

Chapter 3441: Champion

“Little Brother Feng, you won fair and square; I admit defeat. I won’t deny I was initially dissatisfied with the ranking, but I’m convinced after our duel,” Ding Fu said magnanimously, “I wouldn’t have accepted it myself if I were still ranked higher than you... I would’ve knocked some sense into the Title Temple if that were the case...”

Duan Ling Tian’s first impression of Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, was rather good due to Ding Fu’s straightforward personality.

“Little Brother Feng, please follow me. I’ve set up a special area for the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. Those from the Title Temple, Heavenly Palaces, and the heaven-grade forces are gathered there. However, I’ve also arranged for your accommodation if you want to rest while you wait for the Battle of the Geniuses to begin...” Ding Fu said.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian, Meng Luo, Zhang Tian You, and the others knew Ding Fu was only so courteous and enthusiastic because of Feng Qing Yang.

“Elder Brother Ding, there’s no need to go to all this trouble,” Feng Qing Yang shook his head and said, “We can wait with the others. Moreover, it’s good to let these young ones socialize with the other participants before the Battle of the Geniuses commences...”

“Little Brother Feng, you have a point,” Ding Fu said with a smile. He did not try to persuade Feng Qing Yang otherwise.

The chaperons and the participants from the Title Temple, Heavenly Palaces, and heaven-grade forces were placed in different areas. Hence, before Ding Fu left with Feng Qing Yang and Meng Luo, he instructed his men to lead Duan Ling Tian and the others to the area where the participants were gathered.

The person that was leading Duan Ling Tian and the others to the designated area was a skinny young man dressed in a long and loose grey robe. Despite his average appearance, his eyes were bright and lively. “You must be Junior Brother Duan, right? My master has told me to take great care of you.”

Despite his ordinary appearance, Duan Ling Tian knew the grey-clad young man was a powerful titled Celestial Emperor. ‘I remember Elder Huo saying the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven is a top Eight Star God of War, and his two disciples are Seven Star Gods of War with strength comparable to those weaker Heavenly Emperors.’

“Senior Brother Wei Qi, thank you for your hospitality,” Duan Ling Tian thanked the grey-clad young man sincerely. He had taken note of the grey-clad young man’s name when the grey-clad young man greeted Feng Qing Yang earlier. He knew the grey-clad young man was one of Ding Fu’s true disciples since Ding Fu had used the grey-clad young man’s title earlier.

The grey-clad young man was Wei Qi, the Skeletal Dragon Celestial Emperor.

Through Elder Huo, Duan Ling Tian learned that Wei Qi was far stronger than Elder Huo and was comparable to Meng Luo. Apart from being Ding Fu's true disciple, Wei Qi was also one of the strongest titled Celestial Emperors under Ding Fu's command. In fact, he was only second to Ding Fu in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven due to his strength and status.

Wei Qi had a junior sister, Ding Fu's other true disciple, who was also a Seven Star God of War, but she was slightly weaker than Wei Qi.

While they were making their way to their destination, Wei Qi said, "Junior Brother Duan, based on what I know, Junior Uncle Feng hadn't accepted a true disciple after he ascended to a Devata Realm. He refused many geniuses who wanted to be his disciples... If you don't mind me asking, how did you end up becoming Junior Uncle Feng's true disciple?"

The ears of Zhang Tian You and the others perked up when they heard Wei Qi's question. All of them stared at Duan Ling Tian's back intently, clearly curious about the answer.

Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile, "My master and I came from the same mundane realm. I was fortunate enough to inherit my master's legacy in the mundane realm. That's how I ended up becoming his true disciple."

"The same mundane realm?" Wei Qi was briefly taken aback. When he regained his senses, he said with a smile, "No wonder Junior Uncle Feng accepted you as his true disciple. As it turns out, the connection between both of you started such a long time ago." After a brief pause, he continued to say, "Junior Brother Duan, you're really lucky. Do you have any idea how many people dream of becoming Junior Uncle Feng's disciples? After he returned from the Asura Hell, even more people wanted to acknowledge him as their master. There were many elders from heaven-grade forces in various Devata Realms who brought the younger generations to visit Junior Uncle Feng in the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven in hope that he'll accept them as disciples. Alas, Junior Uncle Feng refuses most of them. He only accepted a few nominal disciples because he felt indebted to some of the elders who had helped him a lot in the past..."

"Indeed, I'm quite lucky," Duan Ling Tian replied and no longer commented on the matter. After all, what else could he say? He could not say the others were rejected because they were inferior to him, could he?

"So that's why our Lord Heavenly Emperor accepted him as a true disciple..." the green-clad young woman, one of the three participants from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, said. The girl who was also the granddaughter of Meng Luo's friend looked at Zhang Tian You meaningfully and asked, "Zhang Tian You, I think he's really lucky. What do you think?"

"Wang Ting, you can stop trying to instigate me," Zhang Tian You said tonelessly, "I know you want me to challenge him to a duel so you can see his strength. Don't think I don't know you plan to challenge him if I win. I'm not a tool you can use. Moreover, all the participants will have a chance to fight each other during the Battle of the Geniuses. Even those who lost will be given a chance to challenge the winners..."

Wang Ting did not expect Zhang Tian You would expose her thoughts so thoroughly; she was embarrassed and angry.

At this time, Wei Qi who overheard the conversation chuckled before he said, “Junior Brother Duan, it seems like they’re very curious about your strength. Are you here just to watch or are you participating in the Devata Realms’ Battle Of The Geniuses as well?”

“I’m here to participate,” Duan Ling Tian replied as his eyes glinted. He was not bothered by Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting’s words. He had no doubt the duo was talented since they were chosen to participate in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses, but his improvements over the last 300 years were tremendous. Apart from furthering his comprehension of the law of space with the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity, he had also become a Nine Palaces Celestial Emperor and was not far away from another breakthrough. Even without the help of the Five Divine Elements, he was confident he could kill an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor with just a strike.

To be blunt, Duan Ling Tian did not think Wang Ting or Zhang Tian You would be a match for him at all. Most of the participants were at the same level as Zhang Tian You and Wan Ting. In his opinion, only those few who were stronger than the others were his opponents. Even then, he did not think they would be a threat to him. He thought to himself resolutely, ‘I, Duan Ling Tian, will be the champion of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses this time. The reward from the Title Temple, the Exploding Element Celestial Fruit, will be mine. Even the geniuses from the Title Temple can forget about competing with me. I’ll defeat all of them even if they have secret weapons...’

Wang Ting raised her brows slightly when she saw Duan Ling Tian did not react even after he overheard their conversation. She really could not figure out if Duan Ling Tian was truly talented or just lucky. If Meng Luo did not tell her that Duan Ling Tian was strong, she would have challenged him by now.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s reply, Wei Qi’s eyes lit up. “You’re here to participate? Junior Brother Duan, what rank do you hope to place? From what I know, this time there are at least 2,000 participants in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. I heard from my master that among the participants this time, there are descendants from powerhouses who live in seclusion. According to him, some of these powerhouses are even more powerful than Heavenly Emperors. Many of them are top Seven Star and Eight Star Gods of War. In fact, my master knows for sure one of them is a Nine Star God of War who’s not a Heavenly Emperor...”

Duan Ling Tian was only slightly surprised by Wei Qi’s words.. After all, there were some who preferred to live quiet lives and cultivate in seclusion and did not wish to become a Heavenly Emperor. After a beat, he replied to Wei Qi calmly, “First place...”

Chapter 3442: First on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors Ranking

“First place.”

Wei Qi, Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and the navy-clad young man were stunned speechless by Duan Ling Tian’s declaration. They thought he was crazy.

“How unrealistic!” Zhang Tian You, who was the first to regain his senses, could not help but say sarcastically, “I guess you really don’t know anything about the participants of the Devata Realms’ Battle Of Geniuses, do you? If there are 2,000 participants from all Devata Realms, this means each Devata

Realm has less than 30 participants. Only the most talented geniuses under the age of 1,000 will participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Even those who live in seclusion will participate because the reward is too tempting. Moreover, apart from the reward, the winner will be allowed entry into the Title Temple's secret room of laws that has been around since ancient times to cultivate in there. Since the laws and their profundities exist in the form of energy in the secret room of laws, how much one improves depends on how much energy one is able to absorb. This is much easier compared to the usual way one comprehends the law. Therefore, the Title Temple guards this place tightly. Even those in the Title Temple aren't allowed to enter as they please. Only those rare geniuses are allowed entry. In the past, winners were not given permission to enter the secret room of the laws. Despite the rewards that included rare treasures, not many would participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Therefore, to arouse the interest of talented individuals, the temple decided to grant entry to the secret room of laws to the winner of the battle. Needless to say, it's a success. Due to the secret room of the laws, many talented geniuses under the age of 1,000 are keen to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses." A hint of fear could be seen in his eyes as he continued to say, "You won't be able to imagine what it's like when all these talented geniuses gather under one roof. 30% of the participants are like me; they're Celestial Emperors under the age of 1,000 with strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor. Participants like Wang Ting and He Jian Yi are only here to join the fun and gain experience. If they're lucky and make it into the top 1,000, they'll receive consolation prizes as well..." After he finished speaking, he looked at Wang Ting and the navy-clad young man whose name was He Jian Yi.

