the prodigious disciples bully you, you can tell your Second Senior Brother! First Senior Brother is over 1,000 years old so he's no longer considered a prodigious disciple, but I'm under 900 years old so I'm still a prodigious disciple."

“Thank you, Second Senior Brother.” Huan’er nodded again.

Apart from Linghu Yuan and He Wen, Lei Jun and Ximen Lin Jie took the initiative to exchange Soul Pearls with Huan’er before they bade farewell to each other.

From the beginning up until now, Duan Ling Tian was aware that Lei Jun, Lei Ying’s son, had been ignoring him. When he and Huan’er left, he saw the jealousy that briefly flitted across Lei Jun’s face.

‘Huan’er is too attractive...’ Duan Ling Tian shook his head helplessly. As a man, he naturally could guess Lei Jun’s thoughts as soon as Lei Jun stood up for Huan’er against Linghu Yuan.

Apart from that, before the duo left, Duan Ling Tian could also see the cold and sinister light glinting in Linghu Yuan’s eyes. ‘Linghu Yuan better steer clear of us. Otherwise, I don’t mind getting rid of her for good!’

Even in the Heavenly Pool Palace, a heaven-grade force, Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er could kill a Celestial Lord like Linghu Yuan without leaving any evidence behind if they so wished. Huan’er’s Illusory Technique was impeccable as a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox. Coupled with Duan Ling Tian’s camouflage technique, he was confident he could even kill an ordinary Celestial Emperor without leaving any traces behind, let alone someone like Linghu Yuan.

...

After returning to Xu Lang’s cultivation place.

Huan’er brought the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit out and handed it to Duan Ling Tian. “Brother Ling Tian, take this Celestial Fruit!”

“Huan’er, I understand your good intentions. However, this was given to you by your teacher, so it’s better if you consume it,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

“Brother Ling Tian, my cultivation speed is already faster than yours... Moreover, the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit won’t boost my cultivation base as much as it would boost yours,” Huan’er said stubbornly, “If you don’t want it, I’ll destroy it then.”

Seeing how resolute Huan’er was, Duan Ling Tian was rather helpless. Since when did Huan’er learn to act in this manner? In the past, this was how he had gotten her to share Celestial Fruits with him since she usually refused to take his Celestial Fruits. It seemed like she had learned and mastered this trick from him.

Duan Ling Tian who had no choice but to accept the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit solemnly said, “Huan’er, let’s make a deal... Whether it’s you or I who obtain a Celestial Fruit in the future, let’s just take turns to consume the Celestial Fruits. Alright?”

“Okay, Brother Ling Tian... Hurry, consume the fruit and start cultivating! With the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit and the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in your Little World, you’ll definitely break through and become a Five Elements Celestial Lord soon,” Huan’er said with a smile.

“It’s easier said than done.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. He had just broken through and became a Four Phenomenon Celestial Lord before joining the Heavenly Pool Palace. Therefore, he knew it would

take a while before he would have another breakthrough and become a Five Elements Celestial Lord even with the Purple Thunder Celestial Fruit.

Just when the duo was about to cultivate, Huan'er suddenly looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Brother Ling Tian, I just received a message from a Sword Trial Pavilion elder..."

Chapter 3267: The Prodigy Arena

"Me too."

As soon as Huan'er's voice fell, Duan Ling Tian also received a message from the Sword Trial Pavilion elder.

The Sword Trial Pavilion elder had informed Duan Ling Tian that the prodigious disciple between the 200-to-300-year-old age group who was ranked last had agreed to battle him in the Heavenly Pool Palace's Prodigy Arena after three days. Since Duan Ling Tian was the challenger, he did not have the right to choose the time. If he failed to show up during the fight, it would be ruled as him forfeiting the fight.

"My fight with that prodigy is in three days. What about you?" Duan Ling Tian asked Huan'er curiously.

"Mine is in ten days," Huan'er replied.

...

Three days passed in just a blink of an eye.

Just as Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were about to leave Xu Lang's place, a voice rang in the distance.

"Hey, Little Junior Brother! Wait for me!"

Duan Ling Tian stopped in his tracks and turned around. He saw a fat man dressed in a long green robe flying toward him at this moment. For someone his size, the fat man was rather quick.

In a blink of an eye, three days had passed. While Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were preparing to leave Xu Lang's cultivation ground, suddenly a voice rang from the distance. "Hey! Little Junior Brother, wait for me!"

"Sixth Senior Brother, how may I help you?"

The fat man was none other than Hong Fei, Xu Lang's sixth disciple.

"Little Junior Brother, I heard you have a battle in the Prodigy Arena today! How can I be absent from your fight? I'm not like your other seniors. They're all friendly to you, but during critical times, they're nowhere to be seen!" Hong Fei said righteously with a straight face before he laughed.

