

SOVEREIGN 3271

### Chapter 3271: Fighting Liu Jian

In the battle ring.

Liu Jian looked at Duan Ling Tian calmly and said condescendingly, "You're strong and courageous. You're truly worthy of being a disciple chosen by the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor."

Duan Ling Tian ignored Liu Jian. His expression showed no changes; it was as though he did not care about Liu Jian at all. In fact, he really did not take Liu Jian seriously at all.

"Begin," the Sword Trial Pavilion elder said at this moment under everyone's watchful eyes. At the same time, he reminded Duan Ling Tian again through Voice Transmission. "If you're no match for him, surrender immediately. Otherwise, you might not have a chance to do so later..."

"Many thanks for your reminder, elder." Duan Ling Tian appreciated the elder's repeated reminder even though he knew the elder had only done so in consideration of Huan'er's feelings. Needless to say, he also appreciated the reminder from Hong Fei, his Sixth Senior Brother. He did not respond to Hong Fei's reminder and warning because he knew it was futile; Hong Fei would not believe that he, who was not even 300 years old, was a match for Liu Jian. Moreover, Liu Jian was, in some ways, slightly stronger than Hong Fei. It would be best to convince Hong Fei of his strength through his actions.

"Duan Ling Tian, I won't bully you. You can make the first move..." Although Liu Jian did not think Duan Ling Tian was a match for him, he was not careless. Celestial Origin Energy surged out of his body and shrouded his body immediately. He looked as though he had been plated with gold and shone dazzlingly. From afar, he looked like Buddha who illuminated everything with his golden light.

A small smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face upon hearing Liu Jian's words. It was obvious Liu Jian did not think much of him at all.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian vanished into thin air immediately without saying another word.

Swoosh!

Then, Duan Ling Tian reappeared near Liu Jian. With just a thought, he cast the law of space's Restraining Profundity to restrain Liu Jian. This time, he had used the Restraining Profundity differently compared to when he used it against Huang Lu Nan. Against Huang Lu Nan, he had used it only to trap Huang Lu Nan alone in the spatial prison. However, at this moment, he was also in the spatial prison with Liu Jian; he was only about ten meters away from Liu Jian at this moment. He didn't attack in a hurry and only stood across from Liu Jian silently.

Meanwhile, the golden Celestial Origin Energy that was boosted by the Metal Elemental Profundity shone so brightly at this moment that it seemed as though it could burn Duan Ling Tian.

...

The disciples in the surroundings were confused when they saw this and began to discuss among themselves.

“What’s Duan Ling Tian trying to do?”

“I think he’s provoking Senior Brother Liu Jian by standing so close to Senior Brother Liu Jian...”

“There are ripples in the air around them. This should be because they’re imprisoned in the space from Duan Ling Tian’s Restraining Profundity. Why did Duan Ling Tian enter the spatial prison with Senior Brother Liu Jian?”

“Is he mad? To stand so close to Senior Brother Liu Jian... Is he courting death?”

“Senior Brother Liu Jian is an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord who has comprehended the law of metal. This means his strongest suit is his defenses. On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian’s advantage lies with the law of space’s Teleportation Profundity. By doing this, isn’t Duan Ling Tian throwing away his advantage?”

“What the hell is he thinking?”

Similarly, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder who was supervising the battle was also confused. He had no idea what Duan Ling Tian was thinking. Not only did Duan Ling Tian throw away his advantage, but he even revealed his weakness to his opponent.

On the other hand, Huang Lu Nan who had just been brutally suppressed by Duan Ling Tian felt as though his anger had been vented when he saw this. He sneered when he saw Duan Ling Tian acting so arrogantly. ‘Duan Ling Tian is really seeking death. Does he think Senior Brother Liu Jian’s strength is like his?’

At the same time, Lei Jun turned to look at Huan’er and said with a faint smile on his face, “Third Junior Sister, it seems like your Big Brother Ling Tian isn’t very smart.”

Although Huan’er did not pay any more attention to Lei Jun, he did not give up trying to engage her in a conversation. Although he did not receive any response from her, he was happy to amuse himself. After all, he was rejoicing inwardly at this moment. How could he not be happy that Duan Ling Tian was making such a stupid mistake? After all, this only meant that Duan Ling Tian’s chances of dying had grown even higher.

However, after a while, with the continuous lack of response from Huan’er, Lei Jun could not help but feel slightly angry. Naturally, he would not direct his anger at Huan’er so he could only vent his anger on Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, he sent Liu Jian a Voice Transmission. “Liu Jian! Don’t waste time; seize the chance and kill him immediately! If you succeed, I’ll reward you with a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon.”

A purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon was considered a rare treasure even in a heaven-grade force. In the Heavenly Pool Palace, one would only be granted a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon once one had become a Celestial Emperor. Apart from that, one would also be granted a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon if one contributed greatly to the Heavenly Pool Palace or performed extremely well during an assessment.

However, it had to be said that although the Heavenly Pool Palace was selective when granting purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons to their disciples, it did not mean that the Heavenly Pool Palace lacked purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons.

Needless to say, for someone like Lei Jun who was the son of a titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace, he was not lacking in purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons. His mother, Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor and the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion, had long given him a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. After he had broken through and became a Celestial Emperor, he was again given another purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. Apart from that, he was also given another one after performing brilliantly in an assessment 100 years ago. Therefore, as far as he was concerned, it was nothing to give Liu Jian a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. It only meant that he had one less thing in his Spatial Ring.

On the other hand, for someone like Liu Jian who did not own a purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon, owning one meant that he had another life-saving treasure in his arsenal. Therefore, his eyes brightened as soon as he heard Lei Jun's Voice Transmission. He had already planned to kill Duan Ling Tian as long as the chance presented itself. However, upon hearing Lei Jun's Voice Transmission, he grew even more determined to kill Duan Ling Tian. He had no idea how Duan Ling Tian had offended Lei Jun, but it did not matter to him. What mattered the most now was to kill Duan Ling Tian and obtain the purely defensive Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon that he yearned for even in his dreams.

At this moment, a cold smile appeared on Liu Jian's face when he shifted his eyes back to Duan Ling Tian. "Duan Ling Tian, to think you threw away your advantage and choose to fight me in an enclosed space... You must be really confident about your strength..."

Although the restrictions in the Restraining Profundity's spatial prison would not affect Duan Ling Tian much, it would still affect him slightly. This meant that his Teleportation Profundity, his advantage, would be affected as well. For example, if Duan Ling Tian were to teleport out of the spatial prison now, it would take him two breaths to do so. Two breaths were more than enough for Liu Jian to do many things, or so Liu Jian thought.

Meanwhile, upon hearing Liu Jian's words, Duan Ling Tian only said indifferently, "You're worthy of being Huang Lu Nan's senior brother; you're both really similar. Earlier, your junior brother was also certain of his victory. Alas, what was his outcome?"

Liu Jian sneered. "What? You think I'll share the same outcome as my junior brother? If my junior brother weren't careless and let you seize the opportunity, it wouldn't have been so easy for you to beat him!"

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had intentionally prolonged his battle with Liu Jian to test his profundities from the law of space. However, in Liu Jian's eyes, it seemed like the battle had dragged on because Duan Ling Tian was not able to quickly defeat his junior brother. Therefore, he did not think Duan Ling Tian was powerful at all.

Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly, "You're talking rubbish. Hurry up and make your move."

Swoosh!

“If that’s what you desire!” Liu Jian seemed to have turned into a streak of golden light as he shot toward Duan Ling Tian. When he drew closer to Duan Ling Tian, the streak of golden light seemed to have transformed into a golden sword ray. It looked unstoppable and invincible.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes narrowed imperceptibly before his figure moved at the speed of lightning. A turbulent energy swept out immediately.

At the same time, nine spatial tears appeared around Duan Ling Tian. At the same time, the space around Liu Jian’s golden sword ray turned volatile. Spatial energies that seemed like little snakes attacked the golden sword ray as the golden sword ray reaped the lives of the little snakes.

“Magnetic Storm Profundity!” With just a thought from Duan Ling Tian, the spatial energies that resembled little snakes suddenly turned into huge pythons! Just a few bolts of the spatial energies struck the golden sword ray, but it was enough to cause the golden sword ray, which seemed unaffected by the spatial energies just a moment ago, to dim.

Liu Jian’s eyes narrowed slightly. ‘It’s quite surprising that Duan Ling Tian had comprehended so many profundities to the mastery stage. Unfortunately, this ends now...’

Up until now, Liu Jian had only used a small portion of his strength. He had held back so he could deliver the killing blow when Duan Ling Tian least expected it.

### **Chapter 3272: Duan Ling Tian Spits Out a Flying Sword**

In Liu Jian’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian would definitely surrender if he unleashed all his strength from the beginning. If he killed Duan Ling Tian after Duan Ling Tian had surrendered, he would be punished by the Heavenly Pool Palace. With his status in the Heavenly Pool Palace, he might even be sentenced to death. Although he was a prodigious disciple in the palace, he was ranked at the bottom among the 100 prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. It would be impossible for the Heavenly Pool Palace to spare his life due to his low status. Therefore, he had hidden his true strength and waited for the opportunity to strike with all his might to kill Duan Ling Tian when the opportunity presented itself.

...

Most of the disciples who were watching could tell Liu Jian was holding back his strength.

“Duan Ling Tian is quite strong...”

“Even then, it’s obvious Senior Brother Liu Jian is holding back his strength. He should be stronger than this, right?”

“That’s right. The strength he has displayed so far is, at most, comparable to Huang Lu Nan’s strength. There’s no doubt he’s holding back his strength.”

Even the disciples could tell Liu Jian was holding back his strength, let alone Huang Lu Nan. He could guess his senior brother’s intention. Killing intent glinted in his eyes as he watched the battle. Duan Ling Tian had beaten him so badly in front of so many people, his reputation would definitely take a hit once word of it spread out. Everyone would be reminded of his humiliation when they saw him or Duan Ling Tian. If Duan Ling Tian died, he no longer had to worry about this matter.

Since the others could guess Liu Jian's intention, how could Hong Fei not understand Liu Jian's intention? He hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian; his voice laden with anxiety. "Junior Brother Ling Tian, Liu Jian is hiding most of his strength so far. He wants to kill you! Hurry up and surrender!"

As soon as Hong Fei's Voice Transmission ended, the golden sword ray that was dimming suddenly brightened as though it had received a boost.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The golden sword ray suddenly split into tens of thousands of sword rays and shot toward Duan Ling Tian in the spatial prison from the Restraining Profundity like floodwater that surged out of a broken dam.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Chills ran up the disciples' spines as the ear-piercing sword cry rang in the air.

"T-this... This is Liu Jian's true strength?"

"Didn't I say he was holding back earlier?"

"How terrifying! Let alone Duan Ling Tian, even his senior brother, Hong Fei, would be seriously injured if he didn't die from such an attack, right?"

"Liu Jian truly intends to kill Duan Ling Tian!"

The disciples felt pity from Duan Ling Tian as they watched the tide of golden sword rays swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

Huang Lu Nan's eyes lit up when he saw the golden sword rays. He did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to survive this attack. After all, if he were to face such an attack, there was no doubt he would die.

