

Chapter 3451: Sizing Each Other Up

The Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses was held every 1,000 years, and the Heavenly Palaces would take turns hosting it. This time, it was hosted by the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven.

Since the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven would host the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses every 81,000 years, a battleground was already prepared for the event. The battleground was usually sealed with a Formation when it was not in use, and it would only be open to the public during the Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses. The battleground had been around almost as long as the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. In fact, this battleground had watched several generations of Heavenly Emperors rule over the Primeval Heaven.

The Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven had arranged for the participants from the 81 Devata Realms, including Duan Ling Tian, to sit in a spectator area where the seats surrounded the battlefield and were arranged in an ascending manner. Some participants sat alone and some sat in groups; some sat in the assigned seats and some did not. There were so many seats that even after all the participants had taken their seats, there were still many empty seats left.

Meanwhile, there were many miniature floating islands suspended around the battlefield. Each small island held a few tables and chairs. Apart from that, a beautiful attendant was assigned to each small floating island, setting up the table with exquisite teacups and teapots.

The young participants looked around curiously.

"The battlefield is really big."

"Look! The seats and tables on the small floating islands must be meant for the high-ranking officials from the various Heavenly Palaces and Title Temple's branches."

At this time, all the participants had arrived, but the high-ranking officials of the various Heavenly Palaces and Title Temple's branches had yet to arrive.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, and Ling Jue Yun sat together. After Duan Ling Tian's introduction, Ling Jue Yun and Su Li had quickly hit it off since both of them were straightforward people.

The other three young geniuses from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Zhang Tian You; Wang Ting; and He Jian Yi, were currently sitting at the row behind Duan Ling Tian. Their gazes were rather complex when they stared at Duan Ling Tian. It was as though this was the first time they were meeting him. Among all the participants, they were the first to look down on Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, one of them was responsible for perpetuating the rumor that Duan Ling Tian was mediocre by telling everyone he was not even 700 years old and that he was only accepted as a true disciple due to luck.

The trio realized how greatly mistaken they were when they discovered Tong Tu, the fourth disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, was heavily injured with just a strike after challenging Duan Ling Tian to a duel. It was at that time that they realized although he was only 700 years old, he was comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor if he had yet to obtain a title from the Title Temple.

The trio had also been surprised when they heard Duan Ling Tian was acquainted with Su Li who was also less than 700 years old and had strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor. Before they found out about Duan Ling Tian, they were of the opinion that Su Li had the highest potential among the participants of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

Meanwhile, the other participants sitting nearby were also looking at Duan Ling Tian and Su Li.

"Look! He's Duan Ling Tian, the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven's only true disciple. That's the genius, Su Li, from the Jade Emperor Heaven."

"They're acquainted?"

"It's not just that. It seems like they're old friends..."

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian who was in the middle of a casual conversation with Su Li suddenly sensed a piercing gaze trained on him from the opposite direction. When he looked up, he saw Tong Tu whom he injured half a year ago.

Tong Tu did not shift his eyes from Duan Ling Tian as he said something to the young man sitting next to him.

The young man sitting next to Tong Tu immediately shifted his eyes to Duan Ling Tian. He nodded slightly and smiled when he saw Duan Ling Tian looking back at him.

Seeing as the young man was polite, Duan Ling Tian nodded in return.

"Do you know them?" Su Li asked as he looked in the direction of Duan Ling Tian's gaze.

"The muscular young man is Tong Tu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's fourth true disciple," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"I see," Su Li said. Then, he furrowed his brows and said, "That person next to him doesn't seem simple considering how respectful Tong Tu is to him..."

Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian had already noticed this as well. "I don't know who he is..."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian's voice fell, Wang Ting who was sitting behind Duan Ling Tian promptly chimed in, "That's the third true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven... He's Tong Tu's senior brother, Yu Dong Fang. It's said that Yu Dong Fang is comparable to a Four Star God of War or stronger!"

Earlier today, when Duan Ling Tian arrived, the trio had apologized to Duan Ling Tian for their behavior half a year ago. Since Duan Ling Tian did not take it to heart, he naturally accepted their apologies.

Moreover, since the trio represented the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, it meant they had a connection to the palace. As the Young Master of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, how could he be petty toward his people?

"He might be stronger than a Four Stars God of War?" Duan Ling Tian could not help but glance at Yu Dong Fang again upon hearing Wang Ting's words.

Even Su Li instinctively turned to look at Yu Dong Fang again.

At this moment, Ling Jue Yun who was resting with his eyes closed suddenly opened his eyes and looked in the direction of Duan Ling Tian and Su Li's gazes. Fighting spirit burned in his eyes as he looked at Yu Dong Fang.

At the same time, Yu Dong Fang, who was sitting across from the trio sensed the trio's gaze. He asked Tong Tu as he shifted his eyes from Su Li to Ling Jue Yin, "Su Li aside, who's the other person sitting next to Duan Ling Tian? It seems like he's quite close to Duan Ling Tian..."

Although there was some distance between them, Yu Dong Fang could sense Ling Jue Yun's fighting spirit. It was obvious that Ling Jue Yun had learned about his identity and was eager to test his strength against him. Such a person had to be extraordinary. With this, his interest was piqued.

Tong Tu said with a hint of fear, "He's from the Wind Prop Heaven. He was selected to participate in the Battle of the Geniuses by the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple. He's the strongest among the group of participants selected by the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple. The others are comparable to a Three Star God of War, but he defeated all of them with just a move. That's why there are rumors going around that he's comparable to a top Three Star God of War or a Four Star God of War!"

"Does that mean there's a possibility he's comparable to a Five Star God of War?" Yu Dong Fang's eyes narrowed imperceptibly.

"I haven't heard any rumors about that. Usually, the number of participants who have strength comparable to a Five Star God of War never exceeds ten," Tong Tu said as he shook his head. It was clear he did not think Ling Jue Yun had strength comparable to a Five Star God of War.

"Interesting... It seems like I have another worthy opponent." Yu Dong Fang's eyes glinted as his fighting spirit surged as well.

Meanwhile, Tong Tu clenched his fists as he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian. His expression changed slightly; he was determined to challenge Duan Ling Tian during the Battle of the Geniuses since they were evenly matched to redeem himself.

Previously, when Tong Tu was injured by Duan Ling Tian's sneak attack, no one was on his side and mocked him for being unable to hold his ground against the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven who was younger than him. He was certain his strength was on par with Duan Ling Tian, hence, he felt he would be able to redeem himself if they were to battle again.

After a moment, Tong Tu furrowed his eyebrows as though he had just recalled something and asked skeptically, "Third Senior Brother. Throughout the history of the Battles of the Geniuses, there were at least 10 participants with strength comparable to Five Star Gods of War each time. I know there were a few Battles of the Geniuses that had more than ten participants with strength comparable to Five Star Gods of War. This time, there are five people, if we count Ling Jue Yun, who are suspected to be as strong as Five Star Gods of War. Do you really think the others with strength similar to a Five Star God of War are those unknown geniuses? It's unlikely, right?"

Yu Dong Fang shook his head and said, "Junior Brother, there are so many Devata Realms and so many powerhouses. Many of these mighty figures prefer to live in seclusion so don't make the mistake of

underestimating them. There are some powerhouses who live in seclusion with strength comparable to our master's. They definitely have disciples below the age of 100 with strength similar to a Five Star God of War. The question you should ask is how many of such disciples are participating in the Battle of Geniuses this time."

Chapter 3452: The Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven Appears

"Brother Duan! Do you still remember me?" At this moment, the person sitting next to Zhang Tian You on the row of seats behind Duan Ling Tian suddenly greeted Duan Ling Tian enthusiastically.

When Duan Ling Tian turned around, he recognized the tall and burly handsome young man who was smiling innocently at him immediately. He smiled and nodded. "I remember you. Tang San Pao, right?"

Although half a year had passed since their first meeting, Duan Ling Tian still remembered the young genius who struck up a conversation with him when he had just arrived at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven. The young man had asked for his name at the time and took the initiative to offer up his name as well. Hence, he remembered the young man's name was Tang San Pao.

"You're right." Tang San Pao nodded happily with a bright smile on his face. "I didn't expect you to remember me."

"Are you here alone? Where are your friends?" Duan Ling Tian looked around briefly and saw that Tang San Pao seemed to be sitting next to Zhang Tian Yao alone. He thought perhaps Tang San Pao only came over to greet him.

"I don't have any friends here." Tang San Pao shook his head. "I went to the Title Temple alone to take the test and followed them here. I'm not familiar with the other participants who were selected as well..."

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised when he heard Tang San Pao's words. After all, he remembered how Tang San Pao had approached him when they first met. "You should have no trouble making friends, right? You're so outgoing after all..."

Tang San Pao smiled sheepishly, "I used to stay in the mountains. Therefore, I get excited whenever I meet people outside of the mountain. However, whenever I greet them, they would ignore me. Some people even scolded me. In fact, you're the first person who returned my greeting..." He sighed at the end of his words.