Zhang Tian You continued to solemnly say, "The participants for the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses... Let me tell you, those who can make it into the top 100 can defeat He Jian Yi with just a strike in under 10 breaths. Even I, Zhang Tian You, the top genius of the Mystic Sword Sect can only hope to rank in the top 500, but you dare to confidently say you want to rank first? You must be dreaming. Put aside the person who ranks first, those in the top 30 can defeat me within three moves. I'm afraid I won't even be able to endure a single blow from those in the top 10."

Based on Zhang Tian You's words, it was obvious he had done his research.

Wang Ting and He Jian Yi subconsciously nodded in agreement as they listened to Zhang Tian You's analysis.

"Seeing how you dare to say you want to rank first, you must not have done any research at all on the previous Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses," Zhang Tian You looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully and said, "My strength is comparable to a new titled Celestial Emperor or a One Star God of War in the Nine Serenities Battlefield. During the previous Devata Realms' Battle Of The Geniuses, the top 500 participants were at least One Star Gods of War; the top 300 participants were at least Two Star Gods of War; the top 100 were at least Three Star Gods of War; the top 30 were at least Four Star Gods of War; the top 10 were at least Five Star Gods of War. As for the previous champion, he was the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Limitless Cloud Heaven. He was a top Five Star God of War. After 1,000 years, he had just recently risen to a Six Star God of War. You have no idea how strong a Six Star God of War who's not even 2,000 years old is..."

Duan Ling Tian remained mostly indifferent as he listened to Zhang Tian You's words until he heard about the Six Star God of War who was not even 2,000 years old. He recalled that Xu Ya Si, his Eldest

Senior Sister in the Heavenly Pool Palace, was also a Six Star God of War under 2,000 years old. This meant Xu Ya Si was comparable to the previous champion of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

During the journey to the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven, Duan Ling Tian's master, Feng Qing Yang, had mentioned the previous champion of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Therefore, he knew that the outstanding person was also the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Limitless Cloud Heaven.

Duan Ling Tian had also learned from Feng Qing Yang that the Heavenly Emperor of the Limitless Cloud Heaven was ranked first in the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking. He was someone who had confirmed his godhood.

After listening to Zhang Tian You's words, Duan Ling Tian was once reminded about how remarkable Xu Ya Si was. 'It seems like Eldest Senior Sister must have had some fortuitous encounters... Otherwise, it's impossible for her to become so strong regardless of how talented she is!'

Wei Qi thought Duan Ling Tian doubted Zhang Tian You's analysis since Duan Ling Tian remained silent for such a long time. Hence, he said, "Junior Brother Duan, his analysis is quite objective. There are many outstanding geniuses who usually keep to themselves participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Let alone us, even my master hasn't been to the secret room of laws... It'd be amazing being granted entry to the secret room of laws..."

"Senior Brother Wei Qi, have you participated in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses?" Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

"Unfortunately, no," Wei Qi shook his head and said with a sigh, "Everyone only has one chance to participate. When the Battle of the Geniuses was held during my time, I was only slightly over 200 years old. However, even if I were a Celestial Emperor with strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor, it'd still be difficult for me to enter the top 1,000..."

I wasn't lucky... Everyone only has a chance to participate in the Devata Realm Battle Of The Geniuses in their lifetime. When the Devata Realm Battle Of The Geniuses was held during the time I was qualified to participate, I was only slightly over 200 years old. Of course, before 1,000 years old, my cultivation level had reached the Celestial Emperor level and was comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor. However, just as Zhang Tian You mentioned earlier... even if I had participated in the Devata Realm Battle Of The Geniuses at that time, it's hard to even make it into the top 1,000."

Duan Ling Tian smiled and said, "However, Senior Brother Wei Qi, your current achievements should've surpassed those participants who ranked in the top 10 in the previous Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, right? Perhaps, only a few of them are a match for you..."

Wei Qi smiled when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. "I'm only lucky because I have a great and responsible master. It's true that half of the participants who ranked in the top ten in the previous Devata Realms' Battle of the geniuses and are still alive today aren't a match for me. The remaining are on par with me, and the strongest among them is now a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm who's, needless to say, much stronger than me. A lot of people are extraordinary before reaching the age of 1,000, and their progress would slow down after. There are also those who are ordinary during their first

1,000 years but improve tremendously later due to some fortuitous encounters. All in all, the possibilities are endless. Junior Brother Duan, even if your ranking is mediocre, under Junior Uncle Feng's tutelage, you'll definitely be outstanding. It's entirely possible for you to attain godhood as well..." He looked at Duan Ling Tian knowingly when he mentioned the matter of attaining godhood.

Based on the way Wei Qi looked at him, Duan Ling Tian knew Wei Qi must be aware that his master had already attained godhood. In the end, he shook his head and said with a smile, "It seems like Senior Brother Wei Qi has no confidence in me as well."

"Junior Brother Duan, don't take this wrongly. It's just that you might be too ambitious. It's not as easy as you think to rank first in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Moreover, this time, the Title Temple is putting up the Exploding Element Celestial Fruit, a peerless Celestial Fruit, as a reward. This means they're confident that the geniuses representing them will win. Otherwise, they wouldn't have put up such a precious fruit as a reward. It's likely the geniuses representing them are at least top Five Star or Six Star Gods of War."

Chapter 3443: Tang San Pao

A Six Star God of War?

Although Duan Ling Tian was prepared for this, he was still shocked by Wei Qi's words. In the past, the most outstanding genius he had encountered was Xu Ya Si, his Eldest Senior Sister in the Boundless Heaven's Heavenly Pool Palace. She was a top Six Star God of War who had not even reached 2,000 years old with strength comparable to You Feng Yu, the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace. However, although Xu Ya Si was outstanding, he knew she was not the only outstanding person in the Devata Realms; it was just that people like her were rare.

With the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses drawing close, it dawned on him that he would soon meet many geniuses under the age of 1,000 from all the Devata Realms. Needless to say, it was difficult for celestials under the age of 1,000 to have many big achievements, but it did not mean they were not outstanding.

Moreover, due to the Title Temple's decision to grant the winner access to their secret room of laws, many disciples of hermit cultivators were keen to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. These disciples were not inferior to those who came from Heavenly Palaces or famous heaven-grade forces. In fact, they might be even stronger.

As it was mentioned earlier, there were 81 Devata Realms. If there were roughly 20 participants from each Devata Realm, there would be roughly 2,000 participants in total. How could any of the 2,000 participants be mediocre? For the 20 people to be selected out of so many people in a Devata Realm, they had to be extraordinary.

This time, Duan Ling Tian, Zhang Tian You, Wang Tian, and He Jian Yi would be representing the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. Excluding Duan Ling Tian, Zhang Tian You with strength comparable to an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor was the strongest. His strength was between that of a One Star God of War and a Two Star God of War.

As for Wang Ting and He Jian Yi, both were only almost as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor.

Naturally, there were others from the Solitary Destructive Heaven who were participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses as well. It was just that instead of being part of the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven's entourage, they came with the Title Temple.

A rare genius under the age of 1,000 was measured by their innate talent and comprehension skills. In the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, there were many descendants and disciples of titled Celestial Emperors. These people did not lack cultivation resources or a good cultivation environment, but their innate talent was not high enough for them to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

There were also those with extraordinary innate talent and comprehension skills but were too young to display their strength in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. These people were somewhat unfortunate because the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses was held when they were younger than 500 years old. Nevertheless, they would definitely become outstanding figures in the future.

At this moment, Wei Qi asked curiously, "Junior Brother Duan, how old are you?"

Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and He Jian Yi shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian upon hearing this question. Meng Luo had told them the Young Master of the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive was younger than them, but he did not reveal his age.

"Younger than 700 years old." Due to the long years, Duan Ling Tian had forgotten his exact age.

"Younger than 700 years old?!"

"Junior Brother Duan, you're probably one of the youngest participants this time. From what I know, participants who are younger than 800 years old are really rare. After all, even if one has high innate talent and comprehension skills, one still needs time to build up one's strength. That's why those who are extraordinary but too young don't bother participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses," Wei Qi said with a sigh as he glanced at Duan Ling Tian, "Junior Brother Duan, you're really unlucky. The best time for one to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses is when one is around 900 years old..."

After discovering Duan Ling Tian's age, Wei Qi felt even more strongly than before that Duan Ling Tian's goal to rank first in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses was nothing more than a dream. How was it possible for someone who was not even 700 years old to rank first?

Wang Ting who was walking at the back looked at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously as she said, "Based on what I know, in the history of the Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses, the youngest person to have ranked first was also over 900 years, right?"

"I heard about that as well." He Jian Yi nodded. "To be precise, he was only 906 years old when he ranked first in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses..."

The youngest person to rank first in the history of all the Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses was 906 years old, and yet, Duan Ling Tian was not even 700 years old though he could rank first?

Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and He Jian Yi all shared the same thought.

'Even our Lord Heavenly Emperor, a rare monstrous genius, couldn't have ranked first at such a young age. Even if Duan Ling Tian is more outstanding than our Lord Heavenly Emperor at this age, it'd still be impossible for him to rank first in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.'

Wei Qi, Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and He Jian Yi, none of them thought Duan Ling Tian could rank first.

Duan Ling Tian was naturally aware no one believed him. He could even sense the contemptuous gaze of the trio walking behind him. In the past, he had endured mocking gazes and words from people who looked down on him so he had long gotten used to it. He was no longer bothered by such things so he did not bother to explain himself.

"We've arrived," Wei Qi said after he led them to a vast flatland with rows and rows of exquisite wooden houses.