"Senior Brother Hong Fei, how did you know I'm going to battle a prodigious disciple today?" Duan Ling Tian was surprised. After all, he had just received word about this from the Sword Trial Pavilion elder three days ago.

"Little Junior Brother, whenever anyone challenges a prodigious disciple, regardless if it was to become a prodigious disciple or to improve their ranking, the battle would be announced once it's confirmed.

The information would be on public display in the Sword Trial Pavilion. Coincidentally, I saw the announcement for your battle when I went to the Sword Trial Pavilion two days ago,” Hong Fei explained.

“Coincidentally?” Duan Ling Tian looked at Hong Fei and smiled knowingly. “I guess it’s really a coincidence that Senior Brother Hong Fei found out I have a battle against a prodigious disciple today.”

“Alright, I admit it!” Hong Fei knew he had been seen through by Duan Ling Tian so he said seriously, “Little Junior Brother, I was just testing your reaction earlier. Frankly speaking, since you joined us, I’ve been going to the Sword Trial Pavilion to look at the announcements for battles between prodigious disciples. That’s how I know you have an upcoming battle today with Huang Lu Nan, the person who’s ranked last among the prodigious disciples between the ages of 200 and 300.”

Duan Ling Tian only shook his head helplessly. He had seen how shameless Hong Fei could be so he did not believe Hong Fei’s words.

“Little Junior Brother, since you are new to the Heavenly Pool Palace, I’m sure you don’t know the way to the Prodigy Arena, right?” Hong Fei asked when he saw Duan Ling Tian had no intention of continuing that topic.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I’m planning to ask for directions.”

“That’s unnecessary. As your senior brother, I’ll lead you there,” Hong Fei said with a smile, “The Prodigy Arena isn’t located on the islands in the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate. It’s located in the sky about 10 miles north of the Heavenly Pool Palace. There are three rings in the Prodigy Arena that are shared by the Heavenly Pool Palace’s prodigious disciples. Your battle with Huang Lu Nan is the only battle today. Anyway, although you’re unknown because you’ve just joined the palace, and Huang Lu Nan’s not particularly popular since he’s ranked last among his peers, there would still be many disciples coming to watch the battle! However, usually, it’s the ordinary disciples who would come to watch. Prodigious disciples rarely show up.”

They continued to chat until they finally arrived at the place that was 10 miles north of the Heavenly Pool Palace. On the way over, just as Hong Fei had said, they saw many disciples who were also making their way to the Prodigy Arena to watch the battle.

At this moment, a slightly displeased expression appeared on Hong Fei’s face as he said, “I, Hong Fei, can be considered rather well-known in the Heavenly Pool Palace. I didn’t expect these disciples not to recognize me!” He was rather unhappy that none of the disciples had greeted him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The trio finally stopped moving once they entered the Heavenly Pool Palace’s Prodigy Arena.

The Prodigy Arena was suspended in the air and had three battle rings on three respective levels. A stone tablet with the words ‘Prodigy Arena’ could be seen in the middle of the arena.

At this moment, there were at least 100 people who had already gathered in the arena. Moreover, it seemed like the number was still increasing.

While Duan Ling Tian studied the Prodigy Arena, a disciple greeted Hong Fei enthusiastically, "Senior Brother Hong Fei!"

Hong Fei nodded. He was delighted that someone finally recognized him! The gloomy expression on his face disappeared in just an instant. Unlike how shamelessly he behaved when he was with Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er, his expression was solemn when he responded to the disciple.

Meanwhile, a few disciples standing nearby shifted their eyes to Hong Fei when they heard the disciple greeting him.

"He's Hong Fei?"

"He's the weakest among all the prodigious disciples under Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, right?"

"If I'm not mistaken, Hong Fei is ranked last in the 600-to-700-year-old age group. He has been kicked out of the Prodigy Ranking a few times, and it'd take a while before he made his way into the ranking again."

"Nevertheless, since he's capable of making his way back into a ranking, it means he qualifies as a prodigious disciple."

Although the disciples discussed in whispered voices, their conversation clearly entered Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's ears. Both of them exchanged a look immediately as a small smile appeared on their faces.

On the other hand, Hong Fei's expression darkened immediately when he heard the disciples whispering behind his back. He said angrily, "You foul-mouthed b*stards! If you have the guts, why don't you fight me in the Prodigy Arena? I'll take on a few of you at a time. If you can withstand three strikes from me, I'll take it as a loss!"

The disciples froze, feeling embarrassed and at a loss over what to do when they realized Hong Fei had overheard their discussion.

"Hong Fei... Aren't you ashamed to be making a fuss over the ordinary disciples?" A loud and high-pitched laughter rang from the distance at this moment, helping the disciples to extricate themselves from the embarrassing situation.

Soon enough, a skinny young man, the extreme opposite of Hong Fei's large and fleshy body, appeared in front of them.