Duan Ling Tian smiled in response. He did not think Tang San Pao was lying, but he could tell the people Tang San Pao greeted or approached were extraordinary people. It was not surprising that these extraordinary people were arrogant and would not bother with strangers approaching them. In fact, he had been rather impatient as well with the chatterbox when they first met.

"Brother Duan, when the group of young geniuses said you must be weak since you're too young, I didn't agree with them," Tang San Pao said as he glanced at Zhang Tian You and the others, causing them to feel embarrassed. His eyes shone as bright as the stars as he continued to say excitedly, "How could the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven be ordinary? Indeed, you didn't fail to meet my expectations! You even defeated the fourth true disciple of the Heavenly

Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven with just a strike. I'm really excited about the Battle of the Geniuses; I can't wait to battle you, Brother Duan."

"You can't wait to battle me?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly stunned. Based on Tang San Pao's words, it was not hard to guess Tang San Pao's strength was that of a titled Celestial Emperor at least.

At the same time, Zhang Tian You and the others looked at Tang San Pao in shock. They did not expect the burly young man to be so strong.

'He wants to battle Duan Ling Tian?' Su Li turned and glanced at Tang San Pao. He shook his head and smiled but did not say anything; Tang San Pao must have thought Duan Ling Tian's strength was like that of an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor.

As for Ling Jue Yun, he did not even spare Tang San Pao a glance. Although he had yet to see Duan Ling Tian's current strength, he knew even if Duan Ling Tian was weaker than him, the difference would be slight. How can an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor like Tang San Pao be a match for Duan Ling Tian?

At this moment, someone from the nearby seats cried out, "The Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven is here!"

Duan Ling Tian and the others instinctively looked up.

Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, flew in the sky with a group of people following closely behind him.

Among the group of people was a face Duan Ling Tian was familiar with. It was none other than Wei Qi, the Skeletal Dragon Celestial Emperor, who had led him to the wooden houses where the participants were staying when he had just arrived at the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven. He was also one of the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven's true disciples.

"That's the Heavenly Emperor of the Wandering Heaven!"

"The Heavenly Emperor of the Devoid of Hatred Heaven is here as well"

"That's... That's the Temple Master of the Ten Thousand Beasts Heaven's Title Temple and the two Vice Temple Masters."

"All the Heavenly Emperors and the Temple Masters of the Title Temple branches from the 81 Devata Realms are here!"

A commotion broke out at the venue with the appearances of the Heavenly Emperors and all the important figures.

The young geniuses continued staring at the entrance intently. Most of them were most interested in the Heavenly Emperors and their entourages compared to the Temple Masters..."

Duan Ling Tian had just looked away when someone cried out, "Situ Zhuqing, the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven, is here!"

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed immediately as he looked up at the sky.

A beautiful woman wearing a smile on her face appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian's eyes. She did not look like someone who had been hiding and on the run for years. Next to her was a burly middle-aged man with a jade-like complexion. The duo was smiling as they conversed.

"Isn't that person next to her the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven?"

"Yes! It's Zhou Bing Wu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven! He ranks fifth on the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking!"

"They seem rather close?"

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes that gleamed coldly. 'She actually dares to make an appearance here? Is the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses important to her or does she think the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Heaven will protect her?'

Previously, Situ Zhuqing, the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven, had sent her men to annihilate the Saint Province Realm where Duan Ling Tian came from for the sake of revenge. After she discovered his master, Feng Qing Yang, had also come from the Saint Province Realm, she had fled the Luo River Heaven.

'I'm sure after master and I went to the Luo River Sect, she must have found out about our relationship. What gives her the confidence to show up here?' Duan Ling Tian was perplexed. He could not figure out why Situ Zhuqing dared to come here when she must have known Feng Qing Yang would be present as well.

"The Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven?"

Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and He Jian Yi instinctively looked at Duan Ling Tian. They were aware of his conflict with Situ Zhuqing since their elders had a good relationship with the members of the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. They were also aware that she had fled in fear when she realized she had offended Feng Qing Yang.

He Jian Yi could not help but ask, "Duan... Young Master, why do you think she dares to show up? Isn't she afraid of our Lord Heavenly Emperor?"

Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting looked at Duan Ling Tian in confusion as well. They wondered if Feng Qing Yang had decided to let Situ Zhuqing off.

He Jian Yi bluntly asked, "Did our Lord Heavenly Emperor, you, and her resolve the conflict?"

He Jian Yi asked bluntly.

"No." Duan Ling Tian shook his head as he looked at Situ Zhuqing coldly. "I guess she must have found someone to support her, or perhaps, she thinks master won't cause a commotion during the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses."

"Won't cause a commotion?"

The trio exchanged a glance and shook their heads. Perhaps, an ordinary Heavenly Emperor might be restrained themselves and not cause a commotion. However, was the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven an ordinary Heavenly Emperor?

At the same time, those who were privy to the conflict between Feng Qing Yang and Situ Zhuqing also had the same questions as Duan Ling Tian and the others. Most of them thought the duo had resolved the conflict. Otherwise, Situ Zhuqing definitely would not dare to show her face here.

“Didn’t the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven flee the Luo River Heaven in fear? How dare she show up? Isn’t she afraid of running into Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang?”

“Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang is here as well, isn’t he?”

“Could it be that they’ve resolved the conflict?”

Soon enough, news of the conflict between Feng Qing Yang and Situ Zhuqing spread slowly among the spectators. Those who did not know about the conflict learned from those who were in the know.

“The Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven sent her men to annihilate the mundane realm where the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven hailed from?”

“Why would a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm stoop so low?”

“Even the gods would be displeased with what she did!”

“If Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang decides to make a move here, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven and members of the Title Temple branches won’t intervene, right?”

“I don’t think she’d show up without considering the consequences. Perhaps, they’ve already resolved their conflict.”

Meanwhile, Situ Zhuqing maintained the smile on her face as she and the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven descended on one of the floating islands. She seemed fearless.

Duan Ling Tian’s eye flashed coldly. ‘Why is Situ Zhuqing so confident? I don’t think the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven alone is a match for master, right?’

Chapter 3453: You’re Not Worthy

As words began to spread among the crowd, more and more people turned to look at Situ Zhuqing, the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven.

However, Situ Zhuqing remained unbothered and fearless. At this moment, she suddenly shifted her gaze to Duan Ling Tian.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian speculated someone must have informed her about his identity through Voice Transmission. He met her gaze fearlessly and sneered.

Following that, an indifferent woman’s voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears. “You must be Duan Ling Tian. I’m Situ Zhuqing, the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven. You’re the reason for the conflict between me and your master, Feng Qing Yang. If it weren’t for the fact that I couldn’t find you, the Saint

Province Realm wouldn't have been implicated. How about this? If you persuade your master to let this matter slide, I won't hold you accountable for killing my daughter as well..."

Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned. When he regained his senses, he replied through Voice Transmission, "Heavenly Emperor Situ Zhuqing, what can you do even if you hold me accountable? Do you dare to attack me?"

Duan Ling Tian did not believe Situ Zhuqing would attack him, especially with so many people around. Although his master had yet to make an appearance, the people here would not watch and let her attack him; this included the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven.

Not only was Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, the host for the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses this time, but he was also a good friend of Feng Qing Yang. He was also ranked fourth on the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking, which meant he was stronger than Situ Zhuqing and Zhou Bing Wu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven, who was sitting next to Situ Zhuqing. Zhou Bing Wu was only ranked fifth after all.

Situ Zhuqing said threateningly through Voice Transmission, "Brat, do you think you can stay by Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's side and hide in the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven forever?"

Duan Ling Tian laughed. "Heavenly Emperor Situ Zhuqing, did it not cross your mind that you might not be able to leave this place alive once you show up? Are you unaware that my master is in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven as well?"

As soon as Duan Ling Tian sent his Voice Transmission, a commotion broke out among the crowd.

"It's Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang of the Solitary Destructive Heaven!"

"I finally get to see the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven! He's just as the rumor said; he's handsome and mighty!"

"It's said that Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang is the youngest among all the Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms."

"Not only that but he only ascended to a Devata Realm about 10,000 years ago!"

"He's really terrifying to have achieved so many things in just 10,000 years!"

10,000 years was not a long time for a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm. After all, a Heavenly Emperor had lived for tens of thousands of years; some even lived for more than 100,000 years or a few hundred thousand years.

Cultivation would only get progressively more difficult. For example, the young geniuses who participated in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Every Battle of the Geniuses would have monstrously talented participants who were Five Star Gods of War under the age of 1,000. However, most of these monstrous talents would gradually stop progressing as time passed. Even after tens of thousands of years had passed, their improvements were slight. Only a small number managed to improve continuously.

Similarly, some cultivators had remarkable comprehension skills in the early stages in regard to comprehending the laws. However, after comprehending the laws to a certain stage, they would reach a bottleneck. For example, some titled Celestial Emperors could fairly easily fuse three fused profundities, but they were unable to fuse the fourth fused profundities even after they spent tens of thousands of years trying.