'Liu Jian wants to kill Duan Ling Tian!' The eyes of the Sword Trial Pavilion elder frowned slightly when he saw Liu Jian intended to kill Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, there was no reason for Liu Jian to suddenly unleash all his strength at this moment. Unfortunately, even if he wanted to intervene for Huan'er's sake, there was nothing he could do at this moment unless Duan Ling Tian surrendered since it was clearly stated that it was a life-or-death battle. Nevertheless, he thought it was too late even if Duan Ling Tian wanted to surrender at this moment. Based on what he could see of Duan Ling Tian's strength, Duan Ling Tian would not be able to withstand the attack for long. Even the slightest distraction was enough to kill Duan Ling Tian at this moment.

'Die!' Lei Jun thought to himself excitedly. However, he felt like something was amiss when he turned to look at Huan'er and saw the calm expression on her face. It seemed like she was not the slightest bit worried that Duan Ling Tian was going to die.

'What's going on?' Lei Jun thought to himself in confusion. Soon enough, he thought to himself incredulously, "Don't tell me she thinks Duan Ling Tian is able to survive this attack?" He found this ridiculous. After all, even he would not be able to survive Liu Jian's attack when he was younger than 500 years old.

“Little Junior Brother...” Hong Fei’s eyes widened in fear. His chubby face twitched as he watched the tide of golden sword rays shot toward Duan Ling Tian.

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At this time, Liu Jian’s sword rays were still continuously attacking Duan Ling Tian’s defensive energy.

‘I didn’t expect Duan Ling Tian to be capable of withstanding my attack for 15 minutes... Alas, he’ll definitely die in another two breaths.’ Liu Jian, who was among the golden sword rays, glared at Duan Ling Tian. Although he was surprised by Duan Ling Tian’s tenacity, he was certain Duan Ling Tian was hanging by a thread at this moment. He was confident he would be able to kill Duan Ling Tian before Duan Ling Tian could even open his mouth to surrender.

Unfortunately, Liu Jian was not aware that Duan Ling Tian had not used the full strength of the profundities from the law of space that he had comprehended to the mastery stage. Although he could kill Liu Jian if he had cast all of his profundities that were at the mastery stage, it would take some time for him to kill Liu Jian. At that time, Liu Jian would have time to surrender. How could he allow someone who wanted to kill him to live?

“Profound Divine Metal, lend me your strength!” Duan Ling Tian called out to the sixth-form Profound Divine Metal that was in his Little World.

The Profound Divine Metal that had evolved to its sixth form was not arrogant. It heeded Duan Ling Tian’s call immediately.

A terrifying energy from the Profound Divine Metal surged out of the Little World into Duan Ling Tian’s body in just an instant.

“Thank you.” Duan Ling Tian thanked the Profound Divine Metal. Killing intentions flashed in his eyes as he stared at one of the golden sword rays. He could tell it was the golden sword ray that Liu Jian had transformed into.

‘Did he discover me?’ Liu Jian could tell Duan Ling Tian had identified him among the other golden sword rays. However, he could not care less. After all, there was nothing Duan Ling Tian could do now. He was in full control of the situation.

“Die!” A smug smile appeared on Liu Jian’s face as the tens of thousands of golden sword rays breached Duan Ling Tian’s protective energy; they were only a hairbreadth away from Duan Ling Tian at this moment. However, his smile suddenly froze. He saw the spatial energy around Duan Ling Tian pushing his golden sword rays away. His expression changed drastically when he realized Duan Ling Tian had been hiding his strength. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian seemed slightly stronger than him. ‘He hid his true strength!’

“Duan Ling Tian, you hid your strength well!” Nevertheless, Liu Jian was not frightened and was not in a rush to surrender. In his opinion, even if he could not kill Duan Ling Tian, he would still be able to surrender in time. After all, he was certain Duan Ling Tian was only slightly stronger than him at most.

As soon as Liu Jian finished speaking, he saw a golden sword ray shot out of Duan Ling Tian's mouth at lightning speed. He was shocked when he saw the golden sword ray that seemed to be boosted by the law of metal that he was familiar with! 'How's he capable of using the law of space and the law of metal at the same time? Moreover, the strength of his law of metal is incredibly strong!'

Everything happened in just a blink of an eye.

"No!" Liu Jian cried out suddenly. He was just about to surrender, but before he could even utter a word, the golden sword ray had pierced his glabella.

"It's an honor for you to die under my flying sword." This was the Voice Transmission Duan Ling Tian had sent Liu Jian just moments before Liu Jian's death.

As soon as Liu Jian died, the tide of golden sword rays disappeared into thin air immediately.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's golden sword ray had disappeared as soon as it had done its job.

Due to its appearance and nature, no one was aware that the golden sword ray belonged to Duan Ling Tian. Everyone assumed that it was one of Liu Jian's golden sword rays.

### **Chapter 3273: The Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, Gu Chang Jiang!**

As the tens of thousands of golden sword rays began to vanish, the group of Heavenly Pool Palace disciples shook their heads. They were under the impression that the battle had ended now that Liu Jian killed Duan Ling Tian.

Even Lei Jun and the Sword Trial Pavilion elder shared the same thoughts as the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples. They were certain Liu Jian had won and had killed Duan Ling Tian.

Hong Fei's expression changed drastically as he cried out, "Little Junior Brother!"

On the contrary, Huan'er was the only one who remained calm. Nobody knew Duan Ling Tian better than her, after all. She knew Liu Jian was no match for Duan Ling Tian at all so she was not even the slightest bit worried. Therefore, unlike everyone else, she was not surprised when she saw a purple figure after the golden sword rays completely disappeared.

"Duan... Duan Ling Tian?"

"H-how is this possible?!"

Everyone saw Duan Ling Tian appearing completely unharmed while Liu Jian's corpse fell from the sky before smashing into a pulpy mess in the battle ring of the Prodigy Arena.

Liu Jian, a prodigious disciple below the age of 700, was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Lord who had comprehended six profundities from the law of metal to the mastery stage, and yet, he had been killed by a prodigious disciple from the 200-to-300-year-old age group!

'Duan Ling Tian...' Lei Jun narrowed his eyes when he saw Duan Ling Tian alive and well. A hint of disbelief could be seen flashing in the depths of his eyes. It was completely out of his expectation that Duan Ling Tian would survive the battle with Liu Jian. Moreover, not only did Duan Ling Tian survive unharmed, but Duan Ling Tian also managed to kill Liu Jian!

When the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples regained their senses, their impression of Duan Ling Tian had undergone a 180-degree change. None of them thought he would be able to defeat Liu Jian, let alone kill Liu Jian. Moreover, he had just become a prodigious disciple in the 200-300-year-old age group today! One could imagine the uproar this news would cause once it spread in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Although something like this was not unprecedented in the history of the Heavenly Pool Palace, it was rare.

“What happened? How did Senior Brother Liu Jian die?”

“Did Duan Ling Tian use some Celestial Talisman to kill Senior Brother Liu Jian?”

“Hey, hey, do you think the Prodigy Arena is a joke? The Prodigy Arena can detect Celestial Talismans...”

“This...” The Sword Trial Pavilion was similarly stunned. He had been so sure Duan Ling Tian had been killed by Liu Jian. How could he not be surprised that not only did Duan Ling Tian survive, but he even killed Liu Jian?

‘How did he do it?’ The elder wondered inwardly, perplexed. He could not figure out how Duan Ling Tian managed to kill Liu Jian. Although they were both prodigious disciples, Duan Ling Tian was, at least, 300 years younger than Liu Jian! Moreover, the fact that Liu Jian did not even have to surrender proved that Duan Ling Tian was not as simple as he seemed to be.

“I-impossible! How’s this possible?!” Huang Lu Nan, the former prodigious disciple who had just been kicked out of the Prodigious Disciples Ranking and suffered a huge beating from Duan Ling Tian, was dumbfounded. He was so sure his senior brother would avenge him by killing Duan Ling Tian. Not only did his senior brother fail, but his senior brother was killed by Duan Ling Tian as well! He could not accept this; he even thought he was dreaming for a brief moment. If it were not for the commotion in the arena, he would have continued to think he was dreaming.

“Little Junior Brother? T-this... This is crazy!” The expression of despair on Hong Fei’s face that appeared when he thought Liu Jian had killed Duan Ling Tian froze. It was replaced with an expression of shock when he discovered not only was Duan Ling Tian alive, but Duan Ling Tian had also killed Liu Jian.

When Hong Fei regained his senses, he laughed heartily as he made his way to Duan Ling Tian after seeing Huan’er teleport to Duan Ling Tian’s side, gently holding his arm. Liu Jian had been his rival and enemy for so many years, and there was nothing he could do to get the upper hand. How could he not feel delighted by Liu Jian’s death? Due to how Liu Jian had antagonized him, he really hated Liu Jian to the bones. He said happily, “Little Junior Brother, I didn’t expect you to be so strong. I really underestimated you!”

At the same time, Lei Jun’s gaze turned frosty when he saw Huan’er affectionately holding Duan Ling Tian, looking like a pair of lovers, while ignoring him earlier. He scoffed before he left the Prodigy Arena.

Similarly, Huang Lu Nan did not linger in the Prodigy Arena. It would be too embarrassing to do so. As he left, he sent a message to his teacher to inform his teacher of Liu Jian’s death.

Huang Lu Nan and Liu Jian’s teacher was one of the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. His name was Gu Chang Jiang, and his title was the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor.



When the Sword Trial Pavilion elder arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian, he said with a sigh, “Duan Ling Tian, I didn’t expect you to be strong. Although Liu Jian was not particularly outstanding, he wasn’t weak either. I didn’t expect you to kill him.”

Duan Ling Tian smiled and said modestly, “I was just lucky.”

Just lucky?

The elders and the disciples who overheard Duan Ling Tian’s words, naturally, did not believe him.

Duan Ling Tian did not waste time and asked, “Elder, I can now challenge the top prodigious disciple in my age group, right?”

“That’s right.” The elder nodded. “When I return, I’ll inform him that you want to challenge him through his Soul Pearl... I’ll get back to you once he has decided on a date. He’s not allowed to refuse your challenge. If the battle doesn’t happen in three months, he will be considered to have forfeited the fight, and you’ll automatically rank at the top of your age group.”

“Thank you, elder.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“If there’s nothing else, I’ll take my leave,” the elder said. Before he left, he nodded and smiled at Huan’er. However, before he could leave, a thunderously loud noise from a far rang in everyone’s ears.

“Who killed my, Gu Chang Jiang, disciple?”

Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned slightly grave. He was no stranger to the name Gu Chang Jiang. He knew Gu Chang Jiang was one of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. He also knew Gu Chang Jiang’s title was the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor.

‘Gu Chang Jiang actually showed up here?’ Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows. He did not expect Gu Chang Jiang would personally make a trip here because of Liu Jian’s death.

‘Gu Chang Jiang?!’ Upon hearing Gu Chang Jiang’s voice, Hong Fei did not hesitate and quickly sent a message to his teacher, Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor.

Hong Fei knew who valuable a titled Celestial Emperor was to the Heavenly Pool Palace. If Gu Chang Jiang insisted on behaving shamelessly and killed Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Pool Palace would not sentence Gu Chang Jiang to death. At most, they would heavily punish him. He knew the best course of action was to inform his teacher, Xu Lang, about this matter.

Swoosh!

Gu Chang Jiang was a tall and muscular middle-aged man dressed in a long green robe. His expression was as clear as jade. His expression turned grim when he saw the body that lay motionlessly in one of the battle rings. Although Liu Jian was not his most outstanding disciple, he was rather fond of Liu Jian due to Liu Jian’s eloquence. For this reason, he was furious when he learned about Liu Jian’s death.