"Liu Jian, why are you here?" Hong Fei cocked an eyebrow when he saw the skinny young man. He did not expect to meet this person here.

At the same time, Hong Fei sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Little Junior Brother, this is Liu Jian. We're in the same age group. I'm ranked 10th while he's ranked 9th. However, if it wasn't because I was unlucky previously, I would've defeated him and ranked 9th instead!"

Duan Ling Tian did not take Hong Fei's words seriously. After all, he knew Hong Fei liked to boast and joke around. Naturally, he knew Hong Fei meant no harm with his jokes. In the end, he did not expose Hong Fei and just nodded imperceptibly in response.

"I accompanied my junior brother here. After all, my junior brother, Huang Lu Nan, will be battling your junior brother," Liu Jian said. After a brief pause, he continued to say, "I just found out that the new disciple, Duan Ling Tian, who challenged my junior brother is now a student of your teacher, Lord Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor. So, this must be Duan Ling Tian, right?" After he finished speaking, he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian as he smiled disdainfully.

"Are you looking down on my Little Junior Brother?" Hong Fei asked in a lowered voice as a frown appeared on his face immediately when he saw the disdainful smile on Liu Jian's face.

"I'm not looking down on him... However, he's a newbie. Even if he's talented, he should measure his strength before challenging a prodigious disciple," Liu Jian said airily, "A battle with a prodigious disciple isn't easy, after all. If he loses, he might be so traumatized that he doesn't dare to challenge another prodigious disciple again. Lord Xu Lang has seven disciples now. Out of the seven, five of them are outstanding. Initially, there's only you, Hong Fei, the loser..." Liu Jian said. Then, he glanced at Duan Ling Tian and the disdainful smile on his face grew bigger as he said, "However, now, there's one more loser..."

"Preposterous!" Hong Fei was furious.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed for a second before he looked at Liu Jian with a faint smile on his face as he said, "It would've been better for you to keep these words to yourself until your junior brother, Huang Lu Nan, defeats me. Now that you've said these words, it'd be embarrassing for you if the outcome is different from what you expected."

"That's right!" Hong Fei chimed in indignantly.

"Embarrassing?" Liu Jian was briefly taken aback by Duan Ling Tian's words. When he recovered his senses, he laughed. "Boy, you seem pretty confident. However, there has never been a lack of new Heavenly Pool Palace disciples who are overconfident. However, in the end, they were always beaten to a pulp." His eyes glinted coldly when he reached the end of his words.

Chapter 3268: Lei Jun's Arrival

"Oh? Is that so?" Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly upon hearing Liu Jian's words.

"Senior brother." At this moment, a tall young man who was dressed in blue robes with a determined expression on his face arrived next to Liu Jian. He asked, "Were you looking for me?"

"Junior brother, this is your opponent today. He's Lord Xu Lang's newest and youngest disciple, Duan Ling Tian," Liu Jian glanced at Duan Ling Tian as he said to the young man. Based on Liu Jian's words, it was obvious the young man was none other than the prodigious disciple Duan Ling Tian would be facing in the Prodigy Arena today, Huang Lu Nan.

Huang Lu Nan was ranked last among the ten prodigious disciples in the 200-to-300-year-old age group. If Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat him, he would be kicked off of the Prodigy Ranking and become a prodigious disciple.

Prodigious disciples were all given a special identity token that would grant them access to many places in the Heavenly Pool Palace that ordinary disciples did not have access to. Moreover, the prodigious disciples' treatment was, naturally, better and would make most ordinary disciples go green with envy. It was not easy to become a prodigious disciple since there could only be 100 prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Moreover, the Heavenly Pool Palace was a heaven-grade force.

"Oh?" Upon hearing Liu Jian's words, Huang Lu Nan shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian and asked nonchalantly, "I heard you managed to injure a senior of ours, a Six Combos Celestial Lord who has comprehended four profundities from the law of fire to the mastery stage, during the disciple selection's test." His gaze hardened at the end of his words.

"You're quite well-informed," Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently.

"I hope you're as strong as the rumor says. Otherwise, I'd be greatly disappointed," Huang Lu Nan said as he shook his head and smiled. It was clear he was not intimidated at all even if Duan Ling Tian were as strong as rumored.

"It seems like you're quite confident of your strength," Duan Ling Tian said.

"I guess... I should be slightly stronger than you," Huang Lu Nan replied with a smile.

"Is that so?" Duan Ling Tian smiled noncommittally and did not say much in response.

While Huang Lu Nan and Liu Jian continued to provoke Duan Ling Tian, Huan'er, and Hong Fei, the voices of a few disciples could be heard.

"The Sword Trial Pavilion elder is here!"

'It's him again.' This Sword Trial Pavilion elder was the same elder who had helped him and Huan'er to challenge the prodigious disciples previously.