Meanwhile, the crowd continued to discuss heatedly among themselves when they saw Feng Qing Yang hovering wordlessly in front of the floating island for a moment where Situ Zhuqing and Zhou Bing Wu were sitting. Feng Qing Yang was looking at Situ Zhuqing coldly.

“The legendary Heavenly Emperor has been looking at the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven since his arrival.”

“It seems like they haven’t resolved their conflict.”

“To think the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven dares to show up here. Does she have a death wish?”

At this moment, Feng Qing Yang’s icy voice resounded clearly through the venue even though his volume was not loud.

“Situ Zhuqing, how dare you show up after hiding for so many years...”

“Master.” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up.

While Situ Zhuqing looked at Feng Qing Yang fearfully, the burly middle-aged man sitting next to her rose to his feet and said, “Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang.”

The burly middle-aged man was none other than Zhou Bing Wu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven who was ranked fifth on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking, behind Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven.

Ding Fu who was ranked third previously fell to fourth place after Feng Qing Yang returned from the Asura Hell, one of the deadliest places in the Devata Realms.

Zhou Bing Wu looked at Feng Qing Yang and said politely, “I’ve heard of the enmity between you and the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven. The conflict arose because your disciple killed her daughter. At that time, she let her anger get the best of her, resulting in her killing many inhabitants in the mundane realm you came from...”

After listening to Zhou Bing Wu’s words, Feng Qing Yang glanced at him and asked, “Do you intend to protect her?”

Zhou Bing Wu replied with a smile on his face, “Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, I hope you’ll let the matter slide for my sake...”

“For your sake?” Feng Qing Yang’s eyes glinted coldly. “Who do you think you are?”

The crowd did not expect Feng Qing Yang to be so domineering with his words. Although Zhou Bing Wu was ranked fifth, the gap between their strength should not be too wide. They could not help but wonder if the rumor of Feng Qing Yang attaining godhood was true.

Even Duan Ling Tian was shocked. He did not expect his master who was always kind and friendly to him had this domineering side as well.

Situ Zhuqing and Zhou Bing Wu's expressions changed drastically. Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, are you trying to start a fight?"

As soon as Zhou Bing Wu's voice fell, a scorching aura suddenly surged out from his body and shrouded the floating island before spreading to every corner of the battleground.

"Start a fight?"

Apart from Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, the other Heavenly Emperors widened their eyes imperceptibly when they realized a fight might break out at any moment.

"Do you think you're worthy?" Feng Qing Yang asked nonchalantly.

Silent descended as soon as Feng Qing Yang finished speaking.

The legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven was truly domineering!

At this time, Tang San Pao, who was sitting behind Duan Ling Tian, said excitedly, "Brother Duan, your master is so domineering and cool! As expected of my idol!"

At the same time, Zhang Tian You and the others were staring at their Heavenly Emperor, the Invincible Sword Celestial, rapturously.

Wei Qi, the Skeletal Dragon Celestial Emperor, who was standing behind Ding Fung, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, said in shock, "Master, I didn't expect Junior Feng Feng to have this side to him as well."

"I didn't expect this either..." Ding Fung shook his head and said with a sigh, "Little Brother Feng has always been courteous with me. Although I've heard he previously killed a Heavenly Emperor because of the Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor, I didn't expect him to be domineering and unyielding. Every generation has a new group of heroes who replace the old..."

Feng Qing Yang was more than 100,000 years younger than Ding Fu. In the early years, when Ding Fu dominated the Nine Serenities Battlefield with many disciples following him, Feng Qing Yang was not even born yet in the mundane realm. Nevertheless, this young legendary Heavenly Emperor who was only slightly over 10,000 years old had surpassed him.

Similarly, the other Heavenly Emperors present on the scene were shocked by Feng Qing Yang. For him to be so confident, they wondered if he had truly attained godhood.

Meanwhile, Zhou Bing Wu's expression was extremely unsightly as he said, "Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, rumor has it that you've already attained godhood... I'd like to find out for myself if it's true!"

At the end of his words, Zhou Bing Wu flew up. Flames surged from his body, as bright and hot as the sun. A heatwave rolled into the surroundings, trapping the crowd in extreme heat.

Everyone could feel Zhou Bing Wu's terrifying aura. It felt as though anything or anyone who came in contact with him would melt at this moment.

"Like I said earlier, you're not worthy..." Feng Qing Yang shook his head. Following that, a mustard energy surged from his body and transformed into a giant sword.

Everyone was confused upon seeing the mustard energy.

"That's... Isn't that the law of earth?"

"I thought he specialized in the law of destruction?"

"He's going to use the law of earth against the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven?"

Chapter 3454: Situ Zhuqing's Threats

The Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Feng Qing Yang, was famously known for his law of destruction and Sword Dao in all Devata Realms even before he entered the Asura Hell. Everyone knew he specialized in the law of destruction. Hence, no one expected him to attack using the law of earth.

Zhou Bing Wu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven, was ranked fifth on the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking, after all; this meant he was stronger than 76 other Heavenly Emperors. Everyone wondered if Feng Qing Yang's law of earth was enough to defeat Zhou Bing Wu.

On the other hand, a few Heavenly Emperors, including Zhou Bing Wu, were even more convinced that Feng Qing Yang had attained godhood when they saw him using the law of earth.

Zhou Bing Wu's expression changed drastically as soon as he saw Feng Qing Yang's mustard energy. He could sense the terrifying aura of the giant sword. Although this was only the second time he had sensed such an aura, he would never forget it. There was no mistake the aura was the Divine Energy, the energy of the gods. There was no more doubt that Feng Qing Yang had truly attained godhood. Hence, he did not hesitate to plead with Feng Qing Yang. "Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, please show mercy... I..."

Zhou Bing Wu shuddered. Although he was on the brink of a breakthrough and becoming a god, the strength difference between him and a god was like heaven and earth. Even without using fused profundities, a god could easily defeat him. After all, the Divine Energy was far superior to the Celestial Origin Energy. As someone who was close to attaining godhood, he knew this better than everyone.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Before Zhou Bing Wu could finish his words, he was interrupted by a series of loud explosions.

With this, Zhou Bing Wu knew Feng Qing Yang was not moved by his words at all. Therefore, he hastily mobilized his energy. The flames on his body surged higher and shrouded him, making him look like the blazing sun in the sky. Alas, not only did the giant easily breach his defenses, but he was also struck the ground.

Boom!

The giant sword disappeared after Zhou Bing Wu fell to the ground heavily. He was in a miserable state as he struggled to his feet. Panic and fear flashed in his eyes; there was nothing he could do against the Divine Energy.

The venue was as silent as a graveyard for a moment before the crowd broke out in an uproar.

“Heavens! Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang has attained godhood!”

“His strength is really terrifying! It’s said that the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven who ranks fifth on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking is close to attaining godhood, and yet, he couldn’t even defend himself against Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang at all?”

“Most importantly, Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang didn’t even use the law of destruction that he specializes in! I’ve never heard anything about him comprehending the law of earth prior to this. Can you imagine how stronger he is if he had used the law of destruction earlier?”

“That’s right!”

This was the first time Feng Qing Yang had publicly used the Divine Energy. With this, everyone was able to confirm that he had truly attained godhood; the rumor was true!

“Little Brother Feng...” Although Ding Fung, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, knew from before that Feng Qing Yang had already attained godhood, he was still shocked when he saw how easily Feng Qing Yang had crushed Zhou Bing Wu. A bitter smile appeared on his face as he realized Feng Qing Yang had been restraining his strength during their duel. At that time, he could not help but wonder if the Divine Energy was as powerful as rumored. After all, although he had lost, he could still somewhat hold his ground against Feng Qing Yang during the duel. As it turned out, Feng Qing Yang had been holding back most of his strength during their duel.

Meanwhile, Tang San Pao was indescribably excited. The awe and reverence in his eyes intensified as he stared at Feng Qing Yang who was standing in the distance. “So this is the power of the Divine Energy? Amazing!”

Tang San Pao, who was sitting behind Duan Ling Tian was exhilarated. The excitement in his eyes intensified as he gazed at Feng Qing Yang who was in the distance.

In comparison to the others, Duan Ling Tian and Ling Jue Yun were relatively calm.

Duan Ling Tian had learned about the differences between gods and celestials previously from Feng Qing Yang, after all. Moreover, he had also met the servant of the Yun Clan in the past who managed to force Feng Qing Yang to escape into the Asura Hell in the past. Therefore, he was not as shocked as the others.

As for Ling Jue Yun who had grown up in a Realm of Gods and was surrounded by gods since birth, how could he not know how powerful gods were? Moreover, he knew that a few Temple Masters of the Title Temple branches in a few Devata Realms had already known that Feng Qing Yang had attained godhood; otherwise, how could they rank him third on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking? Moreover, only gods could leave the Asura Hell alive. Since Feng Qing Yang survived the Asura Hell, it was not surprising at all that he had attained godhood.