“Who’s Duan Ling Tian?” Gu Chang Jiang asked as he hovered in the air and swept his gaze across the crowd of people. It did not take long before his eyes finally rested on Duan Ling Tian due to how

conspicuous Duan Ling Tian was. Not only was Duan Ling Tian handsome and had an extraordinary bearing, but it was difficult not to notice Huan'er, the peerless beauty, who was standing next to him.

"You killed my disciple?" Gu Chang Jiang asked solemnly as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. At the same time, a formidable aura surged out of his body, pressuring Duan Ling Tian.

"Since it was a life-or-death battle between us, I can only say his death is a result of his incompetence." Duan Ling Tian remained calm despite Gu Chang Jiang's domineering attitude. He was not afraid at all despite the pressure from Gu Chang Jiang's aura. After all, although he could sense the pressure, he did not really feel it. He had been absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from the remnant of a Realm of Gods, after all. How could he feel pressured by the aura of a mere titled Celestial Emperor?

"Lord Gu Chang Jiang." The Sword Trial Pavilion elder stepped forward at this moment and said, "I supervised the life-or-death battle between Duan Ling Tian and Liu Jian. I can explain the matter to you."

"Was I speaking to you?" Gu Chang Jiang glanced at the elder and raised his hand. A powerful energy surged out like tens of thousands of galloping horses and landed on the elder, sending the elder flying back.

The elder spat out a few mouthfuls of blood, turning his face pale. He did not hesitate and quickly crushed the Communication Celestial Talisman to inform Lei Ying, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion, of this matter. There was no doubt that Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, was behaving unreasonably. Under such circumstances, he had no choice but to let his pavilion master, who was also a titled Celestial Emperor, intervene.

Meanwhile, the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples felt anxious when they saw how aggressive Gu Chang Jiang was behaving.

"Is the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, Lord Gu Chang Jiang, going to avenge his disciple, Liu Jian?"

"I don't think so... Although it's easy for him to kill Duan Ling Tian, I don't think he'd dare to do such a thing... Right?"

"I agree. His reputation will be tarnished if he does such a thing. At that time, everyone will only say he's irresponsible and that his behavior is not befitting of a titled Celestial Emperor..."

### **Chapter 3274: The Titled Celestial Emperors Attack**

There were nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. All of them had such high status that they could decide one's life or death.

Although Duan Ling Tian was the student of Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, he was just a newcomer who had yet to prove himself. Therefore, Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, decided to take advantage of this to avenge his disciple, Liu Jian.

"Incompetence? Well said!" Gu Chang Jian said coldly as he looked at Duan Ling Tian with an equally cold gaze. At the same time, he sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as well. "Duan Ling Tian, you're just a newcomer. Xu Lang won't blame me even if I kill you. You have two choices now; die or leave Xu Lang and become my disciple. If you take Liu Jian's place and become my disciple, I guarantee that your treatment will be much better than his..."

Although Gu Chang Jiang was clearly eager to kill Duan Ling Tian, his Voice Transmission was clearly persuading Duan Ling Tian to abandon Xu Lang and follow him.

Upon hearing Gu Chang Jiang's message, Duan Ling Tian smiled.

Gu Chang Jiang's expression darkened. "What are you smiling about?"

"If I leave my teacher, Xu Lang, and become your disciple... Who knows if you'll take advantage of the situation and kill me before I join you," Duan Ling Tian said calmly, "At that time, even Teacher Xu Lang won't protect me. It doesn't matter which choice I make since both choices lead to death... It's truly a good plan."

"Am I, Gu Chang Jiang, someone who reneges on my words? As long as you join me, I won't kill you..." Before Gu Chang Jiang finished speaking, his expression changed drastically. He realized Duan Ling Tian had responded out loud, exposing him to everyone. "B\*stard! How dare you play tricks on me?"

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder and the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples looked at Gu Chang Jian with a strange expression on their faces. The Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor was so shameless that he tried to force Duan Ling Tian under the threat of death to join him even though his disciple had just died?

"Boy, you have a death wish!" Gu Chang Jiang knew his reputation would be tarnished once this matter spread out. At this point, he decided it was best to kill Duan Ling Tian as quickly as possible.

Upon sensing Gu Chang Jiang's killing intent, Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly, 'Teacher Xu Lang should be arriving soon, right?'

Similar to Hong Fei, as soon as Gu Chang Jian appeared, Duan Ling Tian had sent a message to Xu Lang. Xu Lang had also replied, saying that he would come over immediately.

Swoosh!

At this moment, a sword cry rang in the air just as Gu Chang Jiang was about to make his move.

A green sword ray that seemed like it had appeared out of thin air transformed into the figure of a person. It was none other than Duan Ling Tian's teacher, Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor.

Xu Lang glanced at Gu Chang Jiang indifferently as he said icily, "Gu Chang Jiang, what's the meaning of this? Are you trying to disrespect me by attacking my student?"

Based on his tone, it was obvious Xu Lang was furious. His terrifying aura rippled into the surroundings as though he was about to attack any moment.

Seeing the two titled Celestial Emperors in a confrontation, the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples' eyes lit up immediately. They furtively sent messages to their peers about the incident. With this, it did not take long before a growing crowd formed outside of the Prodigy Arena.

"Xu Lang, your disciple didn't even bow to me when he saw me. How disrespectful! I was just trying to teach him a lesson so he learns to respect his elders." Since Xu Lang had appeared, Gu Chang Jiang knew he would not be able to attack or kill Duan Ling Tian. If he made a move, Xu Lang would definitely

intervene before he could even lay a finger on Duan Ling Tian. After all, Xu Lang was much stronger than him.

Swoosh!

In just a few moments, another figure appeared in the Prodigy Arena. It was none other than Lei Ying, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion, who was also known as the Merciless Celestial Emperor.

Lei Ying's gaze was cold as she stared at Gu Chang Jiang and flatly said, "Gu Chang Jiang, how dare you touch a member of my Sword Trial Pavilion!"

"Pavilion Master Lei Ying, it's a misunderstanding." Gu Chang Jiang's expression turned unsightly when he saw Lei Ying appearing next to Xu Lang. He forced a smile on his face despite his frustration of having to face two titled Celestial Emperors at the same time. Although Xu Lang was stronger than him, he was not too afraid. However, how could he not feel afraid faced with two titled Celestial Emperors?

"A misunderstanding? My Sword Trial Pavilion elder is injured. How's this a misunderstanding?" Lei Ying's gaze grew even colder.

Meanwhile, Xu Lang sent a Voice Message to Lei Ying. "Lei Ying, let's join forces today and teach Gu Chang Jiang a lesson today."

"Alright." Lei Ying agreed easily.

The two titled Celestial Emperors did not waste words and swept toward Gu Chang Jiang, flanking him on both sides.

As soon as Xu Lang and Lei Ying swept toward Gu Chang Jiang, the disciples in the arena could naturally tell a fight was about to break out. Moreover, they could sense the formidable auras and their Celestial Origin Energies.

No one was curious about the outcome at all. After all, Xu Lang alone was stronger than Gu Chang Jian. Now that Lei Ying had joined forces with Xu Lang, was there a need to guess Gu Chang Jiang's outcome?

"This..."

"Lord Lei Ying and Lord Xu Lang are attacking Lord Gu Chang Jiang?"

"Heavens! A fight between three titled Celestial Emperors?!"

Meanwhile, the disciples who just arrived were confused when they saw the two titled Celestial Emperors making a move.

"What's going on?"

"Aren't they the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Merciless Celestial Emperor? Hey, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor is here as well!"

A disciple laughed before he replied to his friends who had just arrived, "You came just in time. I wonder how many moves the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor will be able to endure from the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Merciless Celestial Emperor?"

Upon hearing these words, the newly arrived disciples' eyes lit up in anticipation.

Meanwhile, even Duan Ling Tian and the Sword Trial Pavilion elder did not expect Xu Lang and Lei Ying to attack Gu Chang Jiang.

The elder's eyes shone with reverence as he looked at Lei Ying.

"Xu Lang, Lei Ying, what are you doing?!" Gu Chang Jiang was shocked when he saw Xu Lang and Lei Ying joining forces to deal with him. There was nothing he could do but to defend himself at this moment.

Boom!

Lei Ying's raging energy surged out like a ferocious beast as bolts of purple lightning flashed around it. A thunderous explosion rang in the air as the energy shot toward Gu Chang Jiang. Based on this, it was obvious that she had comprehended the law of thunder.

"The law of thunder..." Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed imperceptibly. He could tell Lei Ying had comprehended

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He was not surprised that Lei Ying had comprehended all the profundities from the law of thunder to the mastery stage. However, he was surprised by Lei Ying's seemingly crude and simple attack that seemed strange to him.

'All the profundities from the law of thunder are so in sync when she cast them... No wonder, the power of the attack is much stronger than it seems.' Duan Ling Tian finally figured out what was different about the seemingly simple attack. A titled Celestial Emperor was, indeed, extraordinary.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Unlike Lei Ying's simple and crude approach, the chilling sword rays that revolved around Xu Lang shot out as he pointed at Gu Chang Jiang. Their auras were so cold that the disciples in the arena felt as though they were in an ice cave. As the sword rays shot out, the void in the air seemed to freeze in their wake. Obviously, Xu Lang had comprehended the law of ice.

"Xu Lang! Lei Ying! Don't cross the line!" Gu Chang Jiang's expression was unsightly. He was panicking as he tried to defend himself against the attacks of two titled Celestial Emperors.

"Don't cross the line?" Xu Lang sneered. His sword rays froze and destroyed Gu Chang Jiang's attack as soon as they collided. With just a strike, it was exceedingly clear that Xu Lang's strength far overwhelmed Gu Chang Jiang's strength.

Nevertheless, it was clear that Xu Lang and Lei Ying were not done with Gu Chang Jiang.

After Xu Lang attacked, it was now Lei Ying's turn to attack. Her energy that was flashing with purple lightning bolts swept toward Gu Chang Jiang like the raging sea. Her attack was like the wrath of a thunder god.

Gu Chang Jiang's expression changed drastically. His body began to shine as he hurriedly mobilized his energy to erect a strong defensive barrier around himself. At the same time, the silhouette of protective

armor appeared on his body. At this moment, he was like a coward, no different from a tortoise hiding in its shell.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Lei Ying's energy landed on Gu Chang Jiang's defensive barrier. The attack finally breached the barrier after exhausting half of its strength.

Bang!

The remaining energy from Lei Ying's attack landed on Gu Chang Jiang and sent him flying in the air like a rag doll.

Gu Chang Jiang tried to stabilize his footing as he flew in the air. Although he was not severely injured, with his torn robes, he looked incredibly miserable.

### **Chapter 3275: Fan Qi**

After Gu Chang Jiang's attack was destroyed by Xu Lang, Lei Ying breached his defenses and injured him.

Everything happened in just a blink of an eye. When the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples regained their senses, they saw Gu Chang Jiang in a wretched state. Blood was even trickling out of the corner of his mouth.

"He's injured!"

"Just a single strike, and he's already in such a miserable state. Lord Xu Lang and Lord Lei Ying are so powerful!"

"That's not a surprise. Since the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor is no match for the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Merciless Celestial Emperor respectively, how could he stand a chance if both of them join forces?"