Many people could be seen gathering outside of the wooden houses. When Duan Ling Tian and the others, they caught everyone's attention immediately.

"Junior Brother Duan, you can choose to stay in any of the unoccupied wooden houses. To prevent others from disturbing you, you can set up a Formation by carving inscriptions on the wooden door," Wei Qi said with a smile. Then, he handed a Soul Pearl to Duan Ling Tian before he continued to say, "Junior Brother Duan, this is my Soul Pearl. Feel free to contact me if you need my help."

After Duan Ling Tian expressed his gratitude, Wei Qi bade farewell and left.

Before Duan Ling Tian managed to take a step, Wang Ting who had been staring intently at him called out, "Duan Ling Tian." She continued to say, "Zhang Tian You said he planned to fight you during the Devata Realms' Battle Of The Geniuses. However, unlike him, I want to challenge you to a duel now..."

As soon as Wang Ting discovered Duan Ling Tian was not even 700 years old, she could no longer suppress her urge to challenge him to a duel. In her opinion, this was her only opportunity to defeat the Young Master of the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. She knew very well that it would be too late for her to defeat him in the future since he had Feng Qing Yang's guidance. In the future, Duan Ling Tian would greatly surpass her.

"You're not my match," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently before he vanished out of sight.

Duan Ling Tian reappeared above the rows of wooden houses. Finally, his eyes landed on a door of a wooden house that was free of inscriptions.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to enter the wooden house, a tall and burly young man flew toward Duan Ling Tian. He asked with a smile, "My friend, where do you come from?"

Duan Ling Tian was slightly startled by the young man's sudden appearance. Nevertheless, he replied, "The Solitary Destructive Heaven."

"The Solitary Destructive Heaven?" The burly young man's eyes lit up. Then, he said excitedly, "What a coincidence! I've heard so much about the Solitary Destructive Heaven, and I can't wait to visit it. I also heard your Heavenly Emperor has attained godhood and is ranked third on the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking. He's known as the Invincible Sword Celestial in the Solitary Destructive Heaven, right?"

I heard he'll attend the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses as well! I'm so happy that I can finally meet my idol!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled politely. He did not expect to meet a fan of his master here.

"My friend, my name is Tang San Pao, what's your name?" The tall and burly young man became even friendlier after discovering Duan Ling Tian was from the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

"Duan Ling Tian," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Duan Ling Tian was about to excuse himself and enter the wooden house, when Tang San Pao asked enthusiastically, "My friend, since you're from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, have you met Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang?"

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

An envious expression appeared on Tang San Pao's face immediately. "I haven't even met the Heavenly Emperor of the Devata Realm I came from..." His voice grew solemn as he continued to say, "Nevertheless, I'll surpass him sooner or later..."

Chapter 3444: Amogoo, the Eight Star God of War

"Alright, all the best!" Duan Ling Tian nodded at Tang San Pao and strode into the wooden house he had chosen.

Three figures appeared in front of Tang San Pao as soon as Duan Ling Tian entered the wooden house.

'I think they came with Brother Duan...' With this thought in mind, Tang San Pao greeted the trio enthusiastically. "Hello, you came with Brother Duan, right? Are all of you also from the Solitary Destructive Heaven?"

"Yes," He Jian Yi replied curtly as he nodded.

On the other hand, Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting ignored Tang San Pao completely.

Tang San Pao asked again, "Are you here with the Title Temple or with the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?"

"The Heavenly Palace." He Jian answered.

"So Brother Ling Tian didn't lie to me! He has really met the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven! Does this mean the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven has already arrived at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven?" Tang San Pao muttered to himself with bright eyes.

"He has met our Lord Heavenly Emperor?" Wang Ting, who had overheard Tang San Pao's words, looked at him. She chuckled and said, amused, "Hey, don't you know that Duan Ling Tian is the only true disciple of our Lord Heavenly Emperor. Don't you think it's funny that you asked someone if they had met their master?"

Even Zhang Tian You and He Jian Yi could not help but look at Tang San Pao with an amused expression on their faces.

“What?!” Tang San Pao was dumbstruck. “H-he is the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?”

Tang San Pao had heard that the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven had accepted a true disciple several decades ago. At that time, he had wondered about the lucky person who was chosen to be the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. He did not expect the person whom he had just met earlier was the lucky person he had been curious about.

“The true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?”

Although Wang Ting and Tang San Pao’s voices were not loud, those in the surroundings had overheard their conversation. For cultivators, it was not hard for them to hear over such a distance.

With this revelation, many eyes immediately shifted to the wooden house Duan Ling Tian occupied. No one expected the person they had seen earlier to be the true disciple of Feng Qing Yang who ranked third on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking.

“The Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven didn’t have a true disciple before this. He’s the first true disciple of Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, right?”

“Since Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang accepted him as a true disciple, his innate talent and aptitude for cultivation must be remarkable. I wonder how powerful he is. He has to be quite strong to participate in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses.”

“That’s a matter of course. It’s only natural that Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s true disciple is remarkable.”

The people in the surroundings clearly admired Feng Qing Yang, and their admiration extended to Duan Ling Tian who was Feng Qing Yang’s true disciple as well.

Wang Ting sneered coldly after hearing the discussions on her surroundings. “It seems like all of you are unaware that our Lord Heavenly Emperor only accepted Duan Ling Tian as his true disciple because Duan Ling Tian obtained his legacy in a mundane realm. Moreover, do you know he’s less than 700 years old this year?”

Wang Ting had been stewing in anger ever since Duan Ling Tian responded dismissively to her challenge earlier. She had felt humiliated; it was obvious that Duan Ling Tian looked down on her and did not think she was a worthy opponent. Regardless, of her strength now, she was one of the top geniuses among the younger generation in the Solitary Destructive Heaven; how could she stomach such a humiliation?

Wang Ting’s words successfully stirred up a commotion.

“What?!”

“He’s not even 700 years old?”

“As it turns out Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang only accepted him because he was fortunate enough to come across Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s legacy in the mundane realm.”

With Wang Ting's words, many people began to think they had overestimated Duan Ling Tian's ability. Moreover, due to his young age, they did not think he was that strong. After all, no matter how highly talented one was, how strong could one be at such a young age?

"In the end, he's just lucky."

At this time, most people were of the opinion that Feng Qing Yang had only accepted Duan Ling Tian as a true disciple because of fate. Duan Ling Tian was just extremely lucky for coming across Feng Qing Yang's legacy in a mundane realm. Everyone knew Feng Qing Yang did not leave his legacy in any of the Devata Realms; that was why he did not have a true disciple until recently.

With this, people began to look down on Duan Ling Tian. Perhaps, the only exception was Tang San Pao.

'I have a feeling there's more than meets the eyes with Brother Duan...'

Tang San Pao had gone to the Title Temple to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. No one had heard of him because his master had always cultivated in seclusion. His master was very powerful as well. In the past, before he joined his master, his master had once defeated Feng Qing Yang.

A few hundred years ago, when news of Feng Qing Yang being lost in the Asura Hell spread, Tang San Pao knew his master had felt upset. His master kept muttering about how he had lost a good opponent. When Feng Qing Yang emerged from the Asura Hell unscathed, bringing with him rumors that he had attained godhood, his master had rushed to the Solitary Destructive Heaven to visit his old friend, Feng Qing Yang.

Tang San Pao knew his master was not just visiting Feng Qing Yang; he knew his master was definitely going to ask Feng Qing Yang to spar after hearing the rumors of Feng Qing Yang attaining godhood.

When Tang San Pao saw his master returning with a gloomy expression, he knew his master must have lost to Feng Qing Yang even though his master did not say anything. It was then that he began to slowly idolize Feng Qing Yang.

In his memory, his master was the strongest person in the world. Among all hermit cultivators, his master could be considered the strongest; there was only a handful who was a match for his master. It was the first time he had seen his master defeated by his opponent.

Since his master had always been very strict with him, he felt as though his grievances had been washed away when he saw his master's gloomy expression after being defeated. With that, he admired Feng Qing Yang even more.

'I didn't expect Brother Duan to be Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's true disciple...' Tang San Pao thought to himself as his fighting spirit rose. 'If I can defeat Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's disciple in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, that Old Fart will definitely be happy. After all, if he can't defeat Feng Qing Yang, he'll feel happy if his disciple can defeat Feng Qing Yang's disciple. If I manage to Duan Ling Tian, it can be considered that I've surpassed my master, right?'

...

The Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven had prepared more than 3,000 wooden houses, but only one-third was occupied for now. This showed that many participants had yet to arrive.

Half a month after Duan Ling Tian's arrival at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven, a large group of people arrived as well. The group was led by a black-clad old man. He was flanked by two black-clad men while the others trailing behind them were energetic young men and young women.

When the guard at the entrance asked for the black-clad old man's identity, he said hoarsely, "Temple Master Amogoo of the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple."

"Greetings, Temple Master Amogoo." The guards from the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven bowed as soon as they heard the black-clad old man's reply.

The Temple Master of a Devata Realm's Title Temple was not inferior to a Heavenly Emperor. There were Temple Masters who were Eight Star and Nine Star Gods of War in the Nine Serenities Battlefield.

The group from the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple was led by Amogoo, their Temple Master, and the two Vice Temple Masters. The group of young geniuses they had brought here consisted of 13 young men and three young women.

Shortly after, someone came out to receive Amogoo. It was none other than Wei Qi, the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, who led Duan Ling Tian and the others to their accommodations previously.

"Temple Master Amogoo, please come in."