The crowd's attention was all on Feng Qing Yang at this moment.

"His strength is too terrifying and domineering! The Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven is heavily injured with just a strike of his sword!"

"No wonder the legendary Heavenly Emperor said the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven isn't worthy. He wasn't lying at all!"

At the same time, a few Heavenly Emperors and Temple Masters of the Title Temple branches arrived at the venue. However, since everyone's attention was focused on Feng Qing Yang, no one noticed their arrival.

Feng Qing Yang said icily and determinedly, "Heavenly Emperor Zhou Bing Wu, if you insist on intervening on behalf of Situ Zhuqing, you'll die!"

Everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, thought Situ Zhuqing was doomed. Clearly, as Feng Qing Yang had demonstrated, even if Zhou Bing Wu insisted on intervening, Zhou Bing Wu would only fail miserably.

Feng Qing Yang shifted his eyes to the gloomy Situ Zhuqing and said, "Situ Zhuqing, do you think I won't find out that you've inserted a small part of your soul into the Wishful Celestial Wood? Do you think you're safe from me just because you sent your clone here?"

Realization dawned on the crowd when they heard Feng Qing Yang's words. As it turned out, this was not Situ Zhuqing's real body!

"I heard the Wishful Celestial Wood will produce a clone if you send a small part of your soul into it. Although the clone doesn't possess the full strength of the original body, the clone is almost indistinguishable from the original. Perhaps, one would only be able to detect it with one's Divine Consciousness if one is very strong..."

"So the Heavenly Emperor of the River Luo Heaven showed up using a clone from a Wishful Celestial Wood?"

"The Wishful Celestial Wood is extremely valuable even in the Devata Realms. Nevertheless, it's not surprising that a Heavenly Emperor possesses a Wishful Celestial Wood..."

Finally, Situ Zhuqing rose to her feet. She looked at Feng Qing Yang with a grave expression as she said, "Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, although you've attained godhood, you're not invincible. To be honest, my partner is a god in a Realm of Gods. He'll be coming to the Devata Realms once the passages between the Devata Realms and the Realms of Gods reopen in 300 years. Let me warn you: he's not an ordinary god. If you do anything to me, he definitely won't let you go!"

Situ Zhuqing knew it would be futile to plead for mercy. Therefore, she decided to intimidate Feng Qing Yang by mentioning her partner who was a god in a Realm of Gods.

Once again, a commotion broke out among the crowd. No one expected Situ Zhuqing's partner to be a god from a Realm of Gods. Although they knew she had a daughter, the identity of the father had always been a mystery. The rumors in the past said that another Heavenly Emperor or a mighty celestial living

in seclusion had fathered her child. It was only recently that people found out Situ Zhuqing had two daughters instead of one and that Duan Ling Tian killed one of her daughters.

Situ Zhuqing continued to say threateningly, "My daughter, whom your true disciple, Duan Ling Tian, killed, was his biological daughter..."

At the end of Situ Zhuqing's words, the crowd shifted their attention back to Feng Qing Yang.

"Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang has only recently attained godhood whereas Heavenly Emperor Situ Zhuqing's partner must have been a god for a long time now since he's from a Realm of Gods. Therefore, Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang might not be his match."

"How shocking! I didn't expect the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven's partner to be a god."

"Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's true disciple killed a god's biological daughter?"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes when he heard Situ Zhuqing's words. Similar to the others, he did not expect the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven's partner to be a god.

Most people assumed Feng Qing Yang might take a step back out of fear so they were shocked when they heard him say, "So what?"

As soon as Feng Qing Yang finished speaking, tens of thousands of sword rays shot out of his body and fell on Situ Zhuqing like torrential rain.

The Wishful Celestial Wood was destroyed immediately.

Most people felt distressed when they saw such a precious item destroyed. Nevertheless, they knew such a precious item was nothing to Feng Qing Yang. In fact, the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven was likely to have planted the Wishful Celestial Wood. After all, Wishful Celestial Wood would normally grow in land where supreme-grade Celestial Crystals were found. Most Heavenly Palaces and some strong heaven-grade forces were built on top of these supreme-grade Celestial Crystal mines.

Chapter 3455: The Jade Emperor and Ru Lai?

In the Heavenly Palace of the Equally Prosperous Heaven.

"Damnit!" Situ Zuqing's original body was in the Heavenly Palace of the Equally Prosperous Heaven.

Zhou Bing Wu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Equally Prosperous Heaven, allowed her to seek refuge in his Heavenly Palace because not only did he know Situ Zhuqing's partner was a god, but he had also seen her partner in action. Her partner was the only reason he had taken her in.

At that time, Situ Zhuqing's partner was smitten with her. Nevertheless, he did not return after he left because he already had a family back in the Realm of Gods. Situ Zhuqing was merely a lover, someone he had encountered while wandering outside of the Realm of Gods.

Alas, things did not turn as Situ Zhuqing had hoped. Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, did not care that her partner was a god at all and did not hesitate her clone that was created by the Wishful Celestial Wood.

“Feng Qing Yang, you asked for it...” The corners of Situ Zhuqing’s robes fluttered as a terrifying energy surged from her body. The ornamental hairpin on her head broke into two as anger overflowed in her heart. Her bloodshot eyes that were brimming with hatred made her lose her elegance; she looked more like a madwoman at this moment.

“After the passages between the Devata Realms and Realms of Gods reopen, I’ll look for him. Even if he doesn’t care about me, I believe he’ll avenge our daughter...” Situ Zhuqing muttered to herself as flames of fury burned in her eyes. After she calmed down, she replaced the broken hairpin with a new hairpin.

“Yu’er...” Situ Zhuqing sent a message to her daughter, Feng Jian Yu, the Saint Girl of Luo River Sect after she calmed down. “We can’t stay in the Heavenly Palace of the Equally Prosperous Heaven anymore; we must leave immediately.”

Since Feng Qing Yang now knew of her close relationship with Zhou Bing Wu, there was a chance he would come looking for her in the Heavenly Palace of the Equally Prosperous Heaven after the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses ended. At that time, it would be too late for her to run away.

“300 years aren’t that long; I can wait. Feng Qing Yang, let’s see if you’re still so domineering after 300 years...”

When Situ Zhuqing brought Feng Jian Yu away from the Heavenly Palace of the Equally Prosperous Heaven, her eyes were still burning with anger despite her calm expression. As the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven, how could she adapt to living on the run and hiding? If she was content living in seclusion, she would not have fought for the position of a Heavenly Emperor. Alas, it was impossible for her to return to her glorious days as the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven for now because of the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

...

In the venue of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven.

The crowd was still in shock after they watched Feng Qing Yang destroying Situ Zhuqing’s clone even after he knew her partner was a god from a Realm of Gods.

On the other hand, the other Heavenly Emperors finally realized how strong Feng Qing Yang had become.

“Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang who survived the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, has proven his strength once again... He’s even not afraid of a god from the Realm of the Gods even though he only recently attained godhood.”

“Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s pride is truly amazing. Perhaps, his unyielding and fearlessness are the reasons he was able to achieve such remarkable feats in such a short time...”

When the Heavenly Emperors heard that Feng Qing Yang was forced to flee to the Asura Hell, most of them thought they would rather fight to the death if they were in his shoes. Fleeing to the Asura Hell was not an option since they knew they were not strong enough to survive the Asura Hell. After all, it was a known fact in all Devata Realms that those who had yet to attain godhood would not be able to survive the Asura Hell. In fact, even gods would not wander into the depths of the Asura Hell since there

was a possibility that they might die. It was rumored that only supreme powerhouses could easily survive the Asura Hell. Naturally, no one could confirm if this rumor was true.

After killing Situ Zhu Qing's clone, Feng Qing Yang brought Meng Luo, the Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor, with him and flew to the floating island where Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, was seated.

One could see Ding Fu had high regard for Feng Qing Yang based on the fact that he had personally greeted Feng Qing Yang and invited Feng Qing Yang to sit with him. The other Heavenly Emperors were not given such treatment.

Meng Luo, and descended on the floating island where the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval sat.

"Heavenly Emperor Feng, there are very few people that I, Ding Fu, respect. Today, you can count yourself one of them..." Ding Fu praised Feng Qing Yang. If he were in Feng Qing Yang's shoes, he would not have provoked Situ Zhuqing, knowing Situ Zhuqing's partner was a god. After all, the passages between the Devata Realms and the Realms of Gods would only close for 1,000 years every 10,000 years. This time, there were only 300-400 years left before the passages opened again, allowing celestials and gods to travel freely.

In fact, gods and celestials rarely traveled to the others' realms. For celestials, it was too dangerous for them to travel to Realms of Gods since gods were much powerful than them. As for the gods, there was not much reason for them to travel to the Devata Realms where the inhabitants were significantly weaker than them. Moreover, they were prohibited from simply killing Heavenly Emperors of Devata Realms and members of the Title Temples. This was a rule set by the supreme powerhouses. Gods who violated this rule would be punished by the supreme powerhouses.