"They've gone easy on him as well. After all, it's not difficult for them to kill him now that they've joined forces."

"Well, they have to go easy on him. No matter what, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor is still one of our Heavenly Pool Palace's titled Celestial Emperors. They know not to go overboard when fighting."

While the disciples discussed the three titled Celestial Emperors, some of them began to discuss Duan Ling Tian.

"Speaking about going overboard, don't you think Duan Ling Tian went overboard for killing Liu Jian? That's probably why the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor was so furious that he wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian."

"It seems like you just arrived..."

"Huh? How do you know that?"

"If you were here earlier and saw the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Liu Jian, you wouldn't have said such things. Liu Jian was the one who provoked Duan Ling Tian first; he wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian."

Alas, Duan Ling Tian ended up killing him. If someone wanted to kill you, and you're capable of killing him, don't tell me you're not going to kill him?"

"That's right. Liu Jian only has himself to blame for his death. He probably didn't expect that Duan Ling Tian's strong enough to kill him."

The disciples who had just arrived looked at Gu Chang Jiang with an unnatural expression on their faces after learning that Liu Jian only had himself to blame for his death, but Gu Chang Jiang came to the Prodigy Arena with the intention to avenge Liu Jian.

"How shameless! I didn't expect a titled Celestial Emperor in our Heavenly Pool Palace to be such a person."

"Didn't you see the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Merciless Celestial Emperor joining forces to deal with the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor? If he's not shameless, the other two wouldn't have joined forces to deal with him."

"Shameless! If this matter spreads out, the Heavenly Pool Palace will become a laughingstock!"

"That's right. The other heaven-grade forces will definitely ridicule our Heavenly Pool Palace, saying the titled Celestial Emperors in our Heavenly Pool Palace don't know how to discern right from wrong!"

Although the disciples were discussing among themselves in a low voice, Gu Chang Jiang still heard their words. His expression turned unsightly immediately as he began to fume in anger.

"Xu Lang, Lei Ying, I, Gu Chang Jiang, will never forget what happened today!" Gu Chang Jiang said as he glared at Xu Lang and Lei Ying before he left. Due to his speed, it looked as though he had disappeared into thin air.

Xu Lang and Lei Ying did not chase after Gu Chang Jiang. After all, they only wanted to teach him a lesson. Since Gu Chang Jiang was a titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace, one of the pillars of the Heavenly Pool Palace, they knew it was not a good idea to kill him.

...

It did not take long before what happened in the Prodigy Arena spread like a wildfire.

People began to realize that Duan Ling Tian was highly valued by Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, based on the way Xu Lang had defended Duan Ling Tian.

As for Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, some people speculated that she had acted against Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, for her subordinate's sake, and some people speculated she had done it for the sake of her new student. After all, although her new student was not involved in the matter, everyone knew her new student was in a relationship with Xu Lang's new student.

With this, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er also became famous in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Duan Ling Tian, in particular, was now famous for his feat of defeating a prodigious disciple between the age of 600 to 700 years old when he was not even 300 years old. There were more than 300 years of difference in age between the two opponents.

“Little Junior Brother, your reputation in the Heavenly Pool Palace is now on par with First Senior Sister and Second Senior Brother now,” Hong Fei said. Since Duan Ling Tian had killed Liu Jian a month ago, he had been visiting Duan Ling Tian frequently. However, before his visits, he would always send a message to Duan Ling Tian to make sure Duan Ling Tian was not cultivating.

This time, Duan Ling Tian was not cultivating when Hong Fei sent a message asking if he could visit. He had not forgotten his purpose of joining the Heavenly Pool Palace. He had taken time off from cultivating for a month now to investigate Huan'er's parents' whereabouts, but he did not find anything useful at all.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and said, “Although my reputation is on par with First Senior Sister and Second Senior Brother, my strength is still a far cry from theirs.”

Duan Ling Tian's First Senior Sister and Second Senior Brother were Xu Lang's strongest students. His two eldest seniors aside, he was confident he would be able to defeat his Third Senior Sister, Hu Mei, if he had the help from the Five Divine Elements.

“You're crazy! How can you compare yourself to First Senior Sister and Second Senior Brother? Think about it... How old are you?” Hong Fei said.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian rose to his feet abruptly.

Hong Fei stood up and asked curiously, “What's wrong?” Based on Duan Ling Tian's reaction, it was obvious that something had happened.

“I just received a message from the Sword Trial Pavilion... The top prodigious disciple in my age group has replied to my challenge. The battle is this afternoon in the Prodigy Arena,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“This afternoon?” Hong Fei looked up at the sky. “It's almost noon now... We can head over to the arena in a while...”

Duan Ling Tian nodded before he said, “I'll inform Huan'er about this. Sixth Senior Brother, why don't you return for now? If you're interested in watching my battle, I'll see you in the Prodigy Arena later.”

“Alright.”

After Hong Fei left, he sent Duan Ling Tian a message to brief him about his opponent.

“Your opponent's name is Fan Qi. He's a Five Elements Celestial Lord who's comprehended seven profundities from the law of wind to the mastery stage. Apart from that, he's not human. It's said that he's a Celestial Plant. Needless to say, his powers increase tremendously when he reverts to his true form.”

“Not human?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback when he heard Hong Fei's message. He was impressed that Fan Qi was able to comprehend seven profundities from the law of wind to the mastery stage even if he was not human. After all, it was not an easy feat for someone below the age of 300 to comprehend so many profundities to the mastery stage.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian went to look for Huan'er so he could wake her up.



“Huan’er.”

Over the past month, Huan’er had not been cultivating. She had been sleeping mostly to comprehend the law of space through the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity since she had not comprehended all the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage. This was an aspect where she was weaker than Duan Ling Tian.

As for Duan Ling Tian, although he had already comprehended all the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage, he could still use the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity to gain more insights on how to use the law of space effectively. However, his progress had been quite slow in regard to this.

After comprehending all of the profundities to the mastery stage, the next step was to familiarize oneself with the profundities, learn the best way to apply them during a battle, and make sure the profundities were in sync. For example, most of the titled Celestial Emperors had comprehended all their profundities to the mastery stage. Therefore, if the titled Celestial Emperors had the same cultivation base and comprehended all of the profundities to the mastery stage, the deciding factor of a battle was determined by their effective use of their profundities.

A month ago, when Lei Ying and Xu Lang dealt with Gu Chang Jiang, Duan Ling Tian had observed how they used their profundities. He saw their strength increase tremendously due to how in sync their profundities were.

...

At the same time, many people in the Heavenly Pool Palace had seen the announcement of Duan Ling Tian and Fan Qi’s battle and learned that the battle would take place in the afternoon in the Prodigy Arena.

Currently, almost everyone in the Heavenly Palace had heard of Duan Ling Tian. Perhaps, only those who were in closed-door cultivation had not heard of him.

As for Fan Qi, he was, naturally, famous in the Heavenly Pool Palace as well. After all, he was the strongest prodigy in the 200-to-300-year-old age group. Moreover, Fan Qi had also defeated a prodigious disciple from the 700-to-800-year-old age group in the past. Although the prodigious disciple he defeated was ranked at the bottom of his age group, it still stirred up a huge commotion at that time. After all, there was no doubt it was an amazing feat.

This was similar to how Duan Ling Tian caused a huge stir in the Heavenly Pool Palace when he killed Liu Jian.

News of Duan Ling Tian and Fan Qi’s impending battle spread like a wildfire, and it did not take long before a huge crowd had gathered outside of the Prodigy Arena.

“Duan Ling Tian killed Liu Jian, a prodigious disciple in the 600-to-700-year-old age group, a month ago. There’s no doubt he’s strong. If he’s going against anyone else in his age group, I’d be certain of victory. However, his opponent is Fan Qi who’s also a monstrous talent.”

“That’s right! Similarly, Fan Qi had also defeated a prodigious disciple in the 700-to-800-year-old age group. Although his opponent was ranked at the bottom, there’s no doubt that Fan Qi is really strong.”

“It’s hard to tell who’s stronger between the two of them.”

“In my opinion, Duan Ling Tian’s stronger. Fan Qi only defeated his opponent, but Duan Ling Tian killed his opponent! There’s a huge difference between defeating someone and killing someone.”

“That’s not necessarily true. Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian only managed to kill Liu Jian at that time because Liu Jian was careless? Apart from that, it has been 30 years since Fan Qi defeated his opponent from a higher age group. There’s no doubt he has grown even stronger since then.”

### **Chapter 3276: In the Prodigy Arena Again**

Similar to Duan Ling Tian’s previous opponent, Huang Lu Nan, Fan Qi was also a Five Elements Celestial Lord. However, Huang Lu Nan was definitely no match for Fan Qi. Even if Huang Lu Nan could disregard the rule and directly challenge Fan Qi, it was likely that he would not do so.

“Duan Ling Tian challenged Fan Qi? Fan Qi is stronger than Senior Brother Lou Jian, and he’s also the top prodigious disciple in the 200-to-300-year-old age group. I’m sure that he has more than a few tricks up his sleeve.”

“Duan Ling Tian might not be able to defeat him!”

...

Meanwhile, no one knew whether it was to watch Duan Ling Tian getting beaten by Fan Qi or to see if Fan Qi had mastered any new techniques, Huang Lu Nan decided to leave his cultivation place and go to the Prodigy Arena to watch the battle.

‘Fortunately, teacher didn’t blame me when he returned injured a month ago...’ Fear rose in his heart when he thought about this. At that time, he had prepared himself to be punished.

...

At this time, many people from the Heavenly Pool Palace, like Huang Lu Nan, were making their way to the Prodigy Arena. Among these people, there were many prodigious disciples as well.

Previously, due to Duan Ling Tian’s unknown strength as a newcomer and Huang Lu Nan’s rank at the bottom of his age group, their battle did not pique the interest of the other prodigious disciples at all.

Similarly, Huan’er’s battle with the prodigious disciple in the 200-to-300-year-old age group who was ranked second to last did not attract much attention as well. Nevertheless, those who were present were shocked when Huan’er defeated her opponent with just one strike.

After two battles, the people in the Heavenly Pool Palace, naturally, paid more attention to Xu Lang and Lei Ying’s new students. The pair was both talented and well-matched.

...

In the Heavenly Pool Palace, every titled Celestial Emperor, including the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace, had prodigious disciples under them. For instance, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, Xu Lang, had seven prodigious disciples under him while the Merciless Celestial Emperor, Lei Ying, had five prodigious disciples under her.

Similarly, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, Gu Chang Jiang, had six prodigious disciples under him before Duan Ling Tian killed one and kicked another one off the Prodigious Disciples Ranking.

“Fifth Junior Brother is truly useless. I can’t believe he was killed by someone who’s not even 300 years old.”

Apart from Huang Lu Nan, the other prodigious disciples under Gu Chang Jiang were all stronger than Liu Jian. Moreover, two of the prodigious disciples were younger than Liu Jian; one of them was a little over 500 years old while the other was a little over 600 years old.

The one who had just spoken was Gu Chang Jiang’s prodigious disciple who was in the 600-to-700-year-old age group like Liu Jian. He was a few decades younger than Liu Jian, but he was ranked third in his age group while Liu Jian was ranked second to last. Therefore, Liu Jian had to address him as Third Senior Brother when they met. He was Yu Yue, Gu Chang Jiang’s third disciple. His appearance was that of a skinny young man, and he was dressed in fine robes. Although his features were ordinary, his gaze was piercing.