Although the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven was the host of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval rarely made an appearance so far. He would only personally receive those who were stronger than him or on par with him. Although Amogoo was an Eight Star God of War who was much stronger than many Heavenly Emperors, he was not powerful enough for the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven to personally receive him.

Amogoo did not seem to feel slighted that the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven did not receive him personally. He smiled at Wei Qi warmly. "Greetings, Skeleton Dragon Celestial Emperor. I'll have to trouble you to bring me and my two Vice Temple Masters to meet your Heavenly Emperor after the little ones are settled..."

"Alright." Wei Qi nodded with a faint smile on his face.

Chapter 3445: Duan Ling Tian's Friends

Wei Qi looked at the 16 young people standing behind Amogoo, the Temple Master of the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple. Then, he asked with a smile, "Temple Master Amogoo, are all of them participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the geniuses?"

"Almost all, but not all," Amogoo replied with a faint smile, "We have another one, but he likes wandering off on his own. He should be arriving in the Primeval Heaven soon. When he arrives at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven, I'll have to trouble you to receive him, Skeleton Dragon Celestial Emperor."

"Hm?" Wei Qi's eyes glinted. "Is he someone cultivated by the Title Temple?"

Amogoo only smiled wryly and said, "How's that possible? If he was cultivated by the Title Temple, do you think I'd let him wander off on his own when the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses is about to start? I would've insisted he come with me when he insisted on going off on his own if he were cultivated by the Title Temple..."

Wei Qi looked at Amogoo knowingly as he said, "He must be outstanding for Temple Master Amogoo to be so lenient with him. He must be a Three Star God of War at least, right?"

A young Three Star God of War below the age of 1,000 was strong enough to rank in the top 100 of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. If he was stronger, he might even rank in the top 50.

In Wei Qi's opinion, the young man had to be a Three Star God of War at least for Amogoo to give preferential treatment.

Amogoo smiled ambiguously and said, "Skeleton Dragon Celestial Emperor, please allow me to keep this secret to myself for now. You'll be able to watch his performance when the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses commences."

Wei Qi was slightly taken aback by Amogoo's reaction. Based on Amogoo's expression, it seemed like the young man was stronger than he had estimated. When he regained his senses, he did not persist and only said, "I'll wait to watch his performance then."

Following that, Wei Qi led Amogoo and his two Vice Temple Masters to their accommodations while he instructed his subordinate to bring the sixteen geniuses to the place where the other young geniuses were staying. Before his subordinate left, he had sent a Voice Transmission asking his subordinate to speak to the 16 young geniuses to see if he could glean any information from them. Based on Amogoo's reaction, it seemed like that person had to be a Four Star God of War at least.

After 15 minutes, Wei Qi received a reply from his subordinate.

"Lord Wei Qi, I've tried probing the young ones, but it seems like all of them don't know much. All of them aren't a match for him so he's the strongest in the group. Since there are two Two Star Gods of War in the group, that person has to be a Three Star God of War at least. However, they did tell me his name. He's called Ling Jue Yun."

...

In a barren mountain somewhere in the Primeval Heaven.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The sounds of sword rays sailing in the air resounded through the entire place.

Soon after, a huge figure fell to the ground. When the dust settled, it could be seen that the huge figure belonged to a gigantic Celestial Beast.

At the same time, a young man dressed in a long grey robe with a sheathed sword at his waist hovered in the air. His expression was one of determination as he stared at the Celestial Beast on the ground.

After a moment, he muttered to himself, "It's about time for me to head to the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven. Temple Master Amogoo should've arrived by now..."

If Duan Ling Tian were here, he would have recognized the young man as Ling Jue Yun, the former Young Master of the Lin clan in the Divine Offering Land. He had managed to avoid death and escape to a Devata Realm with the help of his sister's artifact soul, Huang'er, after the Ling clan was annihilated. Since the passages to the Realms of Gods were sealed after that, he managed to buy time for himself.

Over the years, he had only been focused on cultivating in various Devata Realms. He had met Duan Ling Tian in the Spirit Overarching Heaven when Duan Ling Tian's Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword was still without a soul. After leaving the Ling Jue Yun left the Spirit Overarching Heaven back then, he went to the Jade Emperor Heaven. Subsequently, he went to a few other Devata Realms.

When the Title Temples in all 81 Devata Realm begin to receive applications to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, Ling Jue Yun was in the Wind Prop Heaven. Therefore, he applied to join the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses at the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple.

At that time, Ling Jue Yun was selected to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses even though he restrained much of his strength. He had even caught Amogoo's attention at that time, resulting in Amogoo attacking him to get a feel of his strength.

After his participation was confirmed, he had told Amogoo he had no intention of quietly waiting in the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple until the day of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. He planned to cultivate by himself in the Primeval Heaven and told Amogoo he would meet Amogoo at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven when the time came.

"I wonder if Duan Ling Tian will be participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses as well." A hint of joy and anticipation could be seen in Ling Jue Yun's eyes at this moment. "It's been several hundred years since I've seen him and Sister Huang'er. With his talent and aptitude for cultivation, I'm sure he has grown much stronger than before. I hope I'll be able to see him at the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses... The chances should be quite high; after all, this is the only time we can join the Battle of the Geniuses. When the next round of the Battle of Geniuses arrives, we'll be much too old to join it..."

A person could hide their aura, but they can't fake their bones. Therefore, it was difficult to fake one's age. Naturally, those old souls who possessed a young body were not counted. However, it still would be fair because despite their knowledge, they would not be able to retain their original cultivation bases in their new and younger bodies. The strength of their souls would be forced to match that of their physical bodies. Nevertheless, due to their rich combat experience and knowledge, they made for terrifying opponents.

Therefore, this was the only time Ling Jue Yun and Duan Ling Tian could participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses unless they possessed a younger body in the future to participate in it.

'I'll leave for the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven in a few more days,' Ling Jue Yun said to himself before he flew away from the mountain.

...

In the Jade Emperor Heaven's Title Temple in the Jade Emperor Territory.

“All of you will be coming with me to the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven... I hope none of you will slack off when we’re there. Use the six months you have left to improve your strength so you can rank higher!”

The Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Jade Emperor Heaven was an old woman dressed in a long black robe. She was skinny and wore a perpetually fierce expression on her face.

Most of the 19 young people standing in front of her would instinctively look down as soon as they met her gaze. Only a handful of people did not flinch and remained unaffected.

The old woman was rather satisfied by the reactions of those who were not intimidated by her. This small group of people was also part of the few top outstanding young geniuses in the Jade Emperor Heaven. After a moment, she said, “Let’s go!”

Following that, along with a Vice Temple Master, the old lady led the young people to a Transportation Formation that would bring them to the Primeval Heaven.

“All the outstanding geniuses will be participating in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. If nothing untoward happened, Duan Ling Tian should be there as well...”

Among the group of young people from the Jade Emperor Heaven, there was another person whom Duan Ling Tian knew as well. This person was one of those who had gained the old lady’s approval earlier. This person was none other than Su Li.

When Duan Ling Tian met Su Li in the Jade Emperor Heaven’s Nan Dou Territory, Su Li’s strength was on par with Duan Ling Tian’s. Over the past few hundred years, Duan Ling Tian continued to improve his strength while Su Li was also carefully cultivated by the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, which has a solid foundation. In addition to learning the secret technique that re-emerged in the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect after 10,000 years, he had also improved at an outrageous pace. With his talent and achievement, he was naturally selected to participate in the Devata Realms’ Battle Of Geniuses.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was still unaware that he would be meeting more than one of his friends here.

He was focused on comprehending his law of space through the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity at this moment. Apart from that, he was trying to fuse all his profundities before sending their energies into his sword as he fought, creating his own Dao. The foundation of his Dao was his master’s Sword Dao. Currently, he had already made it through the toughest part of forming his own Dao.

Chapter 3446: A Legendary Heavenly Emperor

The Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses drew closer and closer, the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven grew livelier as well. Naturally, the lively places were only the place where the young geniuses were staying and the place where the Heavenly Emperors and the Title Temples were staying. The other parts of the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven were still as quiet as usual.

Nevertheless, everyone in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven was looking forward to the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses.

At this moment, at the vast flatland where the young participants were staying, many people's attention was focused on a young man who had just arrived. Their eyes were bright as they looked at the young man whom they had only heard about but had never met.

"That's Xu Kun Hu. He's the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Constant Cloud Heaven. I heard that he is already a top Three Star God of War despite only being over 800 years old."

The young man was slender and looked frail. His appearance was androgynous and could be easily mistaken for a woman. With his long jet-black hair that was swept to the back, if he were not dressed in a man's robe, he might have been mistaken for a woman. Even if he were mistaken for a woman, he would be mistaken for a stunning woman.

"So he's Xu Kun Hu?"

"Heavens! Although he's only over 800 years old, he's already a Three Star God of War? There's no doubt he'll make it into the top 100 this time!"

"If he were luckier, the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses should begin in another 100 years. At that time, he would be even stronger. Perhaps, he'd be a Four Star God of War at that time."

"Well, nothing can be done about this. The Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses are fixed to happen once every 1,000 years. Nothing can change this."

Upon sensing everyone's gazes, Xu Kun Hu smiled at the crowd amiably. His charming smile captivated many people in just an instant.

"I... Why am I infatuated with a man?"

"Heavens! Is he really a man?"

The commotion only died down after Xu Kun Hu entered a wooden house.