In the past, the servant from the Yun Clan from the Realm of Gods could attack Feng Qing Yang without any consequences because that servant had yet to attain godhood. Therefore, his actions did not violate the supreme powerhouses' rule. Since Yun Qing Yan, the Young Master of the Yun clan, was already a god at that time, he could not attack Feng Qing Yang. Therefore, he had sent his servant to do the dirty work.

Feng Qing Yang shook his head when he heard Ding Fu's praise. He said with a smile, "Brother Ding Fu, you flatter me too much..."

Needless to say, at this moment, Feng Qing Yang was the focus of everyone's attention.

"Duan Ling Tian, Senior Feng Qing Yang is really amazing. You're really lucky to have become his true disciple!"

Not only was Tang San Pao, who was sitting behind Duan Ling Tian in awe, but even Su Li was in awe of Feng Qing Yang.

Before the start of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, Su Li had spent some time with Feng Qing Yang. After Feng Qing Yang had given him a few pointers, his sword skills had improved, and he had learned a lot.

Soon after, the crowd's attention finally shifted away from Feng Qing Yang as other Heavenly Emperors continued to arrive at the venue.

"Look! That's Yu Hao Tian, the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven!"

The Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven's name was Yu Hao Tian; he was better known as the Jade Emperor.

'He's the Jade Emperor?' Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned to look upon hearing the discussion in his surroundings.

Yu Hao Tian, the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven, was a tall middle-aged man. His complexion was jade-like, and his eyebrows made him look valiant. His expression was dignified, befitting a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm. He was ranked eighth on the Devata Realms' Heavenly Emperors ranking.

Duan Ling Tian was familiar with the Jade Emperor who was a famous mythical figure on earth. However, according to ancient legends on earth, the Jade Emperor did not possess power since there were no instances of him displaying his might.

Based on the book, Journey to the West, when Sun Wu Kong caused a ruckus in the Heavenly Palace of the Jade Emperor Heaven, the Jade Emperor did not take action. Instead, Gautama Buddha had dealt with Sun Wu Kong instead. Nevertheless, Duan Ling Tian had always believed the Jade Emperor, the leader of the Heavenly Court, was not without power. Based on the fact that the Jade Emperor was ranked eighth on the Heavenly Emperors ranking, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian was right. His ranking proved that he was at least on par with Sun Wu Kong.

"That person following behind the Jade Emperor must be Yang Jian, the Three-eyed Celestial Emperor!"

Soon enough, people shifted their attention to the young man trailing closely behind the Jade Emperor. The cold and aloof young man who was dressed in silver armor had a third eye on his glabella, making him look rather strange.

'The Erlang god, Yang Jian!' Duan Ling Tian's heart thumped heavily. He did not expect he would be able to meet two legendary characters from earth. 'I wonder if Sun Wu Kong will show up as well? However, I think it's unlikely...'

Duan Ling Tian, who was still lost in his thoughts, widened his eyes slightly when he heard the crowd's discussion.

"Look! It's the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, Ru Lai!"

Duan Ling Tian was shocked as he looked at the tall and burly young monk dressed in purple and golden robes. A few monks followed behind the young monk as he flew into the venue.

'Ru Lai?' Duan Ling Tian was shocked and confused because Ru Lai was the name of Gautama Buddha. 'Why's he in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven?'

Soon, Duan Ling Tian obtained the answer to his question.

“It’s said that Ru Lai was one of the decision-makers in the Jade Emperor Heaven before he was invited to become the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven.”

“I heard about that as well. It’s said that he was invited to become the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven because he can facilitate better communication between the Title Temple and the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven since he’s good friends with the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven...”

Chapter 3456: Another God

“It’s not that just, but Ru Lai, the Great Sun Celestial Emperor, came from the same mundane realm as the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven and the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven. It’s said that they are all good friends before they even ascended to the Devata Realms.”

“Wow! If that’s true, the mundane realm they came from is truly amazing!”

“Of course! The mundane realm they came from is one of the most famous mundane realms in all Devata Realms. It’s called the Yan Huang Realm.”

“Yan Huang Realm... I’ll definitely visit that mundane realm if I have a chance.”

“You can visit all you want, but don’t do anything stupid. If you dare to do anything like the Heavenly Emperor of the Lu River Heaven did, you’ll be dead for sure...”

Although the conversations in the surroundings were not loud, Duan Ling Tian heard every word clearly due to his exceptional hearing. With that, he confirmed that Ru Lai, the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven was the same Ru Lai that was famous on earth. However, his appearance was different from what was depicted on earth.

Shortly after, the Heavenly Emperor of Pavilion Shaft Heaven arrived as well.

Obviously, based on their consecutive arrivals, the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven, Ru Lai, the Great Sun Celestial Emperor, and the Heavenly Emperor of Pavilion Shaft Heaven had come together.

Everyone watched as the trio took their seats on the same floating island.

‘Gongsun Xuanyuan...’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes quickly found the Heavenly Emperor of Pavilion Shaft Heaven. He had been eager to meet Gongsun Xuanyuan who was not only a legendary figure on earth but also his master’s past opponent. Finally, he was able to see Gongsun Xuanyuan today.

After the trio’s arrival, a few more Heavenly Emperors arrived. However, they did not cause too big of a commotion since they were not ranked in the top ten of the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking.

After a while, the crowd was stirred up again.

“That’s Heavenly Emperor Di Huang from the Ten Thousand Beasts Heaven! He’s ranked sixth on the Heavenly Emperors ranking!”

“Heavenly Emperor Di Huang is from the Qilin Clan. He is a divine beast, the Chaos Divine Qilin! Moreover, he’s born with the Chaos Divine Flame that’s one of the Five Divine Elements!”

“I’ve met that man behind Heavenly Emperor Di Huang once when I was with my seniors. He’s the Clan Leader of the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven’s Qilin clan, Di Hong!”

Apart from being ranked sixth on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking, Di Huang was one of the few in the Devata Realms who was known to possess a Divine Element. Even gods would be moved by any of the Five Divine Elements, let alone celestials from Devata Realms. Although there were quite a few people who were stronger than Di Huang, none of them dared to openly snatch the Chaos Divine Flame from him. This was because of the existence of a supreme powerhouse from the Qilin clan. If something were to happen to Di Huang, the clan’s supreme powerhouse would definitely intervene. After all, the supreme powerhouse had left a mark on Di Huang. If anything were to happen to Di Huang, the supreme powerhouse would find out immediately. With this, who would dare to openly challenge Di Huang for the Chaos Divine Flame?

Supreme powerhouses were even stronger than gods. With just a flick of their fingers, they could easily kill a god, let alone the celestials from the Devata Realms. It would not take any effort at all for them to kill the strongest titled Celestial Emperor, a Nine Star God of War.

‘So the Chaos Divine Qilin possesses the Chaos Divine Flame.’ Duan Ling Tian looked at Di Huang warily. Fortunately, Feng Qing Yang had reminded him to sever the connection between his Little World and the outside world to completely hide his Five Divine Elements’ auras. Otherwise, Di Huang would definitely be able to sense the auras. Even if Di Huang could not snatch his Five Divine Elements away due to his master’s presence, who knew if Di Huang would ask for help from the Qilin clan’s supreme powerhouse? His master could not contend with a supreme powerhouse at this time.

If the others could hear Duan Ling Tian’s thoughts, they would laugh at him for thinking too much. Supreme powerhouses did not usually intervene in the lives of celestials. Perhaps, they would protect one or two descendants they valued. Even if they protected one or two of their descendants, they would not actively intervene in everyday affairs. So long as the Qilin clan was not completely destroyed, it was likely that the clan’s supreme powerhouse would not intervene at all. For example, if Di Hong died, the clan’s supreme powerhouse would not act at all. It was a different story if it was Di Huang facing death. Nevertheless, the clan’s supreme powerhouse would not intervene in Di Huang’s growth even if he cared about Di Huang. For this reason, it was impossible for the clan’s supreme powerhouse to help Di Huang snatch the Five Divine Elements from another person.

Unless necessary, supreme powerhouses would not interfere in celestials and gods’ lives. Even if they had their own agendas, they knew when to draw the line.

Following Di Huang’s arrival, a few Heavenly Emperors who were ranked in the top 10 of the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking arrived as well, catching everyone’s attention.

After that, almost everyone’s attention was focused on the Heavenly Emperors who ranked first and second on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking; the only two Heavenly Emperors who were ranked ahead of Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

“If the Heavenly Emperor who’s ranked second doesn’t reveal his strength by the end of the Battle of the geniuses, it’s likely that the legendary Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven will rise to the second place...”

“That’s right. Previously, both of them were only rumored to have attained godhood. However, today, Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang has proven the rumor true. If the Heavenly Emperor of the Great Barren Heaven doesn’t prove that he’s also a god, his place on the ranking will be taken over Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang.”

“You’re wrong... Even if proves that he’s a god, he’ll still rank third. After all, since Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang confirmed his status as a god first, the second place will go to him. The only way for him to retain second place is to defeat Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang in a duel.”