The Sword Trial Pavilion elder hovered above the stone tablet in the Prodigy Arena with his hands resting on his back as he calmly asked, "Huang Lu Nan and Duan Ling Tian... Are both of you present?" Although his voice was not loud, it contained a mysterious energy that allowed everyone to hear him clearly.

"Junior brother, go on... I'd really like to see why Lord Xu Lang took a liking to this boy," Liu Jian said to Huang Lu Nan.

Although Liu Jian and Huang Lu Nan were disciples of one of the Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace, their teacher was weaker compared to Xu Lang. Liu Jian had wanted to join Xu Lang in the past and even took the initiative to speak to Xu Lang about it but was rejected in the end. Therefore, he hated Xu Lang's disciples who were weaker than him. Why would Xu Lang reject him but accept someone weaker than him?

"Senior brother, today I'll teach him a lesson today and show him what it means to be a prodigious disciple," Huang Lu Nan said with a smirk. Then, he turned into a ball of flame as he shot toward the battle ring.

"Elder." Huang Lu Nan greeted the Sword Trial Pavilion elder and handed his identity token to the elder as soon as he landed in the battle ring. His identity token was the unique identity token of a prodigious

disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace. There was no name engraved on the token since the token acknowledged its owner through blood. Although there was no name on the identity token, it was engraved with the owner's age group and ranking. His identity token naturally had the words '200-to-300-year-old age group' and '10th place' engraved on it.

The prodigious disciples in different age groups and different rankings had different identity tokens. Therefore, if someone who was lower in ranking defeated someone with a higher ranking in the same age group, they would have to switch their identity tokens.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian teleported into the battle ring.

Huan'er followed suit and teleported as close as she could to the battle ring. Her eyes were fixed on Duan Ling Tian who was standing across from Huang Lu Nan.

"Sister-in-law, Huang Lu Nan's strength is pretty good. In your opinion, what are the chances of Little Junior Brother winning?" Hong Fei asked with a smile after he arrived next to Huan'er.

"It's impossible for Brother Ling Tian to lose," Huan'er said bluntly.

Hong Fei felt that Huan'er's unswerving confidence was due to her blind trust in Duan Ling Tian. However, he soon recalled Xu Lang's words. 'Teacher did say that it shouldn't be a problem for Little Junior Brother to become a prodigious disciple... However, his opponent is Huang Lu Nan...'

Hong Fei might have doubted Huan'er's words, but he did not doubt Xu Lang's words. Nonetheless, he was still confused. 'However, Huang Lu Nan is also capable of doing what Little Junior Brother did during the first test... Ah, there's no point thinking about this! I'll just wait and see. If Little Junior Brother manages to defeat Huang Lu Nan, I want to see Liu Jian's humiliated and disappointed expression!' A cold smile could be seen on his face at this moment.

Liu Jian who was also standing nearby saw the smile on Hong Fei's face and asked contemptuously, "Hong Fei, do you really think your junior brother is a match for my junior brother?"

"Liu Jian, I just hope you'll be able to smile at the end of this." At this moment, Hong Fei could only believe in Duan Ling Tian. He refused to show his doubts in front of Liu Jian!

Meanwhile, the crowd of disciples who had come to watch the battle was still growing.

Suddenly, the elder who came to supervise the battle in the Prodigy Arena looked up into the distance.

This, naturally, caught the other disciples' attention, and they instinctively turned to look as well.

"It's Lei Jun!"

"Senior Brother Lei Jun!"

"Senior Brother Lei Jun ranks in the top three in the 800-to-900-year-old age group! Not only is he a One Basic Celestial Emperor, but he's also comprehended seven profundities from the law of metal to the mastery stage!"

“Most importantly, he’s the only son of Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor from our Heavenly Pool Palace!”

Even among the 100 prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace, Lei Jun was like a brilliant star. Not only was he strong, but his family background was good as well.

That aside, many of the disciples could not help but wonder why Lei Jun would come here. Normally, battles like the one between Duan Ling Tian and Huang Lu Nan were not even good enough to attract his attention.

“Young Master.” The elder greeted and bowed at Lei Jun when Lei Jun arrived. He did not dare to be negligent since Lei Jun’s mother was the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion.

“Elder Qin, don’t mind me. Carry on.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Lei Jun appeared next to Huan’er. Then, Lei Jun said with a smile, “Third Junior Sister.”

“Second Senior Brother.” Since Lei Jun had stood for Huan’er when Lingyu Huan deliberately looked for trouble with her, she had a good impression of him. Therefore, she had responded to his greeting.

“Third Junior Sister, I heard that you’ve also challenged a prodigious disciple. When is your battle?” Lei Jun asked with a bright smile on his face.

“In seven days,” Huan’er replied curtly. She did not even look at Lei Jun when she replied to him. Her eyes were only fixed on the purple-clad young man standing in the Prodigy Arena. It was obvious the purple-clad young man was the only one in her eyes.