Not long after, someone cried out, "Look! Is that Meng Fan Gui, the strongest person among the younger generation in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's heaven-grade Profound Dream Sect?"

With that, everyone's eyes fell on a black-clad young man who possessed a pair of exceptionally bright eyes despite his average height and average appearance.

"That's Meng Fan Gui? He killed a top Three Star God of War a few decades ago, right?"

"It's so hard to believe he's not even 1,000 years old. Rumors have it that he's already a Four Star God of War."

"A Four Star God of War? That'll easily allow him to enter the top 30 right?"

Meng Fan Gui garnered even more attention compared to Xu Kun Hu. Perhaps, he was not as famous as Xu Kun Hu in the past. However, after he killed a top Three Star God of War, his fame had skyrocketed. In fact, he had become even more famous than Xu Kun Hu.

In comparison to Xu Kun Hu, Meng Fan Gui was rather aloof. He ignored the commotion around him and entered a wooden house directly.

“The Profound Dream Sect that Meng Fan Gui comes from is skilled at illusory techniques. Coupled with the mysterious law of darkness, I believe Meng Fan Gui should be the best in using illusions among all the participants of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses.”

“That’s right. I can only imagine how powerful he is. After all, not many people can kill a Three Star God of War with just illusory techniques.”

“Don’t be so certain. There are so many Devata Realms. Moreover, even descendants and disciples of powerful hermits will be participating in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. You can’t say for sure that he’s the best at illusory techniques...”

“You’re right. Moreover, there are the mysterious young geniuses from the Title Temple. Not much is known about them as well...”

“If you think about it, in the past, most of the people who performed brilliantly during the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses were not known.”

As more and more participants arrived, the participants’ living area grew livelier and livelier. Naturally, those who were busily socializing and gossiping were mostly of average strength. They did not aim to rank high and only participated to join the fun and gain experience.

Needless to say, these people were only considered average among the rare geniuses. After all, they were still selected by their respective Title Temples to participate in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. All of them had strength almost comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor at the very least. Otherwise, they would not have been selected.

These average participants thought it was better to socialize and perhaps, get acquainted with the top geniuses. After all, there was no chance for them ranking high in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. They might as well focus on meeting these geniuses whom they had only heard about but had never met.

When these people are in their respective territories, they were usually envied by others. Currently, they were the ones who were feeling envious.

“Hey, that’s Tuoba Zheng, the third true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Spirit Overarching Heaven!”

Everyone turned to look at a tall and handsome young man with a well-built body.

“Tuoba Zheng is already a Four Star God of War despite being younger than 1,000 years old!”

“Twenty years ago, someone saw him kill two Three Star Gods of War consecutively in the Nine Serenities Battlefield... Although the two Three Star Gods of War did not join forces, it still proves Tuoba Zheng is a Four Star God of War.”

“How remarkable! That’s why he’s a true disciple of a Heavenly Emperor!”

Soon after, someone spoke up, changing the direction of the conversation immediately.

“Speaking of Heavenly Emperor’s true disciples, I’m most interested in the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.”

“Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang of the Solitary Destructive Heaven is the most popular Heavenly Emperor now. Everyone was shocked when he emerged unscathed from the Asura Hell and was further shocked when he accepted his first true disciple...”

“After emerging from the Asura Hell, he rose to third place on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking. It seems likely the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven who used to be ranked third acknowledged Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s strength since he didn’t dispute the new ranking.”

“Senior Feng Qing Yang is also known as the Invincible Sword Celestial in the Solitary Destructive Heaven. However, those from other Devata Realms, he’s known as a legendary figure since it took him only about 10,000 years to reach such great heights.”

“That’s right! If the rumors are true, he attained godhood in just about 10,000 years. There’s only a handful who were capable of this in the history of all Devata Realms...”

“I wonder if Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s true disciple has arrived.”

At this time, those who arrived earlier began to chime in one after another.

“He’s arrived, but he hasn’t left the wooden house since he arrived!”

“What’s he like? He must be remarkable since Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang accepted him as his true disciple!”

“I’m afraid you’ll be disappointed. Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang only accepted him because he came across Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s legacy in a mundane realm. You can say he’s just really lucky. Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang probably felt sentimental and accepted him as a true disciple.”

“He’s only over 600 years old now. Even if he’s highly talented, how powerful can he be? It’s impossible for someone so young to achieve anything during the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses.”

With these words, many people fell silent. They did not expect the legendary Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang of the Solitary Destructive Heaven would accept someone so unremarkable as his true disciple. Moreover, he only accepted his true disciple based on chance. Many people sighed in disappointment.

“As it turns out, there’s not much to look forward to regarding Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s true disciple...”

“I thought Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s true disciple would be someone incredibly remarkable. Who knew it’d turn out like this?”

“What a waste!”

Chapter 3447: A Reunion Between Friends

The appearances of young geniuses who were already famous in several Devata Realms would naturally attract everyone’s attention.

On the contrary, those who were unknown, whose strength was not inferior to the famous young prodigies, did not make a splash with their arrivals.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was unaware that two of his friends would also be participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. He was also unaware that the general opinion was that he was only participating to gain experience. No one thought he would do well in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses due to his young age.

...

As was human nature, where there were a lot of people, conflict would certainly arise.

Fights broke out almost every day in the accommodations for the participants of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. There were group fights and individual fights, and as long as no one died, the people from the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven tasked with supervising the participants would not intervene.

Although the young geniuses were all younger than 1,000 years old, they were all the cream of the crop in their respective Devata Realms. The strongest among them was comparable to a Five Star God of War. Therefore, the person from the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven tasked with supervising the participants was a Six Star God of War. Only someone of that level, at least, would be able to control these young and arrogant geniuses.

At this time, a genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven and a genius from the Lofty Garden Heaven were bickering.

"Our Jade Emperor Heaven has a young genius who's only a little more than 600 years old! He passed the Title Temple's test and obtained a place to participate in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Does your Lofty Garden Heaven have anyone like that?"

Not wanting to be outdone, the genius from the Lofty Garden Heaven said with a sneer. "Perhaps, the passing standard for the Title Temple in the Jade Emperor Heaven is just really low..."

"The passing standard is low?" The genius from Jade Emperor Heaven scoffed. He seemed ready to fight as he continued to say, "Su Li is one of the strongest among us. You dare say he was only selected because of the low passing standard? Do you want to fight?"

"Let's fight then. It's not like I have anything to fear..."

Just like that, a fight broke out between the geniuses from the Jade Emperor Heaven and the Lofty Garden Heaven. In the end, their fight ended in a draw. Both of their strengths, which were almost equivalent to a titled Celestial Emperor, were similar.

Meanwhile, the onlookers who had grown numb to fights breaking out were surprised by the words of the genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven. There was someone in the Jade Emperor Heaven who was only a little more than 600 years old but was among the strongest among the young geniuses? Did this not mean that person possessed the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor despite being only slightly more than 600 years old?

“Can you imagine someone who’s just a little more than 600 years old possessing the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor?”

“Heavens! In the history of all Devata Realms, there are only a few people with that kind of strength at that age, right? To think such a genius appeared in the Jade Emperor Heaven!”

“Is it true though?”

The words of the genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven caused quite a stir, and it did not take long before word of it began to spread. With that, a few pieces of information were made known as well. Most people, at this time, knew that the genius, who was only a little more than 600 years old but possessed the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor, was called Su Li.

‘Su Li?’ As soon as Duan Ling Tian left his wooden house, he overheard the conversation about the genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven who possessed the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor despite only being a little more than 600 years old.

‘It seems like Su Li has improved tremendously...’ Duan Ling Tian shook his head with a smile on his face. Naturally, it did not take long for him to figure out his good friend, Su Li, was the person everyone was discussing.

Su Li already had a breakthrough during Duan Ling Tian’s visit to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect in the Jade Heaven Emperor’s Nandou Territory. With the cultivation resources and environment in the Thousand Tribulations Sword, he had no doubt Su Li’s cultivation would soar if the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect seriously nurtured Su Li.

At that time, before Duan Ling Tian left the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, he had heard from Zhuge Feng, the Master of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect’s Gan Jiang Progeny, that the sect was planning to pour all their resources into someone who was capable of leading the sect to greater heights in the future. The person who had been selected was none other than Su Li.

The Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect had high hopes for Su Li. They hoped that Su Li would be able to defeat the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven in the future and take over as the new Heavenly Emperor. This would naturally allow the sect to rise to the highest peak in the Jade Emperor Heaven.

Meanwhile, as soon as Duan Ling Tian appeared, he had caught many people’s attention as well.

“Hey, isn’t that Duan Ling Tian? The true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?”

“He’s handsome and has an extraordinary bearing. However, he’s only a little more than 600 years old so how powerful can he be?”

“The difference between him and Su Li is really big. Although both of them are only slightly over 600 years old, Su Li can easily crush him...”

Due to the duo’s similar age, many people began comparing them. Most people, if not all, were convinced Duan Ling Tian was much weaker than Su Li.

Duan Ling Tian who overheard this discussion as well was not bothered at all. Instead, he asked for directions to the wooden houses where the participants from the Jade Emperor Heaven were staying.

The group of participants from the Jade Emperor Heaven had picked wooden houses next to each other. They watched as Duan Ling Tian made his way over. They were aware of his identity; after all, they were not deaf and had heard about him being the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

They also learned that the only true disciple of the legendary Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang was only a little more than 600 years old. Despite the Jade Emperor Heaven having someone who was only slightly older than 600 years old but possessed the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor, they did not believe there would be another person like that. After all, such a person like Su Li was incredibly rare. What was the possibility of having two of such a genius in the same generation?