The crowd’s excitement and the commotion seemed to reach their peak with the arrival of the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven and the Heavenly Emperor of the Great Barren Heaven who was ranked first and second respectively on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking. Excited shouts and exclamations rang in the air thunderously.

The Heavenly Emperor of the Great Barren Heaven was a tall and burly middle-aged man with a square and determined face. At this moment, he looked at Feng Qing Yang and said with a smile, “Heavenly Emperor Feng, it seems like you’ll be replacing me on the Heavenly Emperors ranking after today.”

“Heavenly Emperor Kong, you’re welcome to take back the position when you see fit,” Feng Qing Yang replied with a smile as well.

Everyone’s eyes brightened upon hearing these words. How could they not be excited?

Kong Ji, the Heavenly Emperor of the Great Barren Heaven, laughed and said in a carefree manner, “I don’t care much about rankings to be honest...” Then, he looked at Feng Qing Yang again and said, “Heavenly Emperor Feng, since you’ve exposed your cultivation base. I’m afraid the Title Temple will demand you step down from your position as the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.”

After Kong Ji finished speaking, he looked at the few Title Temples meaningfully.

Feng Qing Yang replied nonchalantly, “I’m also looking forward to the day the Title Temple sends their powerhouse to the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven...”

The Title Temple had prohibited those who became gods from holding onto their positions as Heavenly Emperors of Devata Realms. Usually, they would send a powerhouse of their own to challenge the Heavenly Emperor who had attained godhood. Following the defeat of the Heavenly Emperor, they would let other titled Celestial Emperors fight for the position of the Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm. Naturally, this was only if the Title Temple’s powerhouse was able to defeat the Heavenly Emperor who had become a god.

“It seems like Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang is very confident... I’ll be paying attention to the development of this matter then,” Kong Ji said with a quick smile when he regained his senses. He had been briefly stunned by Feng Qing Yang’s words. He did not expect Feng Qing Yang to be so confident.

On the other hand, the Temple Masters of the Title Temple branches in various Devata Realms frowned slightly. Some of their gazes turned cold when they looked at Feng Qing Yang. Most of them thought Feng Qing Yang had grown too arrogant after attaining godhood and needed to be taught a lesson.

At this moment, a clear voice that radiated righteousness rang in the air.

“Amitabha.”

Following that, Ru Lai, the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven’s Title Temple and the Great Sun Celestial Emperor, rose to his feet with his palms joined together. He said to Feng Qing Yang, “After the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses ends, I wish to challenge you to a duel in the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven...”

These words caused everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, to break out in another commotion. All of them could hear the implications of Ru Lai’s words.

“Does this mean Ru Lai has attained godhood as well?!”

“Obviously! Otherwise, do you think he can be so confident when challenging Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang who has attained god?”

“Heavens! There’s another god among us!”

At this moment, the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven, who was ranked first on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking and had confirmed his status as a god a few thousand years ago, laughed. His eyes glinted as he looked at Feng Qing Yang and Ru Lai and said, “Please inform me when both of you are going to duel. I’d like to witness it...”

Chapter 3457: The Vice Temple Master of the Main Title Temple

In the Devata Realms, there were only a few who had been confirmed to be gods.

There are only a handful of gods who are known by the others in the Devata Realm. Prior to today, the only known god in the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking was Ji You, the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven. After today, there was also Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

Apart from Ru Lai, the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, who had been confirmed to be a god, many people were certain there were other gods in the Title Temples as well even though there was no confirmation. Otherwise, how could they maintain order over so many Devata Realms for such a long time?

Since Feng Qing Yang had confirmed he was a god, it was not surprising that Ru Lai, the Great Sun Celestial Emperor and the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, challenged Feng Qing Yang to a duel. After all, according to the Title Temple’s rules, Heavenly Emperors who had become gods were not allowed to hold onto their positions as Heavenly Emperors.

Gods belonged in Realms of Gods, which were superior to Devata Realms. Accordingly, those who had attained godhood should go to a Realm of Gods instead of staying in a Devata Realm. If a god wanted to stay in a Devata Realm, they had to maintain a low profile. The Title Temple was in charge of overseeing this matter.

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“Looks like the Title Temple isn’t wasting any time in trying to dethrone Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang as the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven now that it has been confirmed that he’s a god. Well, this is to be expected since it’s said that this was the main reason for the Title Temple’s existence...”

There were only a few young geniuses who were privy to the Title Temple’s rules; most of them were clueless.

“If that’s the case, why didn’t the Title Temple take action when Heavenly Ji You of the Heavenly Gift Heaven has been confirmed to be a god for a long time now? He has held onto his position as the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven for such a long time and is even continuously ranked first on the Heavenly Emperors ranking without any consequences...”

“That’s right! Heavenly Emperor Ji You has long attained godhood; why is he still the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven? On the other hand, the Title Temple is attempting to remove Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang from his position as soon as it’s revealed that he has attained godhood! Why is it so unfair?”

“It’s not that the Title Temple is deliberately being unfair. I heard from my elders that the Title Temple sent a few gods to challenge Heavenly Emperor Ji You, but none of them could defeat him. Therefore, there’s nothing they can do to remove him from his position...”

“Is that so? Shouldn’t that be a great secret then? How do you know about it?” someone asked skeptically.

“My master is the Heavenly Emperor of the Rain Embodiment Heaven.”

“Oh, I apologize. I didn’t know you’re a disciple of a Heavenly Emperor!”

There were also those among the crowd who had heard of a completely different rumor regarding Ji You, the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven.

“I heard the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven only manages to sit on his throne until now because he has the support of his ancestor who’s a supreme powerhouse...”

“Really?”

“Well, if that’s true, then it’s no surprise he’s still the Heavenly Emperor of the Heavenly Gift Heaven even after he attained godhood.”

“Doesn’t this mean if the Heavenly Emperor of Ten Thousand Beasts Heaven attains godhood, the Title Temple will be helpless against him as well? After all, it’s a well-known fact that the Qilin clan has a supreme powerhouse supporting them.”

There were many theories going around about Ji You, but only one thing remained certain: despite attaining godhood a long time ago, the Title Temple could not remove Ji You from the throne.

“I wonder if the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven will be able to hold onto his title and position?”

“It’s a pity we won’t be able to witness the fight between him and Temple Master Ru Lai.”

“I’m willing to give up 100 years of my cultivation just to watch them fight! I can cultivate again if I lose 100 years of my cultivation, but I won’t be able to watch such a fight again in my lifetime!”

“That’s right! Although I’m a little more than 800 years old, I’m willing to give up 200 or 300 years of my cultivation just to watch the fight!”

Many people wished they could witness the battle between Feng Qing Yang and Ru Lai. Even if they could catch a god’s movements, they still wished they could witness a battle between gods. After all, they wanted to see who would emerge victorious or if any of the opponents would perish. Being able to witness a battle between gods was something they could boast about for a lifetime.

‘Master...’ Duan Ling Tian frowned deeply. Although he was confident about his master’s strength, he still could not help but worry. After all, for Ru Lai to challenge his master, Ru Lai must be confident and have some tricks up his sleeve.

‘Gautama Buddha is almost invincible in the legends from earth... Moreover, when he challenged master earlier, he was completely calm. This shows his confidence to a certain extent...’ Many thoughts flitted through Duan Ling Tian’s mind at this moment.

This time’s Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses was destined to be talked about for a long time to come with so many incidents. There was Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang who confirmed his status as a god by displaying his strength when he defeated Heavenly Emperor Zhou Bing Wu who was ranked fifth on the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors ranking. Not only that, but Feng Qing Yang also destroyed Heavenly Emperor Situ Zhuqing’s Wishful Celestial Wood’s clone. Following that, Ru Lai, the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, even challenged Feng Qing Yang to a duel to remove Feng Qing Yang from his position as the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. With that, Ru Lai also inadvertently confirmed that he had also attained godhood. Feng Qing Yang and Ru Lai had stolen the limelight from the young geniuses before the commencement of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses.

At this time, a thunderous voice resounded in the venue.

“To all the participants, please pay attention. The Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses will begin in an hour!”

Following these words, the person who had spoken hovered in the air, overseeing everything, as he introduced himself. “I’m Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple.”

Xu Kong Hai was a young man with a head full of white hair; even his sword-like eyebrows were white. He was tall and well built; he had an extraordinarily handsome face.

The location of the main Title Temple remained a mystery to everyone. Some thought it was located in one of the Devata Realms or mundane realms while some were of the opinion that it was located in an independent realm created by a supreme powerhouse. Although the Title Temple branches in the various Devata Realms had a lot of contact with the main Title Temple, none of the members were privy to the location of the main Title Temple. After all, whenever the Temple Masters went to the main Title Temple, they were directly transported there by a special Transportation Formation.

Xu Kong Hai's introduction surprised some of the young geniuses.

"The Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple?"

"So the rumors are true about the main Title Temple sending someone over to preside over every Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses..."