Lei Jun’s expression darkened slightly upon seeing this. A hint of killing intent flashed in his eyes when he looked at the purple-clad figure standing in the Prodigy Arena.

As soon as he saw Huan’er for the first time, he was attracted to her. Although she was wearing a veil, it did not conceal her beauty at all. Just the sight of her at that time caused his heart to thump wildly in his chest. Alas, she was with Duan Ling Tian. He could not help but feel jealous. Although he was aware that she was in love with Duan Ling Tian, he did not care at all. This was because he could tell she was still a virgin. Since she had not been intimate with Duan Ling Tian, he hoped to attract her interest.

Killing intent surged in Lei Jun’s heart again when he turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian. ‘Duan Ling Tian, there’s no enmity between us. You can only blame the fact that Huan’er likes you...’

Meanwhile, some of the disciples who were looking at Lei Jun could tell Lei Jun was interested in Huan’er.

“Hey, it seems like Senior Brother Lei Jun isn’t here for the battle but for that woman.”

“This is the first time I’ve seen Senior Brother Lei Jun showing interest in a woman!”

At this moment, the elder’s voice rang in the air, causing the disciples to shift their attention away from Lei Jun to Duan Ling Tian and Huang Lu Nan.

“Let the battle begin.”

Huang Lu Nan sneered as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, right? I'll make you regret challenging me!"

"You should attack now," Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly without a change in his expression, "I'm afraid you won't have the chance to attack anymore if you don't attack now."

Chapter 3269: Duan Ling Tian Becomes a Prodigious Disciple

"Nonsense!" Huang Lu Nan was enraged by Duan Ling Tian's words. Flames surged out of his body immediately. He was a Six Combos Celestial Lord who had comprehended five profundities from the law of fire to the mastery stage. Therefore, he knew he was capable of doing what Duan Ling Tian did during the first disciple selection test.

"Duan Ling Tian, today I'll teach you a lesson so you won't dare to challenge another prodigious disciple again!" Huang Lu Nan said after scoffing. Then, charged toward Duan Ling Tian.

The disciples from the Heavenly Pool Palace nearby could feel the scorching heat of Huang Lu Nan's flames. Many of them began to discuss among themselves when he started attacking.

"Although Huang Lu Nan ranks last among the prodigious disciples between the ages of 200-300, he's only slightly weaker than those who ranked ahead of him."

"That's right! He doesn't always rank last. He has ranked 6th in the past. That's his highest rank so far."

"Huang Lu Nan is rather strong. It won't be easy to defeat him and become a prodigious disciple."

Soon enough, the disciples saw a shocking scene unfold...

Swoosh!

Just as Huang Lu Nan was about to reach Duan Ling Tian, he felt as though he had run into an invisible wall. He was forced to come to a stop. No matter how hard he tried, he could not advance at all. He tried leaving in another direction, but it was futile.

After a moment, Huang Lu Nan scoffed. "Do you think your Restraining Profundity is capable of restraining me?" It was obvious he knew Duan Ling Tian had cast the law of space's Restraining Profundity on him.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of thunderous explosions rang in the air as the flames on Huang Lu Nan's body surged and raged. It collided with the invisible barrier from the Restraining Profundity unceasingly. Soon enough, the flames on his body rose and raged until they filled the space he was imprisoned in. With this, the barrier began to tremble violently as though it was going to shatter at any moment.

The disciples began to discuss among themselves again.

"Duan Ling Tian's Restraining Profundity is capable of withstanding Huang Lu Nan's attacks for such a long time?"

"No wonder he has the courage to challenge a prodigious disciple. It seems like he's quite talented and strong."

“However, based on the current situation, it’s only a matter of time before Huang Lu Nan breaks out from the Restraining Profundity.”

Just as the disciples had speculated, Huang Lu Nan soon broke free of the restraints with a smirk on his face. However, it did not take long before the expression on his face froze. Then it changed drastically as he watched Duan Ling Tian disappear into thin air. Flames erupted from his body again and rose into the air like raging fire dragons.

“Is this all you got?” Duan Ling Tian had reappeared behind Huang Lu Nan. In just a blink of an eye, a powerful spatial energy surged as he pushed his palm out and easily extinguished Huang Lu Nan’s raging fire dragons.

Bang!

After the fire dragons were extinguished, a loud explosion rang in the air.

Soon enough, everyone saw Duan Ling Tian send Huang Lu Nan flying back in the air when Duan Ling Tian’s palm landed on Huang Lu Nan’s body.

Huang Lu Nan tried with all his might to regain and stabilize his footing when Duan Ling Tian teleported next to him.

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian kicked Huang Lu Nan and sent him flying once again.

Swoosh!