“Third Senior Brother, I think Fifth Junior Brother was just careless. Otherwise, with his strength, he wouldn’t have died even if Duan Ling Tian’s capable of defeating him.”

Apart from Huang Lu Nan who had gone to the Prodigy Arena, two of Gu Chang Jiang’s prodigious disciples had also gone to the Prodigy Arena. One of them was Yu Yue, and the other one was Gu Chang Jiang’s fourth disciple, Yuan Gang.

Yuan Gang was a little more than 500 years old, and he was ranked fourth in the 500-to-600-year-old age group. Although he was younger than Liu Jian, he was much stronger than Liu Jian.

Similar to Lei Ying, the seniority of Gu Chang Jiang’s prodigious disciples was decided based on their strength.

In fact, this was how all of the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace, except for Xu Lang, decided the seniority of their prodigious disciples.

Since Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, decided the seniority of his prodigious disciples based on when they joined him, no one knew which of Xu Lang’s disciples were the strongest or the weakest.

...

As Duan Ling Tian and Huan’er prepared to leave their cultivation place and make their way to the Prodigy Arena, they saw Hong Fei, Duan Ling Tian’s Sixth Senior Brother, who had been waiting for them for quite a while.

Hong Fei was not alone; there were another two people standing next to him. One of them was Hu Mei, Duan Ling Tian’s Third Senior Sister, and Wen Wan’er, Duan Ling Tian’s Fourth Senior Sister.

Duan Ling Tian stepped forward and greeted his two senior sisters. “Third Senior Sister, Fourth Senior Sister.” After that, he turned to greet Hong Fei.

“Little Junior Brother, you’re not being fair. Why did you greet me last? Do you look down on your Sixth Senior Brother?” Hong Fei said dramatically.

“Fatty, your seniority is lower than both of us. Isn’t it natural that he greets you last? If you’re dissatisfied, you can challenge me or your Fourth Senior Sister. If you’re able to defeat any of us, I’ll address you as senior brother. What do you think about that?” Hu Mei’s blunt words successfully shut Hong Fei up.

Initially, when Duan Ling Tian first joined Xu Lang, Hong Fei had thought there was finally someone weaker than him in the group. When Duan Ling Tian killed Liu Jian a month ago, he finally realized even his Little Junior Brother was stronger than him. In the end, nothing had changed; he was still the weakest among the prodigious disciples under Xu Lang. Fortunately, their seniority was not decided based on strength. Otherwise, he would definitely be everyone’s Little Junior Brother now.

Wen Wan’er said with a faint smile on her face, “Sixth Junior Brother, you really have to work harder... Even Little Junior Brother is stronger than you. If you don’t work hard, who knows if you’ll get kicked off the Prodigious Disciples Ranking?”

“Fourth Senior Sister, even you are joining Third Senior Sister to bully me!” Hong Fei said as he sulked.

Wen Wan’er did not reply to Hong Fei. Instead, she looked at Huan’er and said with a smile, “Sister Huan’er, congratulations on becoming a prodigious disciple!”

“Thank you, Fourth Senior Sister,” Huan’er replied with a smile. She had a good impression of Duan Ling Tian’s Fourth Senior Sister. On the contrary, she completely ignored Hu Mei, Duan Ling Tian’s Third Senior Sister.

“What? Are you still mad at me, Sister Huan’er?” With Hu Mei’s personality, just because Huan’er ignored her, it did not mean she would do the same. She moved closer to Huan’er and said with a bright smile on her face, “Hey, I was just joking at that time! You’re taking it too seriously, silly girl! Although Little Junior Brother seems like a good man, I have no interest in stealing another person’s lover. So don’t worry; he’s all yours!” After she finished speaking, she laughed heartily.

While Hu Mei laughed, Hong Fei seemed transfixed by her alluring figure.

When Duan Ling Tian saw Hu Mei and Wen Wan’er, he had already guessed their intentions. Nevertheless, he still asked, “Third Senior Sister, Fourth Senior Sister, are you going to the Prodigy Arena as well?”

“That’s right.” Hu Mei nodded. “I really regret I wasn’t there to watch you kill Liu Jian a month ago. Now that you have another battle, how can I miss it? Moreover, your opponent this time is the top prodigious disciple in your age group.”

Wen Wan’er chimed in with a smile on her face, “Little Junior Brother, after listening to Sixth Junior Brother constantly praising you, I’d like to watch your battle to see how powerful you are as well.”

“Alright. Shall we go now?” Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled.

Following that, the five of them made their way to the Prodigy Arena.

...

During their journey to the Prodigy Arena, they saw many people making their way to the arena as well.

Since the arena was not located far away from the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate, it only took a few moments before Duan Ling Tian and the others arrived at the arena.

Currently, the Prodigy Arena was already crowded. From afar, one could only see a sea of black heads.

Meanwhile, Elder Qin from the Sword Trial Pavilion had already arrived and was hovering in the center of the arena. It did not take long before his eyes found Duan Ling Tian and the others. He smiled faintly at Duan Ling Tian before he bowed at Huan'er.

...

As soon as Duan Ling Tian appeared in the Prodigy Arena, many of the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples discovered him. Almost everyone was staring at him at this moment.

"Duan Ling Tian is here!"

"It's Duan Ling Tian!"

Upon seeing everyone's attention on Duan Ling Tian, Hong Fei said, "Little Junior Brother, you're getting a lot of attention... Today, you must defeat Fan Qi and make us proud!"

"Hey, don't you know how to speak properly?" Hu Mei said as she glanced at Hong Fei, "You should tell Little Junior Brother to go easy on Fan Qi instead. Do you think there'd be another outcome apart from Little Junior Brother defeating Fan Qi?"

"N-no!" Hong Fei only smiled bitterly when he heard Hu Mei's words. Inwardly, he could not help but grumble that he definitely could not compare with Hu Mei in regard to flattery. For this reason, even their First Senior Sister had a close relationship with Hu Mei; they were like sisters.

After a moment, Hong Fei's keen eyes spotted Gu Chang Jiang's disciple whom Duan Ling Tian defeated a month ago. "Who could've guessed Huang Lu Nan would come as well?"

"Hm?" After discovering Huang Lu Nan, Hong Fei saw another two of Gu Chang Jiang's prodigious disciples. "Yu Yue? Yuan Gang? They're here as well?"

"Why? Sixth Junior Brother, are you worried Yu Yue and Yuan Gang will cause trouble for our Little Junior Brother?" Hu Mei asked as she rolled her eyes. Then, without waiting for Hong Fei to reply, she knocked his head and continued to say, "Hey, do you think your Fourth Senior Sister and I are just for show?"

Indeed. With Hu Mei and Wen Wan'er's strength, Hong Fei thought there was no need to be afraid of Yu Yue and Yuan Gang. Thus, he scratched his head and said sheepishly, "My bad, my bad... I forgot about both of you."

"Hey, how could you forget we're here? Are we invisible to you?" Hu Mei said as she raised her hand again to knock Hong Fei's head.

Hong Fei shook his head vehemently. He really felt like crying at this moment.

**Chapter 3277: Han Yun Jin**

While Hu Mei was teasing Hong Fei, a husky voice rang from afar. "Junior Sister Wan'er."

A few moments later, a blue-clad young man appeared near Duan Ling Tian and the others. There was another young man trailing behind the blue-clad young man as well.

The blue-clad young man was handsome. He had an air of arrogance around him as though he was superior to everyone.

Initially, Duan Ling Tian assumed Wen Wan'er, his Fourth Junior Sister, had a good relationship with the blue-clad young man. However, he soon realized he was mistaken when he saw Wen Wan'er responding indifferently to the blue-clad young man's greeting. It was obvious Wen Wan'er had no intention of engaging in a conversation with the blue-clad young man.

Upon seeing Wen Wan'er's cold response, the young man standing behind the blue-clad young man said indignantly, "Wen Wan'er, Senior Brother Jin is talking to you. Didn't you hear him?"

Wen Wan'er did not respond to the young man, but Hu Mei could not endure it. She sneered and said to the young man, "Since when did the second disciple of the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor become a lackey? What an embarrassment to all prodigious disciples." The sneer on her face grew deeper and deeper as she spoke.

"Hu Mei, you have a death wish!" The young man's expression darkened upon hearing Hu Mei's words. His eyes flashed with killing intent as he glared at her.

"What? Xiao Cong Yi, are you going to fight me?" Hu Mei sneered. "It is an opportunity for me to see if you've improved. Don't forget how you failed the last time you challenged me. How dare a loser like you talk such a big game in front of me?"

The more Hu Mei said, the darker the young man's expression became.

At this moment, the blue-clad young man interjected, "Hu Mei, you should know when to stop." He did bother concealing the threat in his words.

Despite the blue-clad young man's threats, Hu Mei did not seem frightened. Instead, she continued to say, "Han Yun Jin, if I were you, I'd never show myself in front of Wan'er again."

Duan Ling Tian was watching the scene before him in slight confusion when Hong Fei, his Sixth Senior Brother, sent a Voice Transmission to him.

"Little Junior Brother. The person standing behind the blue-clad young man is Xiao Cong Yi, the second disciple of the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor."

Duan Ling Tian had heard of the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor before this. Among the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace, his strength was similar to Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor. Therefore, similar to Gu Chang Jiang, the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor was also weaker than his teacher, Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor.

Hong Fei continued to say through Voice Transmission, "He's in the same age group as Third Senior Sister. Both of them are between 800 to 900 years old. Third Senior Sister ranks second while he ranks third in their age group."

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised by Hong Fei's words. Hu Mei, his Third Senior Sister, was ranked second in her age group? He could not help but look at Hu Mei; he did not expect his bold and carefree Third Senior Sister to be such a powerful prodigious disciple.

"Xiao Cong Yi has challenged Third Senior Sister a few times now but was defeated every single time," Hong Fei explained through Voice Transmission, "As for the blue-clad young man, he's one of the five strongest prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace like our Second Senior Brother."

Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow upon hearing this. He was surprised that Han Yun Jin whom Hu Mei was scolding was as famous as his Second Senior Brother in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

Only outstanding disciples below the age of 1,000 were qualified to become prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. The top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace referred to the five strongest people below the age of 1,000 in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

"His name's Han Yu Jin, and he's the eldest disciple of the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor. The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor is slightly stronger than our teacher."

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly in response. He had heard that the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor was stronger than Xu Lang. The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor was ranked in the top three among the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace, after all. After a moment, he asked Hong Fei curiously through Voice Transmission, "Sixth Senior Brother, why do I get the feeling that Third and Fourth Senior Sister really dislike Han Yun Jin?"

Even as a third party who knew nothing, Duan Ling Tian could clearly sense Hu Mei and Wen Wan'er's dislike of Han Yun Jin.

"It's not just them. Second Senior Brother, Fifth Senior Brother, and I hate him as well. In fact, even our teacher doesn't like him. You don't hate him now because you're still unaware of what he had done!" Hong Fei said angrily, "That Han Yun Jin is a b\*stard... Back then, when he pursued Fourth Senior Sister, he seemed devoted and loyal. However, behind her, he was always flirting with other female disciples and would stay over at their places. Fortunately, Second Senior Brother found out about this before Third Senior Sister married him. Otherwise, Fourth Senior Sister would've lost more than her feelings for him. Fortunately, Fourth Senior Sister had never been physically intimate with him. Nevertheless, she was truly brokenhearted. It took her almost 100 years to heal from her heartbreak. After all, he was the only one she had ever loved, and yet, he cheated on her. Currently, she no longer has any feelings for him except for hatred."