"I heard that there are many gods in the main Title Temple... Apparently, even an ordinary elder is on par with a Temple Master of a Title Temple branch. I can only imagine how powerful the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple is..."

"It's highly likely the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple is a god as well..."

The young geniuses stared at Xu Kong Hai curiously.

Among the people present, perhaps, only a few Temple Masters of the Title Temple branches had met the mysterious Xu Kong Hai before. Most, if not all, of the Heavenly Emperors had never met Xu Kong Hai before as well. Perhaps, only one or two Heavenly Emperors who had lived for a long time had met him before.

With one hour left to go before the commencement of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, the young geniuses calmed down and began to close their eyes to meditate and prepare for the battles ahead of them. After all, their opponents were all the cream of the crop; even the slightest distraction might spell their defeat.

Naturally, there were some young geniuses who remained at ease, chatting with those around them.

At this time, Su Li, who had clearly done his research, said, "Duan Ling Tian, according to the previous Battles of the Geniuses, about 1,000 participants will be disqualified during the first round. Following that, the remaining participants will proceed to the second round. The battles during the second round will continue until only 300 participants are left. The participants who're disqualified during the second round will be given three chances to challenge any of the 300 participants who make it to the third round. This is where the fiercest battles lie in the early rounds. After all, not all of those who're disqualified are weak, and there are bound to be participants who only make it to the third round by relying on others. Therefore, these challenges exist to weed out the weak and to give a chance to the worthy."

"I've heard about this as well." Duan Ling Tian nodded. His master, Feng Qing Yang, had mentioned this to him. He knew the fights would get progressively harder once he entered the third round. The battles would continue to intensify during the fourth round. The fourth round was where the participants' ranking would be determined. Needless to say, the reward for each rank was different; the higher one ranked, the better the reward would be. Those who were eliminated earlier, naturally, would not receive any reward.

...

An hour passed in just a blink of an eye.

As soon as the time was up, Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, announced, "I now declare the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses starts now..."

Although Xu Kong Hai did not speak very loudly, his voice sounded thunderously loud in the participants' ears.

Chapter 3458: The End of the First Round

Xu Hong Kai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple said, "Now, every participant must be hovering 10 meters above the ground by the tenth count. Those who aren't in the air will be eliminated."

As soon as Xu Hong Kai's voice fell, the young geniuses began to rise in the air.

From afar, the young geniuses looked like a swarm of bees rising in the air since there were so many of them; it made for a rather impressive sight.

Needless to say, Duan Ling tian, Su Li, and Ling Jue Yun had also risen in the air.

'Those who aren't in the air after the tenth count will be eliminated? It seems like this is a test...'

Although Duan Ling Tian knew 1,000 participants would be eliminated during the first round, he did not expect the test was to maintain their flight. He had assumed they would battle each other immediately.

'This is like the test I went through to join the Heavenly Pool Palace...' Duan Ling Tian still remembered one of the tests he and Huan'er had to go through was similar to this. At that time, all the participants had to maintain their flight while the person in charge, Lei Ying; the Merciless Celestial Emperor, exerted pressure on them.

After ten breaths, when all the participants were hovering 10 meters in the air, Xu Kong Hai narrowed his eyes imperceptibly and said, "I will now exert pressure on all of you. Those who can't maintain their flight and fall to the ground will be eliminated. I will continue exerting pressure until 1,000 participants are eliminated. You have ten breaths starting from now to prepare yourselves..."

The young geniuses' expressions turned solemn immediately when they heard Xu Kong Hai's words. Energies with a variety of colors appeared in the air as they prepared to resist the pressure. All of them took the test seriously despite its simplicity. After all, the person exerting pressure on them was the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple who was suspected to be a god. Naturally, they knew he would not use all his strength. Otherwise, the pressure would certainly crush them to death. However, even a fraction of his strength was enough to pressure them.

Ten breaths passed in just a blink of an eye.

Most of the young geniuses held their breaths in anticipation of the incoming pressure. Perhaps, only a few hundred young geniuses remained calm at this moment. Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, Ling Jue Yun, Tang San Pao, and Zhang Tian You were among these people.

The participants who maintained their composure at this moment were mostly those with strength comparable to titled Celestial Emperors. After all, all of them were confident they would not be eliminated in the first round.

Those who had high chances of being eliminated were those who had yet to possess strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor. For example, Wang Ting and He Jian Yi who were hovering

next to Zhang Tian You. The duo seemed nervous and grim as though they were facing a life-or-death situation.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Xu Kong Hai did not move as a wave of energy surged toward the participants and pressed down on them.

More than half of the participants began to tremble as soon as the pressure descended on them. After some time, some spat out blood. There were participants who began to bleed from their eyes, ears, and noses. All of them looked as though they were going to fall at any moment despite resisting the pressure with all of their might.

When the pressure intensified the second time, it injured a little more than 100 people.

Swoosh!

When the pressure intensified the third time, more than 100 participants fell to the ground, unable to withstand the pressure. Apart from that, another few hundred participants were injured, barely able to hold on.

Swoosh!

Another few hundred participants fell to the ground like dumplings falling into a pot of boiling water when the pressure intensified the fourth time.

Many of those who fell to the ground and were eliminated could only smile bitterly.

"I'm eliminated."

"I thought I'd be able to make it past the first round at least. I didn't expect to be eliminated so soon..."

"I didn't think things through. I didn't resist the pressure with all might because I thought I should conserve my energy for when the pressure grows even heavier..."

"The fourth time the pressure intensified took down more than 500 participants... The rate of elimination is really high and fast!"

"I'm almost as powerful as a titled Celestial Emperor, and yet, I was so easily eliminated..."

At this point, among the participants still in the air, half of them were barely holding on. It was clear they were on their last leg. As for the others, they seemed capable of withstanding the pressure despite their pale faces.

One of the Heavenly Emperors who was observing the test said, "I think the first round will end after Vice Temple Master Xu intensifies the pressure the fifth time."

"Based on what I can see, I agree..." Another Heavenly Emperor nodded.

As soon as these words fell, Xu Hong Kai intensified the pressure for the fifth time.

The expressions of a few participants with strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor turned grave immediately; some of them even began to tremble under the crushing pressure.

Naturally, there were also those who remained completely unaffected like Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, Ling Jue Yun, and Tang San Pao.

Similarly, Yu Dong Fang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's third true disciple, was unaffected by the pressure.

On the contrary, Dong Tu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's fourth true disciple who was hovering next to Yu Dong Fang, wore a tense expression on his face. It seemed like the pressure was beginning to take a toll on him.

"Junior Brother, it seems that the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Duan Ling Tian is stronger than you," Yu Dong Fang said after he glanced at Duan Ling Tian. With his eyesight, it was easy for him to see Duan Ling Tian was not affected by the pressure at all.

Dong Tu instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian upon hearing Yu Dong Fang's words. Just as Yu Dong Fang had said, Duan Ling Tian looked indifferent as he withstood the pressure. Although he was reluctant to admit it, he knew Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him after witnessing Duan Ling Tian's composure. Nevertheless, he would not admit this out loud. Hence, he said, "Third Senior Brother, you can't say that for sure. Perhaps, he just has a strong defense or he has mastered a technique that can help him withstand the pressure?"

Yu Dong Fang only shook his head in response and did not say anything else. He knew his junior brother very well so he knew his junior brother was just denying this fact outwardly.

At this time, unlike the participants with strength comparable to titled Celestial Emperors who were unaffected or were affected, but were still able to hold on, those with strength weaker than a titled Celestial Emperor were on the brink of falling down.

Soon enough, a few hundred participants vomited blood and fell to the ground. Among those who struggled, only a few managed to persist. Alas, they did not manage to persist for long before they fell to the ground like skydivers as well.

At this moment, He Jian Yi, who was behind Duan Ling Tian, said to Wan Ting with a pale face, encouraging her, "Wang Ting, I can't hold on any longer... I'm sure you can do it!"

Among the trio from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Zhang Tian You whose strength was comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor was the strongest. Even after the pressure intensified for the fifth time, he was only a little red in the face.

Wang Ting, who was hovering next to Zhang Tian You, trembled violently, looking as though she was going to fall. However, she seemed to gain some strength to hold on a little longer after listening to He Jian Yi's words of encouragement.

"Wang Ting, just hold on a little longer. You'll be able to pass the first round as long as you hold on for a little longer," Zhang Tian You said after he looked around and discovered there were only a little more than 1,000 participants left, "You only have to wait for less than 100 people to get eliminated before you advance to the second round..."

After listening to Zhang Tian You's words, Wang Ting inhaled deeply and continued to withstand the pressure. At this moment, it seemed like she had unlocked her hidden potential.

Swoosh!

A soft noise rang in the air as two profundities from the law of water began to fuse and spread out. The Fused Profundity seemed to help Wang Ting tremendously; she stopped trembling and color gradually returned to her face. Following that, a determined expression appeared on her face.

'She... She broke through?' Zhang Tian You looked at Wang Ting in shock.