“Excuse me, do you know where Su Li is staying?” Duan Ling Tian asked politely with a smile as he looked at one of the young geniuses from the Jade Emperor Heaven.

“You’re looking for Su Li?” The young genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven frowned as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s question. He shook his head and tried to dissuade Duan Ling Tian, “Duan Ling Tian, I understand it must be upsetting to hear about powerful Su Li is when you’re both the same age. Perhaps, it’s even more upsetting because you’re the only true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. It’s best you forget about challenging Su Li to prove your worth so as to save yourself from the humiliation of defeat. After all, Su Li’s stronger than new titled Celestial Emperors...”

Duan Ling Tian felt rather speechless when he heard the other person’s words. He knew the other person had misunderstood his intention. However, his eyes lit up when he heard the latter part of the other person’s words. ‘Su Li’s stronger than new titled Celestial Emperors? Doesn’t this mean he’s a Two Star God of War, at least?’

“You’ve misunderstood me,” Duan Ling Tian looked at the young genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven and said as he shook his head, “I’m not here to challenge Su Li. I want to see him because he’s a friend of mine...”

“Su Li’s your friend?” The genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven was shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s words. He did not expect Su Li to be acquainted with the only true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. He did not doubt Duan Ling Tian’s words, considering Duan Ling Tian’s identity. Moreover, Su Li might be stronger now, but Su Li’s status could not compare to Duan Ling Tian’s status.

Therefore, the genius from the Jade Emperor Heaven hurriedly led Duan Ling Tian to Su Li.

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian saw Su Li.

As soon as Su Li saw Duan Ling Tian, he laughed heartily. “I heard about you as soon as I arrived. However, I heard you haven’t left your wooden house at all since you arrived. I didn’t come to see you since I was afraid of disturbing your closed-door cultivation. Come, let’s catch up inside!”

Some of the geniuses from the Jade Emperor Heaven watched in surprise as Su Li led Duan Ling Tian into his wooden house.

“It seems like Su Li and Duan Ling Tian are really good friends!”

“You’re right. They look like old friends.”

“I wonder how Su Li got to know the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian took a seat in front of the wooden table in the wooden house.

The wooden house was spacious enough to accommodate the duo.

After taking a seat, Duan Ling Tian said, “It’s been several hundred years since we last met. How have you been all these years?”

“I’ve been well,” Su Li replied with a smile, “The sect has given me everything they had because they have high hopes for me. However, I can’t help but feel even more pressure because of that...” His smile turned slightly bitter at the end of his sentence.

“You know what their expectations are, right?” Duan Ling Tian asked. During his last visit to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, Zhuge Feng, the Master of the Gan Jiang Progeny, had said that the future of the sect rested on Su Li’s shoulders. The sect’s wish was for Su Li to defeat the current Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor and take over as the new Heavenly Emperor. However, at that time, Su Li was still unaware of the sect’s intention. Zhuge Feng had even told Duan Ling Tian to keep the matter from Su Li since he did not want Su Li to feel pressured.

“Based on your question, it seems like you know about it as well?” Su Li smiled wryly.

Duan Ling Tian said sheepishly, “Well, I learned about it during my last visit. However, I was asked not to mention it to you to avoid you feeling pressured. I was afraid it’d negatively impact you if I told you about...”

Su Lu sighed and shook his head. “There’s no going back now. The Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect has given me so much, I can only try to fulfill their wish to repay them...”

“I know you can do it,” Duan Ling Tian said encouragingly, “I’m sure I’ll have a Heavenly Emperor for a friend in the future.”

Chapter 3448: A Surprising Message

“That’s a distant dream.” Su Li seemed even more dejected after listening to Duan Ling Tian’s words. After a moment, he seemed to have recalled something. He looked at Duan Ling Tian enviously and said, “No matter how hard I work, if I succeed, perhaps, I’ll be the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven; my success isn’t guaranteed. However, currently, you’re already the true disciple of the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. Do you have any idea how many people are jealous of you? Everyone’s saying that with the legendary Heavenly Emperor as your master, even if you’re not talented, you’ll still be able to grow quickly under his tutelage. After all, he’s the legendary Heavenly Emperor who’s known for his meteoric rise to the top...”

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, Su Li stared at Duan Ling Tian and continued to say excitedly, "Duan Ling Tian, speaking of which, I am also an avid admirer of your master... When will you bring me to meet him? I've long wanted to meet this mighty figure who came from the same mundane realm as us and achieved so much in such a short time."

Due to Duan Ling Tian, Su Li had long heard of Feng Qing Yang. He knew Feng Qing Yang was the first successor of the Fog Rain Progeny from the Seven Absolutes Sect, which was famous in the Saint Province Realm, 10,000 years ago. As a Sword Celestial, he admired Feng Qing Yang from the bottom of his heart as well.

"Let's see if my master has the time now..." Duan Ling Tian sent a message to Feng Qing Yang after he heard Su Li's words. After that, he said with a smile, "I've spoken about you to my master in the past. He praised your talent and luck as well..."

"No matter what, I can't compete with you..." Su Li said with a wry smile, "I was brought to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect from the mundane realm whereas you ascended to a Devata Realm through your hard work and determination."

Su Li was aware that he had an easier time compared to Duan Ling Tian. Duan Ling Tian had come this far because of his diligence and determination. In comparison, he was brought to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and was quickly given the best cultivation resources. Although he was sent out of the sect to gain experience, he was still relatively safe. He was never in any danger of dying like Duan Ling Tian.

After receiving Feng Qing Yang's reply, he rose to his feet and said with a smile, "My master asked us to meet him now."

Su Li's eyes lit up as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He asked, slightly nervous, "Duan Ling Tian, should I tidy up a little and fix my appearance before meeting your master?"

After Su Li finished speaking, he looked down to inspect his clothes and appearance anxiously.

When Duan Ling Tian saw Su Li so nervous as though he was going to go on a pilgrimage, he said reassuringly, "Su Li, my master is an easygoing person. There's no need for you to worry about trivial things such as appearances."

"Nevertheless, I still can't help but feel nervous," Su Li said with a nervous smile, "After all, I'm going to meet the Invincible Sword Celestial, the legendary Heavenly Emperor..."

Before entering the Asura Hell, which is one of the seven deadliest places in Devata Realms, Feng Qing Yang was known in the Solitary Destructive Heaven as the Invincible Sword Celestial. After emerging from the Asura Hell, he was known as the Invincible Sword Celestial in all Devata Realms. Most people agreed that there were no other Sword Celestials who would be a match for him.

Since there were many who were certain Feng Qing Yang had attained godhood, they thought he should now be known as the God of Sword instead of the Invincible Sword Celestial. Nevertheless, Feng Qing Yang was someone who united Sword Celestials from different realms.

As a Sword Celestial, how could Su Li not feel nervous about meeting the legendary Invincible Sword Celestial? He only managed to calm down slightly when he saw Feng Qing Yang.

“Greetings, Senior Feng Qing Yang.” Su Li bowed respectfully as soon as he saw Feng Qing Yang.

Feng Qing Yang nodded and smiled in response. “Su Li, I heard about you from Little Tian. It’s remarkable that someone from our Saint Province Realm is able to come so far...”

Although there were quite a number of cultivators who managed to ascend to a Devata Realm from the Saint Province Realm, many had met with accidents and died after arriving at a Devata Realm. There were very few who really stood out.

When Feng Qing Yang first ascended, he did not realize how scarce outstanding talents from the Saint Province realms were. As time passed, and he had more people, he finally realized there were not many outstanding cultivators from the Saint Province Realms. Nevertheless, he was not too surprised. After all, there were so many mundane realms, and the Saint Province Realm was not even considered a big mundane realm. In fact, there were many mundane realms that did not produce any outstanding cultivators just like the Saint Province Realms before the appearance of Feng Qing Yang, Duan Ling Tian, and Su Li.

Among all the large mundane realms, there were only a few famous ones; this included the Yan Huang Realm. For example, the Yan Huang Realm had powerful titled Celestial Emperors and influential forces that originated from the Yan Huang Realm. Even the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven was from the Yan Huang Realm. The other famous mundane realms were similar to the Yan Huang realm; they all produced many mighty figures and influential forces.

“Senior Feng Qing Yang, you’re too kind with your words.” Su Li smiled wryly when he heard Feng Qing Yang praising him. He said with a sigh, “I was only lucky that I came across the legacy of a senior from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and was brought to the sect as a result to be nurtured. Otherwise, I probably won’t be where I am today even if I managed to ascend to a Devata Realm by cultivating on my own. I’m not like you and Duan Ling Tian who achieved everything through sheer will and diligence...”

“Su Li, I disagree,” Feng Qing Yang shook his head and said, “Your luck is also part of your strength. There were so many people in the Saint Province Realm; why do you think you were chosen out of so many people to inherit the legacy and was brought to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect in the Jade Emperor Heaven? It’s your luck and your fate. Moreover, if you don’t have the capability, even if you’re lucky to come across the legacy, you won’t be able to come so far...”

Feng Qing Yang did not wait for Su Li’s reply and continued to say, “In fact, I only began to gain fame after a few fortuitous encounters left by Sword Celestials in Devata Realm that allowed me to perfect my Sword Dao. If it weren’t for luck, I wouldn’t be where I am today as well...”