After listening to Hong Fei's words, Duan Ling Tian's gaze turned cold as well. He had a good impression of Wen Wan'er since they had first met. How could Han Yu Jin hurt someone as gentle as Wen Wan'er? No wonder all of the prodigious disciples under Xu Lang hated Han Yu Jin.

Hong Fei continued to say through Voice Transmission, "Second Senior Brother even challenged Han Yun Jin because of that matter. However, Han Yun Jin tried to avoid Second Senior Brother because he knew he was not a match for Second Senior Brother. Nonetheless, Second Senior Brother went to look for him and beat him up! Second Senior Brother even injured him several times. Naturally, Second Senior Brother was punished for his actions every single time as well..."

Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel moved when he heard Hong Fei's words. Although he was just listening to Hong Fei's words, he could imagine the anger his Second Senior Brother must have felt at that time. Although his Second Senior Brother knew he was going to be punished for his actions, he did not hesitate to stand up for his Fourth Junior Sister. Based on this, it could be seen that their Second Senior Brother was a really protective person. After learning about this, he felt his respect for his Second Senior Brother, whom he had only met once, grow.

"Fourth Senior Sister had pleaded with Second Senior Brother to stop, but he didn't listen and went to beat Han Yun Jin up. Second Senior Brother said he should protect us, especially when First Senior Sister isn't around. In the end, Second Senior Brother only stopped because Fourth Senior Sister threatened him with suicide." This was Hong Fei's last Voice Transmission regarding this matter.

Meanwhile, Han Yu Jin stared at Hu Mei and smiled icily as he said, "Hu Mei, do you want to fight me? Do you think you stand a chance against me?"

Hu Mei said mockingly, "Well... I don't mind if you really want to fight. I'm only worried about you. After all, my Second Senior Brother might beat you up again. Moreover, if you injure me, my Second Senior Brother would have a valid reason to beat you up. It doesn't matter if he beats you until you become disabled. The Heavenly Pool Palace won't have a reason to punish him as long as he doesn't kill you..."

Han Yun Jin stared at Hu Mei and smiled coldly "do you think you can win against me? I don't mind if you want to fight... I'm just worried about you, you might get beaten up by my second senior brother again after this."

If the disciples under the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace were injured in an unsanctioned fight, the fellow disciples of the injured prodigious disciple were allowed to avenge him or her.

In the past, Han Yu Jin had hurt Wen Wan'er. Unfortunately, her broken heart was not a physical injury. Therefore, Lu Ji was punished whenever he beat Han Yun Jin up. If Wen Wan'er had sustained physical injuries, he would not have been punished for beating Han Yun Jin up since it would be within the Heavenly Pool Palace rules.

Han Yun Jin's expression turned unsightly when he heard Hu Mei's words. He glared at Hu Mei and asked, "You think I'm afraid of Lu Ji?"

Upon hearing these words, Hu Mei's smile widened as she said, "If you're not afraid, then you're welcome to attack me now..."

Han Yun Jin only scoffed. He did not respond to Hu Mei's words and changed the topic instead. "I'm not interested in bullying a weakling like you. I'm only here today because of my Fourth Junior Brother."

"Not interested? I think you're just afraid," Hu Mei continued to mock Han Yun Jin.

Han Yun Jin ignored Hu Mei's provocations again. Instead, he swept his gaze across the group of people in front of him. "Who's Duan Ling Tian? You're quite courageous for challenging my Fourth Junior Brother."



When Han Yun Jin's eyes finally found Duan Ling Tian, he said, "Ah, you must be Duan Ling Tian..."

Duan Ling Tian stepped forward. His gaze was icy as he said, "So Fan Qi is your Fourth Junior Brother?" Then, a grin appeared on his face as he continued to say in a voice that grew colder and colder, "You better ask him to watch out. Sometimes, I can't control my strength so I can be a little bit heavy-handed when I hit."

Although Duan Ling Tian did not spend much time with his seniors, they made him feel like he was home, as though he was among family members. Naturally, he would not be courteous to those who had bullied his family members.

"Since when did Fan Qi become your Fourth Junior Brother?" Hu Mei asked with a frown. Clearly, she was not aware that Fan Qi had become the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor's disciple.

"This happened about two months ago. It's not surprising that you didn't hear about it," Han Yun Jin said with a faint smile on his face. When he turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian, he said with a sneer, "A battle between prodigious disciples can be just a normal battle or a life-or-death battle. If my Fourth Junior Brother challenges you to a life-or-death battle, do you dare to accept his challenge?"

"A life-or-death battle?" Duan Ling Tian smiled. "I'm only worried he's afraid of challenging me to a life-or-death battle. If he dares to challenge me to a fight to the death, I, Duan Ling Tian, will definitely accept his challenge."

"Very good." Han Yun Jin's smile widened upon hearing these words. "Let's hope you don't get killed. Otherwise, it'd be someone else standing next to this beautiful lady beside you."

At this moment, Han Yun Jin's eyes were trained on Huan'er. His desire for her was apparent in his eyes.

Although Huan'er wore a veil to hide her appearance, it was not enough to conceal her peerless beauty.

As soon as Han Yun Jin finished speaking, the killing intent flashing in Duan Ling Tian's eyes intensified. If it were not for the crowd in the surroundings and his consideration for the bigger picture, he would have killed Han Yun Jin at this moment even if it meant he had to borrow the strength of all the Five Divine Elements and used up all the trump cards in his possession. Regardless, just because he could not kill Han Yun Jin now did not mean he could not kill Han Yun Jin later. In his eyes, Han Yun Jin was already a dead man walking.

### **Chapter 3278: Why Should I Be Worried?**

Huan'er was the apple of Duan Ling Tian's eyes. How could he not be angered by Han Yun Jin's words? He was so angry that he had already sentenced Han Yun Jin to death in his heart. In the end, he only said with a sneer, "The only thing you need to worry about is your Fourth Junior Disciple dying later."

"Is that so?" Han Yun Jin maintained the smile on his face as he said, "It seems like killing Liu Jian really boosted your confidence. However, Liu Jian wasn't in the same league as my Fourth Junior Brother..."

"If he dares to choose the life-or-death battle, then death is what he will get," Duan Ling Tian replied icily as his eyes flashed.

At this moment, a loud and clear voice rang in the Prodigy Arena.

“Elder Qin!”

At the same time, a skinny figure appeared in the Prodigy Arena, staring at the Sword Trial Pavilion elder who would be supervising the battle today. The figure belonged to a skinny and ordinary-looking young man. His aura was icy as he announced loudly, “I, Fan Qi accept Duan Ling Tian’s challenge. In return, I challenge him to a life-or-death battle. No surrender or rest until one of us is dead!”

With these words, his identity became clear to those who might not recognize him. Who else could he be but Fan Qi, the strongest prodigious disciple in the 200-to-300-year-old age group?

“He’s Fan Qi?”

“He wants the battle to be a life-or-death battle?!”

“There are two types of life-or-death battles. One is where either one of the opponents are allowed to surrender. The other one is where there’s no surrendering at all. The battle only ends when one of the two opponents dies. What enmity does he have with Duan Ling Tian? Why would he choose this type of battle?”

Fan Qi’s words stunned the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples in the Prodigy Arena. Most of them speculated that there must be some deep-seated grudge between Fan Qi and Duan Ling Tian for Fan Qi to choose such a battle to the death where surrendering was not an option.

In Heavenly Pool Palace, the challenger, in this case, Duan Ling Tian, did not have the right to choose the type of battle. He only had the power to reject the battle. Conversely, the person who was challenged, in this case, it would be Fan Qi, would be given the right to choose the type of battles. The types of battles were battles that would end once there was a clear winner and one was not allowed to kill one’s opponent, life-or-death battles where one was allowed to surrender, and life-or-death battles where the battles would only end once one of the two opponents was dead.

If Duan Ling Tian rejected the life-or-death battle that Fan Qi proposed, he would have to forfeit his challenge as well, making Fan Qi the winner. However, if Duan Ling Tian accepted the life-or-battle, there was no stopping it until one of them was dead. No one was allowed to intervene at all.

How could the others not be shocked by Fan Qi’s choice of battle?

“Fan Qi, you’re certain you want to a life-or-death battle with no option of surrendering?” The Sword Trial Pavilion elder was similarly shocked by Fan Qi’s choice that he instinctively confirmed again with Fan Qi that he really wanted a life-or-death battle without the option to surrender. After all, he had to be certain in matters like this. If there were any misunderstandings, he would have to bear the blame for it.

“Yes,” Fan Qi replied. Then, he continued to say in a loud and clear voice, “All our senior brothers, senior sisters, junior brothers, and junior sisters can be the witnesses!”

Fan Qi’s words caused another uproar in the arena. Perhaps, some might have passed off Fan Qi’s earlier words as a casual remark. With these words, there was no more doubt about his intention.

“Duan Ling Tian, I hope you’re not only good at talking,” Han Yun Jin said before he left with Xiao Cong Yi. His gaze was brimming with disdain as though he was intentionally trying to provoke Duan Ling Tian.

Obviously, Duan Ling Tian could tell Han Yun Jin was trying to provoke him into accepting the life-or-death battle. Nevertheless, it did not matter to him. After all, he was not afraid of Fan Qi.

Hong Fei's expression was grim as he said in a low voice, "Little Junior Brother, don't accept the challenge."

Hong Fei, Duan Ling Tian's Sixth Senior Brother, was aware of Han Yun Jin's character. Han Yun Jin was one of the top five strongest prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. If Han Yun Jin was so confident about Fan Qi, it meant that he was certain Fan Qi would win.

"Little Junior Brother, you'll have other opportunities to fight him in the future," Wen Wan'er, Duan Ling Tian's Fourth Senior Sister, said with a dignified expression on her face. Among everyone present, she knew Han Yun Jin best. After all, she was truly in love with Han Yun Jin back then; the only thing was they had not taken that last step in their relationship. She knew Han Yun Jin was a cautious person and would not simply take risks if he were not certain of his victory.

"Little Junior Brother, where there's life, there's hope." Even Hu Mei, Duan Ling Tian's Third Senior Sister, who was as furious as a fire-breathing dragon tried to dissuade Duan Ling Tian from accepting Fan Qi's challenge. Her expression was solemn when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. Although she really hated Han Yun Jin, she knew Han Yun Jin was not a simple person. Since Fan Qi had challenged Duan Ling Tian to a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender, it was clear Fan Qi wanted to seize the opportunity to openly kill Duan Ling Tian.

Ever since the incident between Wen Wan'er and Han Yun Jin, those under the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor firmly stood on opposing sides. It was not difficult for Xu Lang's prodigious disciples to figure out why Fan Qi wanted to kill their Little Junior Brother. Their grudge aside, those under the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor just did not want another outstanding prodigious disciple among their ranks. After all, based on the strength their Little Junior Brother had displayed, it was obvious that he would not be any weaker than their Second Senior Brother in the future. In fact, their Little Junior Brother might even surpass their First Senior Sister in the future!

In conclusion, Han Yun Jin just could not stand watching someone with such great potential like Duan Ling Tian grow stronger and stronger in case Duan Ling Tian became a threat.