The third time, Duan Ling Tian teleported above Huang Lu Nan. His hand slammed down on Huang Lu Nan, dispersing the Celestial Origin Energy that Huang Lu Nan was gathering.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Huang Lu Nan struggled to retaliate. Whenever he tried to mobilize the Celestial Origin Energy in his body, Duan Ling Tian would teleport near him and attack him. He was helpless since he could keep up with Duan Ling Tian’s speed when mobilizing Celestial Origin Energy.

‘How’s this possible?’ Huang Lu Nan was shocked and confused. Not even in his wildest dreams would he be able to guess that Duan Ling Tian possessed 99 Heavenly Veins. In regard to the speed of mobilizing Celestial Origin Energy, only those who possessed 99 Heavenly Veins in the Devata Realms were a match for him.

...

Meanwhile, the disciples who were watching the battle were similarly shocked and confused. They were unaware of the predicament Huang Lu Nan was in. In their eyes, it seemed as though he was deliberately letting Duan Ling Tian win.

“W-what’s going on?”

“Huang Lu Nan is completely subdued by Duan Ling Tian?”

“Impossible! He can’t retaliate at all? How’s this possible? Is he deliberately letting Duan Ling Tian win?”

“Is this a staged fight?”

“This doesn’t make any sense... Should he already be defeated by now if he’s deliberately letting Duan Ling Tian win?”

“That’s right. Even if he’s acting, is it necessary to suffer so much beating?”

Chills ran up the disciples’ spines as they watched Huang Lu Nan being beaten to a pulp. If they were in Huang Lu Nan’s shoes, they would have long surrendered instead of enduring such a beating.

...

At this moment, Hong Fei began to laugh. Then, he narrowed his eyes as he looked at Liu Jian who was standing nearby and said mockingly, “Liu Jian, it seems like your junior brother is quite strong... He’s already being beaten to such an extent by my junior brother, but he’s still enduring it. In my opinion, he should change his name and call himself Mr. Strong or something. What do you think?” He was clearly in high spirits.

On the other hand, Lu Jian’s expression was rather unsightly as he watched Huang Lu Nan being beaten by Duan Ling Tian. His expression turned even more unsightly when he heard Hong Fei’s words. He snapped back, “That’s enough!”

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Huang Lu Nan were unaware of the conversations in their surroundings.

Huang Lu Nan refused to surrender so Duan Ling Tian could only continue. In fact, it was not his intention to beat Huang Lu Nan to such an extent. However, this was the first time he was able to freely use all the profundities from the law of space that he had comprehended to the mastery stage. At this moment, he was like a child who was just learning to speak and could not stop talking at all.

‘How exhilarating!’ Duan Ling Tian felt adrenaline coursing through his veins. He was not in a hurry to end the battle at all. Therefore, he only inflicted shallow injuries on Huang Lu Nan to prevent him from retaliating.

On the contrary, Huang Lu Nan was in a bad state. He would have surrendered if he had suffered serious injuries. However, he could not surrender because he discovered, despite the excruciating pain, the injuries Duan Ling Tian inflicted on him were not life-threatening at all! He was enduring so he could find an opening and strike Duan Ling Tian once before he surrendered. However, as time passed, he fell into despair; he was completely suppressed with no hope of retaliating! On top of all this, Liu Jian kept sending Voice Transmissions repeatedly asking to surrender. For all these reasons, he eventually gave in. “I surrender!”

“You’re giving up so soon?” Duan Ling Tian frowned, clearly discontented.

...

Soon after, the Sword Trial Pavilion announced loudly, “Duan Ling Tian, from today onward, you’re a prodigious disciple. You’re now ranked 10th in the 200-to-300-year-old age group.”

After the elder finished speaking, he handed the identity token that Huang Lu Nan had handed over to him before the battle started to Duan Ling Tian. Then, he reminded Duan Ling Tian to claim ownership of the identity token by dripping his blood on the token.

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded and wasted no time in claiming ownership of the identity token.

...

Meanwhile, the crowd of disciples watching the battle was no longer shocked by the outcome of the battle after watching Duan Ling Tian beating up Huang Lu Nan without giving Huang Lu Nan a chance to retaliate at all.

...

Before the Sword Trial Pavilion elder left, he bade farewell to Lei Jun and Huan’er since the pair was the only son and a student of Lei Ying, his Pavilion Master, respectively.

Duan Ling Tian suddenly called out just when the elder was about to leave, “Elder!”

The elder knew Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er had a close relationship so he was courteous toward Duan Ling Tian. “What’s the matter, Duan Ling Tian?”

“Elder, since I’ve replaced Huang Lu Nan as a prodigious disciple and ranked 10 in my age group, can I challenge any of the nine prodigious disciples regardless of rank, or do I have to follow the order?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“You’re free to challenge whoever you want in your age group except for those in the top three. You can only challenge the top three prodigious disciples in ascending order. For example, someone who’s ranked 5th can’t challenge the person who’s ranked 3rd. In order to do so, the person who’s ranked 5th has to defeat the person who’s ranked 4th first.”