Su Li seemed enlightened after listening to Feng Qing Yang’s words. He nodded and said, “Thank you, Senior Feng Qing Yang. I understand now.”

Feng Qing Yang shook his head and said, “It’s nothing. If you have nothing to do before the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses, you can stay here so I can have a look at your sword skills if you want...”

“Thank you, Senior Feng Qing Yang!” Su Li was overjoyed. With those words, Su Li knew the legendary Invincible Sword Celestial intended to give him some pointers.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as well, and he hurriedly expressed his gratitude. "Thank you, master."

In fact, Feng Qing Yang did not doubt Feng Qing Yang would treat Su Li well and give Su Lu advice. After all, Feng Qing Yang knew Su Li was a good friend of his.

With this, Duan Ling Tian left Su Li with Feng Qing Yang and returned to his wooden house.

...

Two days later.

"Duan Ling Tian, are you here?"

Duan Ling Tian received a message; based on the sender's voice, it seemed like the sender was not in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven. He found the owner of the voice familiar and strange at the same time. Nevertheless, it did not take him to identify the person who sent him the message after he recalled a few distant memories.

After identifying the voice, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Where are you?"

The other person replied, "I'm on my way to the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven."

"Are you participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Yes. Let's catch up when I arrive..."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened. Apart from Su Li, he had another friend who would also be participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. The person was none other than Ling Jue Yun.

Duan Ling Tian considered Ling Jue Yun as one of his few good friends. In the past, they had gone through a few life-or-death situations together. Although the time he had known Ling Jue Yun was not as long as the time he knew Su Li, he still treated Ling Jue Yun as an important friend. Therefore, he was delighted to hear from Ling Jue Yun after so many years had passed. Not only that, but he would also be able to meet Ling Jue Yun who would also be participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses that was held every 1,000 years.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes glinted as he thought to himself, 'It has been so long... I wonder how powerful he has gotten...'

Following that, Duan Ling Tian informed Huang'er, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword's sword soul, about Ling Jue Yun. "Huang'er, Ling Jue Yun is coming here. He's also participating in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses."

Huang'er who had acknowledged Duan Ling Tian as her master remained indifferent when Duan Ling Tian mentioned Ling Jue Yun. She only said, "That's good. It means he's improved significantly during these years..."

As soon as Huang'er finished speaking, a voice rang from outside of the wooden house.

“Duan Ling Tian, show yourself!”

Under normal circumstances, Duan Ling Tian would not be able to hear voices from outside the wooden house due to the Soundproof Formation. However, since the person had spoken using his Divine Consciousness, he could hear the other person’s voice.

Duan Ling Tian frowned. Who was it? He was not familiar with the voice at all.

Chapter 3449: The Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven

A hint of hostility could be heard in the person’s voice.

Duan Ling Tian, who could not ignore the voice that disturbed his cultivation, left his wooden house. When he walked out of the door, he discovered a crowd had already gathered in front of his wooden house. All of them were staring at a tall and burly young man who was dressed in a long blue robe with golden trimmings.

The young man had a jade-like complexion and thick bushy eyebrows. His expression was solemn as he asked, “You’re Duan Ling Tian? The only true disciple of Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang of the Solitary Destructive Heaven?”

Duan Ling Tian glanced at the young man. He did not reply to the question. Instead, he asked in return, “What brings you here?”

Duan Ling Tian was rather puzzled; he did not know why the young man was hostile when they did not know each other. Since he had never met the young man before, he could not have offended that young man.

“I’m Tong Tu, the fourth true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven. My master brought me here to participate in the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses,” Tong Tu said indifferently, “I came to challenge you to a duel today. I’m curious what kind of true disciple the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven had accepted. Even my master can’t understand why Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang would accept an inferior true disciple...”

Although the young man’s tone remained dull and flat, Duan Ling Tian could sense something amiss with the young man’s emotions.

“I, Tong Tu, am slightly over 700 years old. We’re about the same age so people won’t say I’m bullying the young...” Tong Tu continued to say.

Meanwhile, the crowd gasped when they discovered the young man’s identity.

“I was wondering earlier who would be so bold as to provoke Duan Ling Tian. As it turns out, it’s one of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven’s true disciples!”

“I’ve heard of Tong Tu, the fourth disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven. A few decades ago, he was already close to being as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor. After so many years have passed, he’s likely already a titled Celestial Emperor or possessed strength on par with a titled Celestial Emperor...”

“If someone like him has yet to become a titled Celestial Emperor, I’m afraid those with strength weaker than a titled Celestial Emperor won’t be a match for him at all!”

“His master, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, is remarkable as well. Most importantly, he’s a Sword Celestial as well. For this reason, after Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang rose to fame, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven would draw a comparison to Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang. In the past, the two Heavenly Emperors apparently dueled, and the fight ended in a draw.”

“Well, that’s all in the past now. Since Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang survived the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, his strength has surpassed the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven!”

“Is this why the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven’s true disciple is dissatisfied and unresigned? Does he want to prove his master is a better teacher by defeating Duan Ling Tian?”

“Although he said he’s not bullying the young since they’re roughly the same age, it’s still unfair since they were accepted as true disciples at different times.”

“From what I know, Tong Tu has been in the Heavenly Palace of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven since he was a child. On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian only met Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang 100 years ago.”

The majority of the crowd felt it was fair for Tong Tu to challenge Duan Ling Tian to a duel even if they were roughly the same age. After all, Tong Tu had been cultivating with the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven since childhood while Duan Ling Tian had only met Feng Qing Yang when he was over 500 years old. They thought Tong Tu was rather shameless for declaring he was not taking advantage of Duan Ling Tian.

“Do you think Duan Ling Tian will agree to the duel?”

Soon after, many people began to wonder if Duan Ling Tian would accept Tong Tu’s challenge. Most of them felt Duan Ling Tian would refuse Tong Tu since he was at a clear disadvantage. Only a fool would accept a challenge knowing he would lose. Moreover, since the duel was clearly unfair, no one would shame Duan Ling Tian even if he were to refuse the challenge nor did he have to worry about embarrassing his master.

Meanwhile, Tong Tu, who had a keen hearing, frowned when he heard the hushed conversation in his surroundings. He was displeased that the crowd seemed to think it was fine for Duan Ling Tian to reject his challenge. He was afraid Duan Ling Tian would refuse him so he said coldly, “Duan Ling Tian, are you afraid to accept my challenge? Let me tell you; although I grew up in the Heavenly Palace of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, I only started to cultivate with my master when I was over 300 years old. If you think the duel is unfair, I won’t use any Celestial Weapon during our duel.”

Tong Tu’s words caused an uproar among the crowd. With that, they began to fervently discuss among themselves again. No one expected Tong Tu to say such words. Moreover, based on his confidence, it was likely he was already a titled Celestial Emperor.

“Tong Tu is willing to forfeit his Celestial Weapon during the challenge?”

“Don’t you think he’s too arrogant?”

“He’s clearly looking down on his opponent.”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian could not help but laugh when he heard Tong Tu’s words.

“What are you laughing at?” Tong Tu’s expression darkened. He said disdainfully, “Are you so timid? I’ve already compromised so much, and yet, you’re still afraid? You’re an embarrassment to your master!”

“Do you really want to challenge me to a duel?” Duan Ling Tian asked nonchalantly.

“Would I joke with you with so many people around?” Tong Tu sneered.

As soon as Tong Tu’s voice fell, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes imperceptibly and vanished into thin air.

Boom!

The crowd could not catch Duan Ling Tian’s movements at all. All they heard was a loud boom before they saw Tong Tu who was standing in front of Duan Ling Tian flying back like an arrow being released from a bow.

Tong Tu spat out a mouthful of blood. He flew back hundreds of meters before he could finally stabilize his footings. His expression was unsightly as he glared at Duan Ling Tian. “Despicable! To think the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven would launch a sneak attack!” Without waiting for Duan Ling Tian to reply, he continued to say, “I’ll see you during the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses!”

With that, Tong Tu rushed away.

The crowd was stunned by this sudden turn of events.

At this time, someone said, “How shameless!”

These words pulled the others back to their senses. Everyone present could tell Duan Ling Tian’s strength was at least on par with Tong Tu. Otherwise, he would not have been able to catch Tong Tu off guard and injure him. It was obvious that once Tong Tu realized this, he had run away in fear. After all, he would likely only fight to a draw with Duan Ling Tian if he was not injured. Now that he was injured, how could he possibly defeat Duan Ling Tian?

Someone asked in a hushed voice, “If any of you were in Tong Tu’s shoes, do you think you could react in time when Duan Ling Tian attacked?”

The crowd collectively fell silent, mulling over the question. After a moment, most of them shook their heads.

“Hey, it seems like we can now confirm the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven’s true disciple has the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor!”

“He’s as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor even though he isn’t even 700 years old?”

"I feel quite embarrassed. Didn't we think it was due to luck that he was accepted as a true disciple by Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang?"

"Speak for yourself. Previously, I said the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven wouldn't have accepted a mediocre true disciple just because of a past connection. Do you know how many peerless geniuses he had rejected in the past?"

"That's not what you said..."

"Brother, can you just shut up?"

News of Duan Ling Tian being as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor despite being less than 700 years old just like Su Li from the Jade Emperor Heaven spread like a wildfire, stirring up a commotion.

...