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Duan Ling Tian, what's your answer? You're allowed to reject him, but you'll be considered as failing the challenge. If you accept, you'll have to fight Fan Qi until one of you dies."

For Huan'er's sake, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as well. "Duan Ling Tian, since Fan Qi proposed the life-or-death battle without the option to surrender, it means he's highly confident about winning. I'm sure he has a hidden trump card. I advise you to reject him."

"I appreciate the thought, elder," Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission. Then, he disappeared into thin air before he reappeared across from Fan Qi.

With this, although Duan Ling Tian did not verbally answer the Sword Trial Pavillion elder's question, his actions spoke clearly of his intention. He accepted the life-or-death battle with no option to surrender!

"I didn't expect you to have the guts to accept this," Fan Qi said with a cold expression. When he saw Duan Ling Tian teleporting into the arena, a smile that looked worse than if he were crying appeared on his face.

"I'm not Han Yun Jin, why would you think I don't have the guts to accept the challenge?" Duan Ling Tian smiled indifferently. Earlier, he had heard from Hong Fei that Lu Ji, his Second Senior Brother, had challenged Han Yun Jin to the two different types of life-or-death battles on several occasions, but Han Yun Jin rejected all of them.

Before Fan Qi could reply, Duan Ling Tian smirked as he said mockingly, "In fact, I should say I didn't expect you to have the guts to challenge me to a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender. I was under the impression that all of you are cowardly like your senior brother, Han Yun Jin."

'This brat really has a death wish!' Han Yun Jin who was standing nearby with a gloating smile on his face froze when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. His expression turned incredibly unsightly in just a blink of an eye. He felt so humiliated he almost wished he could dig a hole to hide in when he felt the burning stares on him.

When Han Yun Jin returned his gaze to Duan Ling Tian, his eyes flashed with killing intent. Then, he sent a Voice Transmission to Fan Qi; his voice was cold and furious. "Fourth Junior Brother, end it quickly! I don't want him alive for a second longer."

"Don't worry. He'll surely die!" Fan Qi replied confidently, clearly assured of his victory.

Duan Ling Tian stared at Fan Qi indifferently, clearly not intimidated by Fan Qi at all. So what if Fan Qi was a Celestial Plant that was highly talented and had high comprehension skills? Moreover, Fan Qi had probably only gained a human form roughly 300 years ago. If he was afraid of someone like this, how could he continue on his journey? How could he save his wives, Ke'er and Li Fei, his family, and friends in the Divine Offering Land?

At this moment, Fan Qi said nonchalantly, "Duan Ling Tian, I'll give you ten breaths to say your last words before I attack. Once I attack, you'd have 20 seconds to live at most before you die."

...

Meanwhile, the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples were still shocked by Duan Ling Tian's appearance in the battle ring.

"This means Duan Ling Tian accepts the life-or-death battle, right?"

"He seems very confident of his victory..."

"Confident? So what if he's confident? Isn't Fan Qi confident as well? Otherwise, would he have chosen a life-or-death battle?"

"A death duel between two prodigious disciples... It has been a while since this happened in the Heavenly Pool Palace, right?"

“Back then, Lu Ji, the second disciple of Xu Lang, the Verdant Praire Celestial Emperor, challenged Han Yun Jin, the first disciple of the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor as well. However, Han Yun Jin rejected the challenge.”

While the spectators discussed among themselves, Xu Lang’s three prodigious disciples only smiled wryly.

“Why is Little Junior Brother so headstrong?” Hong Fei said, slightly exasperated.

At this moment, Wen Wan’er glanced at Huan’er. She discovered that Huan’er was as calm as usual as though she was not concerned about Duan Ling Tian at all. She could not help but ask, “Sister Huan’er, aren’t you worried?”

Hu Mei turned to look at Huan’er with a complex expression. Her Little Junior Brother’s lover should be the most worried at this moment, but she seemed completely fine.

“Why should I be worried?”

Wen Wan’er, Hu Mei, and Hong Fei were dumbfounded when they heard Huan’er’s reply.

### **Chapter 3279: Fan Qin’s True Form**

Ten breaths passed in just a blink of an eye.

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, Fan Qi became a blur as he charged toward Duan Ling Tian like a gust of wind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sound of wind whistling in the air resounded in the Prodigy Arena. Most of the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples could not keep up with Fan Qi’s movements since he was too fast for them.

On the other hand, those who had higher cultivation bases had already discovered something.

“Fan Qi... Did he break through and become a Six Combos Celestial Lord?”

“Fan Qi’s a Six Combos Celestial Lord who has comprehended seven profundities from the law of wind to the mastery stages. Is he really less than 300 years old?”

“His talent and aptitude for cultivation are heaven-defying!”

“I think even others like him who are Celestial Plants would have a difficult time to achieve as much as he did in such a short time, right?”

With this discovery, the expressions of those Heavenly Pool Palace disciples who had discovered Fan Qi’s recent breakthrough grew increasingly sympathetic when they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Based on the strength Fan Qi had shown so far, it was incredibly easy for him to kill Liu Jian whom Duan Ling Tian killed a month ago. Most people were convinced that Duan Ling Tian only managed to kill Liu Jian due to Liu Jian’s recklessness. In their opinion, now that Fan Qi’s strength had increased another level after becoming a Six Combos Celestial Lord, he could easily kill Liu Jian even if Liu Jian was on guard.

Meanwhile, Hong Fei's expression changed drastically when he discovered Fan Qi's recent breakthrough. "Fan Qi... actually had a breakthrough recently?" He did not expect that Fan Qi, who was ranked first in the 200-to-300-year-old age group, was no longer a Five Elements Celestial Lord, but a Six Combos Celestial Lord.

Similarly, Hu Mei and Wen Wan'er's expressions turned solemn. Both of them felt as though their hearts were in their mouths.

On the contrary, Huan'er was the only one who remained calm. In fact, she seemed completely indifferent to it all.

'Duan Ling Tian... You'll definitely die today!' Han Yun Jin sneered.

Apart from Han Yun Jin, those who were filled with glee at the thought of Duan Ling Tian's impending death were Huang Lu Nan, the disciple of Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor; and Lei Jun, the disciple and son of Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, who had just arrived.

These people could not wait for Fan Qi to kill Duan Ling Tian.

...

"Is this the extent of your capability?" Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian vanished from where he stood and reappeared in the sky using the Teleportation Profundity from the law of space. At the same time, raging spatial energy rolled off his body as his gaze turned frosty.

This was going to be the first time he was going to publicly show the seven out nine profundities from the law of space that he had comprehended to the mastery stage, not counting the Transportation Profundity that he had yet to use openly and the Space Elemental Profundity.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Nine sword rays silently shot out of the spatial tears that appeared after Duan Ling Tian cast the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity. Boosted by the other profundities that he had comprehended to the mastery stage, the power they carried was terrifyingly destructive.

Restraining Profundity!

The void around Fan Qi rippled, restraining him.

Fan Qi scoffed. Then, his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Wind Elemental Profundity surged out of his body.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The wind seemed as sharp as a blade as it blew in the air, trying to help Fan Qi break free of Duan Ling Tian's restraint. Alas, it was suppressed by the force of the other profundities from the law of space that Duan Ling Tian had cast.

Duan Ling Tian who had cast eight of his profundities from the law of space, which had been comprehended to the mastery stage, cut off Fan Qi's advances completely.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

In just a moment, the violent wind was easily quelled by the force from Duan Ling Tian's law of space. His suppression of Fan Qi was overwhelming. The nine sword rays from the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity, in particular, seemed invincible. No matter how powerful Fan Qi's attacks were, the sword rays easily destroyed them.

...

"So powerful!"

"Duan Ling Tian completely overpowered Fan Qi!"

"Am I seeing things? Apart from the Transporting Profundity that Duan Ling Tian had yet to cast, it... it seems like he has comprehended all the other profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage!"

"Duan Ling Tian's comprehension of the law of space is no weaker than Fan Qi's comprehension of the law of wind... However, the profundities that Duan Ling Tian comprehended have high offensive power while Fan Qi has yet to comprehend the main offensive profundity from the law of wind to the mastery stage."

"It makes no difference even if Fan Qi has comprehended the main offensive profundity from the law of wind to the mastery stage. The law of space is one of the Four Supreme Laws, after all. Even if Duan Ling Tian hasn't comprehended the Transportation Profundity to the mastery stage, he should still be able to easily overpower Fan Qi based on what we've seen so far."

"That's right. Moreover, out of the Four Supreme Laws, the law of space is acknowledged as being the hardest to comprehend. And yet, Duan Ling Tian managed to comprehend at least seven profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage, excluding the Space Elemental Profundity! It's possible that he has also comprehended the Transportation Profundity to the mastery stage and just hasn't shown it yet!"

Needless to say, everyone was surprised by Duan Ling Tian's strength. After all, they did not think he would be so powerful.

"As it turns out, it wasn't due to luck that he managed to kill Liu Jian!"

"With Duan Ling Tian's strength, it would be difficult for Liu Jian to survive unless he knew about Duan Ling Tian's strength beforehand!"

"The law of space is really domineering. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian has comprehended all of the offensive profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage!"

"He's definitely stronger than Fan Qi. It seems like Fan Qi is going to run out of luck today!"

"I wouldn't say that. After all, Fan Qi hasn't unleashed his full strength yet. He still has his special techniques as a Celestial Plant that he has yet to use. You should know all these non-humans have many tricks up their sleeves. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so bold as to challenge Duan Ling Tian to a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender."

"Although Duan Ling Tian's strength is surprising, I'm sure Fan Qi had expected it as well."

While the other Heavenly Pool Palace discussed among themselves, Hu Mei, Wen Wan'er, and Hong Fei were dumbfounded by the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed.

"Little Junior Brother is actually so powerful?"

"No wonder it was so easy for him to kill Liu Jian."

Nevertheless, Duan Ling Tian's three fellow disciples were still worried even though it seemed like Duan Ling Tian had completely overpowered Fan Qi at this moment. After all, Fan Qi was not human; there was no doubt he had many other techniques he gained as a Celestial Plant.

On the other hand, Han Yun Jin's eyes glinted coldly as he watched the battle. 'This is rather surprising! If given enough time, Duan Ling Tian will definitely become another Lu Ji. We have to kill him and nip this potential threat in the bud.'

Despite the strength Duan Ling Tian had shown, Han Yun Jin's confidence in Fan Qi did not waver. 'Although Duan Ling Tian is stronger than we expected, it still shouldn't be difficult for Fourth Junior Brother to kill him once he reverts to his true form.'

Similarly, Huang Lu Nan and Lei Jun were shocked and displeased. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be so strong. Nevertheless, they were still rather confident Fan Qi would win.

"Who would have thought he's so strong..." Even the Sword Trial Pavilion elder was shocked by Duan Ling Tian's strength. Similar to the others, he no longer thought it was due to luck that Duan Ling Tian managed to kill Liu Jian.

...

Back in the battle ring.

Duan Ling Tian's onslaught of attacks firmly put Fan Qi in a disadvantageous position.

Nevertheless, Fan Qi said calmly, "Duan Ling Tian, I have to say, your strength took me by surprise... However, it's time to end this!"

...

As soon as everyone heard Fan Qi's words, their eyes lit up. They knew Fan Qi was going to reveal his true strength now.