“Is there any other way around this?” Duan Ling Tian frowned slightly. He did not want to go through the trouble of fighting so many people. He just wanted to rise up the rank as quickly as possible to raise his status so he could help Huan’er find her parents.

When Liu Jian overheard the conversation between Duan Ling Tian and the elder, he sneered. “What? Don’t tell me you want to directly challenge those in the top three?” He scoffed before he continued to say, “It’s not entirely impossible if that’s what you want. If you’re able to defeat me, not only will you be able to challenge the top three prodigious disciples in your age group, but you can also directly challenge the top prodigious disciple in your age group.” At the end of his words, his lips curved up into a contemptuous smile.

Chapter 3270: A Life-Or-Death Battle

“Hmm?” Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow when he heard Liu Jian’s words. Then, he looked at the Sword Trial Pavilion elder for confirmation.

The elder's eyes widened slightly in surprise upon hearing Liu Jian's words. When he saw Duan Ling Tian looking at him, replied, "Indeed. It's as he said. Except for the prodigious disciples between the ages of 900 to 1,000, all prodigious disciples can directly challenge the top three disciples in their age group if they're able to defeat a prodigious disciple in a higher age group. If you win, you can even directly challenge the top prodigy in your age group. Moreover, he or she won't be able to refuse you."

After the elder finished saying this, he shifted his glance to Liu Jian before he continued to speak, "The prodigy who loses to the younger prodigy not only have to hand in their identity token, but they wouldn't be able to become a prodigious disciple for the next 100 years because they're prohibited to challenge a prodigious disciple during that time."

A huge grin appeared on Liu Jian's face as he asked, "What do you think? Do you want to fight me, Duan Ling Tian?"

"Junior Brother, don't fall for his provocations!" Hong Fei hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission when he saw Duan Ling Tian looking at Liu Jian, as though considering Liu Jian's words. His expression changed drastically, worried that Duan Ling Tian would truly challenge Liu Jian.

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder looked at Duan Ling Tian and patiently explained, "Duan Ling Tian, since this battle would rob the older prodigious disciple's chance of becoming a prodigious disciple for 100 years, it's a life-or-death battle. If the loser surrenders, then the other party won't be allowed to deal the killing blow. However, if one's unable to surrender for some reason, like being unable to speak, the end result is only death. This is also a rule of the Sword Trial Pavilion."

"A life-or-death battle?" Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow as he looked at Liu Jian intently. "What? Do you want to kill me, Liu Jian?"

Liu Jian said with a chuckle, "It doesn't matter. What matters is if you have the guts to fight me..." A provocative smile appeared on his face when he finished speaking.

"Junior brother, since you've obtained the identity token of a prodigious disciple, let's leave," Hong Fei said to Duan Ling Tian. He was worried his junior brother would really challenge Liu Jian out of anger. It was quite obvious his junior brother had quite the temper. Otherwise, his junior brother would not have beaten Huang Lu Nan to that extent.

'Hmm, what's Duan Ling Tian going to do?' Lei Jun, who was standing near Huan'er, narrowed his eyes as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. Naturally, he hoped that Duan Ling Tian would challenge Liu Jian so Liu Jian would be able to kill him. However, he knew he was expecting too much. There was no way Duan Ling Tian would really challenge Liu Jian since it was no different from seeking death.

Liu Jian was somewhere between 600 to 700 years old. Moreover, he was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord who has comprehended eight profundities from the law of metal to the mastery stage. He was much stronger than his junior brother, Huang Lu Nan.

Lei Jun turned to look at Huan'er and said with a smile, "Third Junior Sister, I think your Brother Ling Tian probably won't dare to challenge Liu Jian. Liu Jian's strength isn't that bad even though he's the weakest among his peers." He had deliberately used Liu Jian to put Duan Ling Tian down. He was aware that if he had directly insulted Duan Ling Tian, it would only make Huan'er disgusted with him. At that time, the distance between him and Huan'er would only increase.

Huan'er did not bother responding to Lei Jun. She was no longer as naive as before. After experiencing so many things, she had also understood many things. How could she not know Lei Jun was trying to undermine Duan Ling Tian by using Liu Jian? For this reason, whatever little good impression she had of him had vanished without a trace. She no longer wanted to pay any attention to him even if he was Lei Ying's son.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian asked the Sword Trial Pavilion elder, "Elder, if I decide to challenge Liu Jian, can I do it without having to go through registration?"

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, not only was the group of Heavenly Pool Palace disciples nearby shocked, but even the Sword Trial Pavilion elder was shocked.

Did Duan Ling Tian's question not mean he was planning to challenge Liu Jian? Was Duan Ling Tian tired of living?

The Heavenly Pool Palace disciples nearby discussed among themselves and shook their heads as they looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a fool.