After Tong Tu was injured by Duan Ling Tian, he did not return to his wooden house. Instead, he looked for his Third Senior Brother, Yu Dong Fang, who was an outstanding genius.

Yu Dong Fang was over 900 years old. He had obtained the title of a Three Star God of War in the Nine Serenities Battlefield many years ago. Hence, most people suspected he was now as strong as a Four Star God of War.

Tong Tu lowered his head and said with an aggrieved tone, "Third Senior Brother, I went to challenge Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven's true disciple..."

Yu Dong Fang was a young man with a medium build. He was dressed in a long black and grey robe. Despite his ordinary appearance, he had a pair of bright and attractive eyes. Although he was shorter than Tong Tu by half a head, his icy aura completely overpowered Tong Tu.

"You're injured..."

"He attacked when I was unprepared," Tong Tu said with a sour expression.

"Since he managed to catch you off guard and injure you, it seems like his strength with on par with yours at least," Yu Dong Fang said. After a beat, he asked, "Let me ask you; do you think someone without the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor is capable of injuring you or catching you off guard?"

"No." Tong Tu smiled bitterly. He was naturally aware of this. It was why he had felt unresigned. Perhaps, he would have accepted his defeat if Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him. However, in his opinion, his strength was on par with Duan Ling Tian's, therefore, he felt humiliated that he was injured by Duan Ling Tian's unexpected attack.

"He's not even 700 years old, but his strength is on par with yours. Moreover, it's said that he only met Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang about 100 years ago. It's unfortunate he's so young. Otherwise, he might have been a worthy opponent for me..." Yu Dong Fang said as he shook his head.

Chapter 3450: Ling Jue Yin's Arrival

Soon enough, news of Duan Ling Tian injuring Tong Tu, the fourth disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, spread from the young geniuses from various Devata Realms to the members of the Heavenly Palaces and Title Temple's branches in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven.

Perhaps, if it were another person, the matter would not have caused such a big commotion. However, since Duan Ling Tian was the only true disciple of the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, it became a hot topic among the celestials.

While most of the young geniuses were curious about Duan Ling Tian's true strength since Feng Qing Yang had accepted him as a true disciple, the high-ranking officials from various Heavenly Palaces and Title Temple's branches finally understood why Feng Qing Yang had accepted a nobody as his true disciple.

Apart from those who came from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven was the only one who was not surprised that Duan Ling Tian injured Tong Tu with just a strike even if Duan Ling Tian had caught Tong Tu unprepared. In the past, Duan Ling Tian joined the heaven-grade Heavenly Pool Palace in the Boundless Heaven. The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven was the maternal grandfather of the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace so he naturally knew Duan Ling Tian was as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor. After all, back then, the Merciless Celestial Emperor of the Heavenly Pool Palace had suffered at Duan Ling Tian's hands. After he found out Duan Ling Tian was Feng Qing Yang's true disciple, he even asked his grandson about Duan Ling Tian.

The others sighed that Feng Qing Yang was fortunate to have accepted such a monstrously talented true disciple. Even someone legendary like Feng Qing Yang did not have Duan Ling Tian's strength at his age. With Duan Ling Tian's innate talent, he'll definitely be another prominent figure under Feng Qing Yang's tutelage. In fact, it was possible that Duan Ling Tian could surpass Feng Qing Yang's achievements.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian, who was unaware of everyone's thoughts, was cultivating while waiting for Ling Jue Yun's arrival.

It did not take long before Duan Ling Tian received a message from Ling Jue Yun.

"I've arrived."

Duan Ling Tian left his wooden house as soon as he received Ling Jue Yun's message. When he saw Ling Jue Yun, he discovered Ling Jue Yun looked physically the same since they last met. However, after a few hundred years of cultivation, Ling Jue Yun had a more mature air about him.

"Where did you come from?" Duan Ling Tian asked curiously as he led Ling Jue Yun into his wooden house. He had not asked Ling Jue Yun about his whereabouts before meeting him.

"I was already in the Primeval Heaven before I sent you a message. Before that, I was in the Wind Prop Heaven..."

"Did you come together with the members of the Heavenly Palace of the Wind Prop Heaven?" Duan Ling Tian asked. In his opinion, it would be easy for Ling Jue Yun to join the Heavenly Palace of the Wind Prop Heaven and be accepted as the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Wind Prop Heaven due to his innate talent and comprehension skills.

“No.” Ling Jue Yun shook his head. “I took the test in the Wind Prop Heaven’s Title Temple to qualify for the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. You know my secret... I don’t plan to acknowledge a master in the Devata Realms since I’m from a Realm of Gods. I grew up surrounded by gods. Even some of the stronger servants in our estate were gods. Do you think it’s possible for me to acknowledge a celestial in a Devata Realm as my master? Let alone an ordinary Heavenly Emperor, even a Heavenly Emperor who has attained godhood might not necessarily be worthy of becoming my master.”

Although Ling Jue Yun’s words sounded arrogant, they were not unreasonable. As the Young Master of a well-known clan in a Realm of God, how could he simply acknowledge a master? Although his clan had been annihilated, he would’ve disgraced his clan if he had acknowledged a celestial as his master.

“The people from the Wind Prop Heaven’s Title Temple had arrived earlier. I told them I’d meet them here since I prefer traveling alone. When I arrived earlier, the Vice Temple Master of the Wind Prop Heaven’s Title Temple and Wei Qi, the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, received me earlier at the entrance...” Ling Jue Yun said.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised. “You must have grown a lot stronger for the Vice Temple Master of the Wind Prop Heaven’ Title Temple to come out and receive you. He’s showing you quite a lot of respect...”

“How could he not?” Ling Jue Yun smiled faintly, “17 participants, including me, were selected to join the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses by the Wind Prop Heaven’s Title Temple. To put it bluntly, even if those 16 people join forces, I’m confident I can kill all of them. Perhaps, I’ll sustain minor injuries at most.”

“You’re still as arrogant as before.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

Ling Jue Yun said with a smile, “I heard you’re doing pretty well yourself. Wei Qi and the Vice Temple Master of the Wind Prop Heaven’s Title Temple mentioned your earlier when they led me here. They said you’re as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor at least and that most people underestimated you before this. I knew since I managed to grow so strong, even if you’re weaker than me, you won’t fall behind by too far...”

“Weaker than you?” Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow, “It seems like you’re very confident with your current strength. If that’s the case, are you up for a duel?”

“I would’ve agreed if this were half a month ago. However, I’ve recently gained an insight and need more time to master it before the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses starts,” Ling Jue Yun shook his head and said, “Let’s wait for the Battle of the Geniuses to duel. I heard that we have another six months before the Battle of the Geniuses begins.”

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised since he had heard about this earlier from his master, Feng Qing Yang. In the end, he said, “Alright, then. If there’s nothing else, you should select a wooden house of your own. Let’s meet during the Battle of the Geniuses...”

“Wait, I’m not in a rush,” Ling Jue Yun said. He took a deep breath before he continued to say, “I’d like to meet Sister Huang’er...”

Duan Ling Tian could not help but smile bitterly, “Are you sure? You’ll be disappointed.”

"I feel at ease when I hear these words." A rare smile could be seen on Ling Jue Yun's face when he spoke. "This means Sister Huang'er has become one with your divine artifact."

As a native of a Realm of the Gods, Ling Jue Yun naturally knew the changes that would occur in a soul after completely merging with a divine artifact.

When Duan Ling Tian summoned Huang'er out, Ling Jue Yun's cold and aloof eased. His eyes shone with a trace of excitement as he said, "Sister Huang'er, I know that you've grown indifferent toward me due to the merging process. However, I want to tell you that I didn't let you down, and I've been cultivating diligently all these years..."

Alas, Ling Jue Yun's sincere words were only met with a cold, "Oh."

After Ling Jue Yun left, Duan Ling Tian looked at Huang'er and said with a wry smile, "Huang'er, you didn't have to be so cold... His elder sister was your former master. Moreover, you watched grow up as well..."

"Master, I know what you mean," Huang'er shook her head and said, "However, I can't control the way I feel. Although I still retain memories from the past, I feel like a bystander now when I recall them. What's important to me now is master. This means I'll do anything for you without regrets even if it costs me my life."

This was the unfortunate destiny of a divine artifact's soul. They only lived for their masters.

"Alright." Although the situation did not sit right with Duan Ling Tian, there was nothing he could do about it. He could order Huang'er to be warmer toward Ling Jue Yun, but it would not work since Ling Jue Yun knew Huang'er had an aloof personality to begin with.

After Huang'er returned to his body, Duan Ling Tian took out the Formation compass his master gave him and used some Celestial Crystals to communicate with his family in his Little World. After being warned by his master, Duan Ling Tian had cut off his Little World from the outside world.

At that time, his master had given him an intricate Formation compass that could conceal one's aura. The Formation could even temporarily stall a god from seeing one's aura. With this, it could buy Duan Ling Tian some time to sever his Little World from the outside world.

Therefore, Duan Ling Tian was not worried about being exposed with the Formation compass.

At this time, he discovered everyone was deep in their cultivation except for his parents who were chatting. After catching up with his parents for a while, he severed his Little World's connection to the outside world again.

While he waited for the arrival of the Devata Realms' Battle of the geniuses, he did not slack off and tried to fuse his law of space with the Sword Dao he learned from his master.

With the help of the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity, Duan Ling Tian improved every day. After half a month, his progress was obvious.

...

Half a year passed by in just a blink of an eye.

The Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses was just around the corner.