"I only know that Fan Qi is a Celestial Plant. To be precise, I know he's a Celestial Tree. However, I don't know what kind of tree he is..."

"If he's just an ordinary Celestial Tree, I'm afraid he doesn't stand a chance against Duan Ling Tian."

"Hey, can't you see how confident Fan Qi looks? Do you really think he would be an ordinary Celestial Tree?"

While the Heavenly Pool Palace speculated about Fan Qi's true form, a burst of green energy surged out of Fan's Qi body amidst Duan Ling Tian's onslaught of attacks.



Following that, Fan Qi disappeared before everyone's eyes. In his place was a tree that was in the process of growing.

Initially, the tree was just Fan Qi's height. However, in just a blink of an eye, it grew so tall that it broke Duan Ling Tian's restraint.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

At first glance, the tree looked like a huge pine tree. However, upon closer inspection, one would be able to see that its leaves and branches resembled those of a willow tree.

...

"Is... Is he a Pine Willow Divine Tree?"

"Heavens! The Pine Willow Divine Tree is sacred among Celestial Plants. Its status is equivalent to a top-tier Celestial Beast. Although it's not at the level of a Divine Beast, it's still close enough to one."

"Apparently, each branch of the Pine Willow Divine Tree contains enormous strength... Moreover, he's able to compound the strength of all his branches into a single attack."

"Fan Qi's true strength is rather obvious. Didn't you see how he broke free of Duan Ling Tian's restraint as soon as he reverted to his true form?! He couldn't break free in his human form."

"I didn't expect Fan Qi's true form to be that of a top-tier Celestial Plant like the Pine Willow Divine Tree."

"Duan Ling Tian is in a precarious situation now."

"The strength of Fan Qi's true form isn't inferior to the strength of two offensive profundities from the law of wind at the mastery stage!"

"With such strength, it'd be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to win even if he has completely mastered the law of space!"

"Duan Ling Tian is only human; how can he possibly win against a Pine Willow Divine Tree?"

Unsurprisingly, there was an uproar as soon as Fan Qi revealed his true form. Most people easily identified his true form as a Pine Willow Divine Tree.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, the Pine Willow Divine Tree began to whip its branches around before they formed a cage to trap Duan Ling Tian.

The Pine Willow Divine Tree towered in the air with its numerous branches that looked like tentacles. In just an instant, the tide of the battle had turned, and Fan Qi had regained the upper hand!

**Chapter 3280: King of Ten Thousand Trees**

“Duan Ling Tian, I have to admit you’re quite powerful. To comprehend the law of space to this level at your age, as a human, your talent is peerless.”

A gnarly face appeared on the tree trunk when Fan Qi’s voice rang in the air. If one looked closely enough, one would be able to see its resemblance to Fan Qi’s face.

Fan Qi continued to speak in his true form. “Regardless, you’re destined to be killed by me. I, Fan Qi, am the Pine Willow Divine Tree. With the strength from my true form and the profundities from the law of wind that I’ve comprehended, there’s only a handful of prodigious disciples below the stage of a Celestial Emperor who are capable of defeating me. In any case, there’s no way a human like you who isn’t a Celestial Emperor would be able to defeat me!”

Fan Qi’s voice was thunderously loud now that he had reverted to his true form. He spoke confidently as though he had no doubt at all that Duan Ling Tian would die.

...

“I didn’t expect Fan Qi’s true form to be the Pine Willow Divine Tree!” Huang Lu Nan’s eyes shone brightly at this moment. He could already see the scene where Fan Qi killed Duan Ling Tian in his mind.

Similarly, Lei Jun’s eyes lit up as well. When Duan Ling Tian had the upper hand earlier, he had felt slightly anxious. However, upon seeing Fan Qi’s true form, he was certain there would only be one outcome; the battle would end with Duan Ling Tian’s death!

‘Duan Ling Tian is as dead as a doornail!’ Lei Jun thought to himself as he looked at the white figure standing in the distance. The desire in his eyes as he looked at the white figure could not be concealed at all.

...

On the other hand, Hu Mei, Wen Wan’er, and Hong Fei who were standing close to Huan’er were horrified. Their expressions that had just eased up changed for the worst again. Although they were aware that Fan Qi was a Celestial Tree, they had no idea what kind of Celestial Tree he was. How could they not be shocked when Fan Qi revealed himself to be a Pine Willow Divine Tree that was equivalent to a top-tier Celestial Beast? Fan Qi’s strength was definitely not inferior to that of a top-tier Celestial Beast in its human form.

“He’s a Pine Willow Divine Tree?”

“No wonder Fan Qi is so confident. His true form is the Pine Willow Divine Tree!” Hong Fei said bitterly as he shuddered slightly.

“Send a message to teacher. Who knows if he might have a way to solve this matter?”

Although the trio did not really think Xu Lang could do anything about this battle, Hu Mei and Wen Wan’er still could not help but send a brief message to Xu Lang, recounting what had happened. They, naturally, did not fail to mention the number of profundities from the law of space that Duan Ling Tian had comprehended to the mastery stage.

...

“Apart from the Transportation Profundity that he has yet to use, he has comprehended all the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage?”

Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, was in the midst of cultivating when he received the messages from his third and fourth prodigious disciple. His expression changed instantly when he heard about his newest disciple’s achievement. It was truly unexpected!

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, Xu Lang left his cultivation place immediately and made his way to the Prodigy Arena.

...

It did not take long before Xu Lang arrived at the Prodigy Arena. In just a blink of an eye, he was already standing next to Hu Mei and the others.

Hong Fei said as soon as he saw Xu Lang, “Teacher, you came just in time! You have to stop the battle. If it goes on, Little Junior Brother will likely die here! With his innate talent and aptitude for cultivation, there’s no doubt he’ll become a titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace in the future. It’d be a waste if he dies here!”

“A life-or-death battle with no option to surrender?” Xu Lang frowned as soon as he learned that Duan Ling Tian and Fan Qi were fighting a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender. Generally, even titled Celestial Emperors could not interfere once this battle had started.

...

Meanwhile, Han Yu Jin had already noticed Xu Lang’s presence. “Xu Lang is here?”

He did not hesitate and sent a message as well. However, it was not to his master, the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, since his master was away from the Heavenly Pool Palace at this moment. Instead, he sent a message to Gu Chang Jiang, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor.

Gu Chang Jiang was, in fact, Han Yu Jin’s junior uncle; Gu Chang Jiang was the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor’s junior brother.

Following that, Han Yu Jin said to Xiao Cong Yi, “Invite your master here! Tell him I invited him over.”

Xiao Cong Yi, naturally, obeyed Han Yu Jin’s order.

It did not take long before Gu Chang Jiang and the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor arrived one after another.

The Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor was a young man dressed in all black. His appearance was so ordinary that it would be difficult to pick him out from a sea of people.

As soon as Gu Chang Jiang arrived, his eyes found Xu Lang, and he loudly said, “Xu Lang, this is a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender. Surely, you’re not thinking of intervening, right?”

Since Gu Chang Jiang had spoken so loudly, his words, naturally, attracted many people’s attention.

“Did the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor really come to stop the battle?”

“I think he wants to save Duan Ling Tian...”

“I agree.”

However, many Heavenly Pool Palace disciples only looked at Xu Lang briefly before they returned their attention to Duan Ling Tian who was fighting Fan Qi in his true form. In their opinion, Xu Lang would not be able to stop the battle no matter what since Gu Chang Jian and the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor were present.

Gu Chang Jiang looked at Duan Ling Tian before he shifted his gaze back to Xu Lang and said mockingly, “Xu Lang, you newest disciple is rather talented. It’s a pity you have to lose such a rare talent today.”

The Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor smiled faintly as he chimed in, “Xu Lang, you’re lucky to have such a talent under you. However, it’s really unlucky that he doesn’t have long to live.”

In fact, there was no enmity between the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor and Xu Lang; he was not really familiar with Xu Lang, after all. However, he had a good relationship with the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor. This was the only reason he came to the Prodigy Arena. Otherwise, he would not have been bothered.

Xu Lang’s expression soured as soon as he saw the two titled Celestial Emperors who were clearly here to stop him from intervening. He knew that with the duo around, it was even more impossible for him to stop the battle.

At this time, Hong Fei said grimly, “Why did the two of them come at this time?”

“I don’t even need to guess. It must be Han Yun Jin’s doing. He wants Fan Qi to kill Little Junior Brother, after all,” Hu Mei said in a low voice.

‘Brother Ling Tian...’ Huan’er looked at the slightly disheveled Duan Ling Tian who was constantly teleporting to avoid Fan Qi’s attacks. She knew he had yet to use the power of the Five Divine Elements. After all, he could not use the power from the Five Divine Elements lightly. If the existence of the Five Divine Elements was exposed, it would surely bring disaster to him.

...

Up until now, none of Fan Qi’s fierce attacks had landed on Duan Ling Tian even though he had managed to cage Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian kept teleporting, successfully avoiding all of Fan Qi’s attacks, causing them to fall into a stalemate.

With this, Fan Qi grew impatient and yelled, “Duan Ling Tian, all you know how to do is dodge! Is that all?!”

As soon as Fan Qi stopped speaking, Duan Ling Tian abruptly came to a stop and said indifferently, “Well, if you’re so eager to die, I won’t make you wait any longer...”

“You think you can kill me? Great, I really want to see how you’re going to kill me!” Fan Qi said with a scoff.

As soon as Fan Qi’s voice fell, Duan Ling Tian teleported to one of the thicker branches at the side. It seemed like he was really not going to avoid Fan Qi’s attacks anymore.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Fan Qi reacted and moved his branches around like a whip to strike Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, a force brimming with vitality surged out of Duan Ling Tian’s Little World. As soon as it swept over Fan Qi, it seemed to have turned into an insatiable beast that kept devouring the energy from Fan Qi’s true form.

‘So what if the Pine Willow Divine Tree is on par with a top-tier Celestial Beast?’ Duan Ling Tian sneered inwardly. ‘Not even in his wildest dreams would he be able to imagine that I have the Divine Tree of Life in my Little World. The Divine Tree of Life is the uncontested King of Ten Thousand Trees. What’s a mere Pine Willow Divine Tree in comparison to the Divine Tree of Life?’

The force from the Divine Tree of Life in Duan Ling Tian’s Little World continued to rapidly devour the nutrients of the Pine Willow Divine Tree.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

As the Pine Willow Divine Tree continued to lose its nutrients, his strength, naturally, fell drastically. Soon enough, his attacks had lost their momentum. The branches fell limply to the ground, causing the ground to crack.

The cracks spread quickly on the ground, looking like spider webs.

“You... You...” At some point, Fan Qi had returned to his human form. His face was ashen, and he looked as though he was on the brink of collapse. He stared at Duan Ling Tian, terrified. Duan Ling Tian’s force that had swept over him earlier was horrifying; there was nothing he could do at all apart from helplessly watch as it devoured his nutrients. His nutrients were like blood essence to him in his true form. Once his true form was drained of nutrients, it was not a stretch to say that he was already half dead. At this moment, he could hardly even mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy.

In the end, Fan Qi asked in a tone that was a mixture of anger and fear, “You are... What was that?”

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian teleported to a spot behind Fan Qi as he replied through Voice Transmission, “The Divine Tree of Life.”

Fan Qi’s eyes widened to the point that they looked as though they were going to pop out of their sockets. Horror, shock, and disbelief appeared on his face. “H... H-how?! So t-that’s why I...”