"Can't Duan Ling Tian see that Liu Jian is intentionally provoking him? Is he really going to fight Liu Jian?"

"Is he stupid? Liu Jian is a prodigious disciple in the 600-to-700-year-old age group. He's an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord who has already comprehended six profundities from the law of metal to the mastery stage. How can Duan Ling Tian possibly be a match for him?"

"Well, Liu Jian's tactic to rile Duan Ling Tian up is clearly successful. Look, Duan Ling Tian's so angry that he's really going to recklessly challenge Liu Jian!"

On the other hand, Liu Jian's eyes brightened as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He really did not expect his provocation to work.

After all, his intention was rather obvious. How could Duan Ling Tian not see through it?

"Junior Brother?" Hong Fei's expression was indescribable at this moment. He really did not expect his junior brother would fall for Liu Jian's provocation and challenge Liu Jian. He hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission to dissuade his junior brother.

"Sixth Senior Brother, don't worry." Duan Ling Tian only reassured Hong Fei. It was obvious he was not going to back down.

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder glanced at Liu Jian and said, "If the person you challenge agrees to it, then there's no need for registration of any sort."

Liu Jian hurriedly agreed, afraid that Duan Ling Tian would change his mind. Then, his eyes brimmed with disdain and ridicule as he said, clearly trying to further provoke Duan Ling Tian, "Duan Ling Tian, the only thing that matters now is if you have the guts to challenge me..."

"Elder, I want to challenge him," Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly to the elder.

The elder's expression was grave as he warned, "Duan Ling Tian, think about this carefully... Once he removes his ownership on his identity token and passes it to me, you won't be able to back out of this."

If it had been an ordinary person, the elder would not have bothered giving such a warning. However, Duan Ling Tian clearly had a close relationship with Huan'er who was the student of Lei Ying, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion. It was only for this reason he had warned Duan Ling Tian.

"I've thought it through." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly.

Upon hearing these words, Liu Jian wasted no time in bringing his identity token out and removing his ownership of them. Then, he hurriedly handed it over to the elder. "Elder Qin, since he's so confident, there's no need for you to warn him. He probably won't even thank you for it."

Liu Jian had readily handed his identity token to the elder. After all, as long as he beat Duan Ling Tian, it would return to him anyway. Naturally, if he lost, which he thought was impossible, he would not be able to become a prodigious disciple over the next 100 years no matter how strong he was.

This rule was created by the Sword Trial Pavilion to stop people from cheating and deliberately losing.

After the elder accepted Liu Jian's identity token, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, you'll now enter a life-or-death battle with Liu Jian. Naturally, if you're able to surrender, he won't be allowed to kill you..."

Swoosh!

As soon as the Sword Trial Pavilion elder finished speaking, Liu Jian flew up impatiently toward the battle ring in the Prodigy Arena. Now that there was no way for Duan Ling Tian to back out, he was no longer anxious like before. He wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian, but it was likely that Duan Ling Tian would surrender very early in the battle. Although many people would understand if Duan Ling Tian surrendered, Duan Ling Tian's reputation would take a huge blow in the Heavenly Pool Palace. After all, there was a huge difference between surrendering as soon as the battle started and trying your best before surrendering at the last moment.

Duan Ling Tian was not in a rush. He sent a Voice Transmission to the elder, "Elder, for this life-or-death battle, you implied that no blame would fall on him if he kills me without giving me a chance to surrender. Does this hold true for me as well?"

The elder was momentarily stunned when he heard Duan Ling Tian's question. Then, he replied through Voice Transmission, "That's correct."

Inwardly, the elder really could not help wondering what Duan Ling Tian was planning to do. Did Duan Ling Tian really think he could kill Liu Jian?

The elder was still in a daze when Duan Ling Tian teleported into the battle ring, standing across Liu Jian.

"Junior Brother!" At this moment, Hong Fei's expression was incredibly terrible. He had not stopped trying to dissuade his junior brother at all, but his words seemed to have fallen on deaf ears. Apart from a short message telling him not to worry, his junior brother no longer replied to him.

'Duan Ling Tian actually challenged Liu Jian?' Lei Jun's eyes widened imperceptibly in surprise. However, there was a hint of delight flashing in the depths of his eyes as well. After all, this was the outcome he

wanted the most. As far as he was concerned, Duan Ling Tian's death was certain the moment he challenged Liu Jian!

'I won't have to personally act now that Liu Jian is going to kill him for me...' Despite his thoughts, Lei Jun, naturally, did dare to show it outwardly. He looked at Huan'er and shook his head as he said, "Huan'er, your Brother Ling Tian is too reckless... Why didn't you dissuade him? Liu Jian is rather strong so your Brother Ling Tian might not be a match for him."

Alas, Lei Jun did not receive any response from Huan'er at all. Her eyes were fixed on Duan Ling Tian as though Lei Jun and everyone else did not exist.