Duan Ling Tian, who was hovering in front of the duo, had also noticed Wang Ting's breakthrough. It seemed like she was now as strong as an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor.

Apart from Wang Ting, another young man managed to break through under these circumstances as well. Needless to say, the duo caught many people's attention.

"They actually had a breakthrough under these circumstances?"

"I can't believe those two little ones managed to break through under the crushing pressure."

...

Meanwhile, Meng Luo, the Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor, who was standing behind Feng Qing Yang smiled when he saw Wang Ting's breakthrough. After all, Wang Ting's grandfather was his friend.

Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, said with a smile, "Brother Feng, this girl representing your Heavenly Palace is quite talented. It's rare for someone to be able to break through under such circumstances."

Feng Qing Yang nodded in agreement. A hint of surprise could be seen in his eyes as well.

...

After Wang Ting and the young man's breakthroughs, they felt pressure becoming more bearable. After sighing in relief, they began to observe the remaining participants. They watched as participants continued to fall one after another.

Shortly after, an exclamation rang in the air, "I finally broke through!"

Another young man had also managed to break through under the crushing pressure.

When 1,000 participants had been eliminated, Xu Kong Hai withdrew his energy and said, "Congratulations! All of you have made it past the first round!"

Those who did not possess strength comparable to titled Celestial Emperors but somehow managed to pass the first round heaved a huge sigh of relief before delighted expressions appeared on their faces.

Chapter 3459: The Second Round Begins

In fact, those who did have strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor were already mentally prepared to be eliminated. They participated only to gain experience and also to meet other young geniuses. Some also participated in hopes that the tests would help stimulate them and help them break

through. A breakthrough was a good enough reward for them even if they could not rank in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

Those who were eliminated looked enviously at Wang Ting and the two young men who had a breakthrough and now possessed the strength of an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor.

"I thought I could break through here... In the end, I still failed."

"Me too. I was so close to breaking through, but I couldn't hold on any longer."

"Those three are really lucky to be able to break through at such a critical moment. Now they're as powerful as an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor. Perhaps, if it weren't for the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, it would be difficult for them to have another breakthrough before reaching 1,000 years old..."

There were naturally a small number of participants who were jealous and unresigned.

"So what if they had a breakthrough? Even if they pass the first round, they won't be able to pass the second round..."

Most people did not bother responding to comments like this. After all, given a choice, they would also like to have a breakthrough.

At this time, Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, said again, "The first round of the Devata Realms' Battle of Geniuses has come to an end... The participants who passed the first round have two hours to recuperate before the commencement of the second round..."

As soon as Xu Kong Hai's voice fell, the participants descended to the ground and returned to their seats.

Those who were eliminated were not separated from those who passed the first round. With so many powerhouses around, no one would dare to cheat. Those who did such a thing were only seeking death. After all, there were so many powerhouses around. It would be easy for them to single out cheaters. In the past, there were participants who tried to cheat during the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Those who cheated were all killed without any exception. Even true disciples of Heavenly Emperors were not spared. Cheating was a challenge to the Title Temple's honor, after all.

Apart from that, the Temple Masters or representatives of the Title Temple branches would record the names of all the participants from their respective Devata Realms, regardless if they were representing the Title Temple or a Heavenly Palace, every time they passed a test.

...

At this time, the Vice Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Solitary Destructive Heaven, who was recording the names of participants who would advance to the next round, said with a smile, "In addition the four from the Heavenly Palace, our Title Temple brought nineteen participants here. Out of 23 participants from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, 13 managed to pass the first round. This number is quite good..."

The Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Solitary Destructive Heaven nodded in agreement. "You're right; the number is quite good. Out of those who made it to the next round, I'm most surprised that the

true disciple of Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang managed to pass the test due to his age. Moreover, even when the pressure intensified the fifth time, he was clearly unaffected. This isn't possible for someone with only the strength of an ordinary titled Celestial Emperor..."

Upon hearing these words, the expressions of the Vice Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Solitary Destructive Heaven turned solemn. "Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's only true disciple has strength comparable to a Two Star God of War at least..."

"He's truly talented. He's only a little over 600 years ago, but he already possesses strength comparable to a Two Star God of War or stronger," the Temple Master of the Title Temple in the Solitary Destructive Heaven said. When his gaze shifted to the young man standing next to Duan Ling Tian, he continued to say, "That young man next to Duan Ling Tian is Su Li; he's from the Jade Emperor Heaven is called Su Li. He's about the same age as Duan Ling Tian, and his strength should also be that of a Two Star God of War at least."

"These two young men should have the biggest potential and highest innate talent among the participants of this time's Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

...

Two hours flew by quickly.

The young geniuses managed to recover some of their energies. After all, they were not engaged in intense battles earlier and had only used their Celestial Origin Energies to withstand the pressure. Most of them would be able to fully recover their energies in an hour. Two hours were more than enough time. In fact, many of them had begun to chat after the one-hour mark.

At this time, Xu Kong Hai's voice rang in the venue again. "Those who passed the first round, please enter the ring."

The 1,000 young geniuses did not waste time and did as they were told and flew into the heart of the venue.

When the 1,000 young geniuses were gathered, Xu Kong Hai lifted his hand and sent a ball of energy into the ground. Following that, a pillar of light shot into the air before it formed a light shield around the ring, keeping the participants inside the ring.

Since the battle ring was quite spacious, it was not crowded even though there were 1,000 people gathered in the ring.

Subsequently, Xu Kong Hai continued to say, "I believe most of you are aware of the specifics of the second round. Nevertheless, I'll explain the second round to those who might be unaware. For the second round, the 1,000 participants will engage in a battle royale. The 300 participants who remain standing at the end will then advance to the third round... All of you will be given a jade token. If you decide to surrender, you can crush the jade token, and it'll transport you out of the battle ring."

After Xu Kong Hai finished speaking, with just a wave of his hand, he distributed the jade tokens to all the participants.

The jade token was like a life-saving token. Although the battle was not a fight to the death, accidents might happen.

“Once you crush your jade token, you’re considered eliminated. Apart from that, leaving the light shield, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, will also cause you to be eliminated.”

All the participants, including Duan Ling Tian, surveyed their surroundings immediately, gauging the size of the ring to make sure they did not accidentally leave the range of the light shield.

With this, there were quite a few people who complained about the size of the battle ring.

“The space is quite small.”

“Isn’t it too restrictive for 1,000 of us to fight in such a small space?”

Regardless, the complaints were useless and did not change anything.

“You have 15 minutes before the battle starts...” Xu Kong Hai said again, pulling the participants back to their senses, “I will tell you when 15 minutes are up.”

Following that, many of the young geniuses sprung into action. Many of them looked for people to team up with. Some teamed up with friends while some teamed up with strangers.

“No matter what, I must advance to the third round! I don’t care if I get eliminated in the third round, but I can’t get eliminated in the second round.”

A young man dressed in fine robes said, “I’m looking to team up with those who possess the strength of a titled Celestial Emperor to get me through this round. Even if I get eliminated during the third round, I can still boast about passing the second round...”

“Well, it’s true that there’s a huge difference between being eliminated in the second round and being eliminated in the third round...”

Many participants shared similar thoughts. Most of these participants looked for people to team up with to increase the chances of them advancing to the third round.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian felt slightly puzzled. Not a single person had approached him to team up. Even Dong Tu, the fourth disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of Pavilion Shaft Heaven, who had lost to him was approached by multiple people to team up. Whether he agreed to it or not, should there not be people asking to team up with him?

Naturally, there were some people who only approached Dong Tu because of his Third Senior Brother, Yu Dong Fang, since his Third Senior Brother would make sure he advanced to the third round.

“Duan Ling Tian, it seems most people think we don’t stand a chance of advancing to the third round.” Su Lu shook his head and smiled wryly.

At this point, it was clear that nobody wanted to team up with them. Perhaps, they thought teaming up with Duan Ling Tian and friends would attract danger.

In the end, someone did approach the trio, but that person only wanted to team up with Ling Jue Yun. Since he came with the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple, he knew about Ling Jue Yun's strength. However, Ling Jue Yun had rejected his request.

After that, no one else approached Duan Ling Tian and the others.

After fifteen minutes, Xu Kong Hai's voice rang thunderously. "The second round of the Devata Realms' Battle of Geniuses starts now!"

Chapter 3460: Ling Jue Yun Strikes

"The second round of the Devata Realms' Battle of Geniuses begins now!"

Before Xu Kong Hai announced the start of the second round, most of the young geniuses in the ring were tense as they looked at their opponents warily with grim expressions on their faces.

A few people like Duan Ling Tian and most of the people in his group remained indifferent. Only Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting who were in Duan Ling Tian's group were slightly tense. Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, Ling Jue Yun, and even Tang San Pao remained calm.

However, as soon as Xu Kong Hai's voice fell, chaos broke out immediately. Energies with a variety of colors sailed in the battle ring immediately.

With this, the battle royale had begun.

Duan Ling Tian's group stood at a corner of the battle ring. They did not make a move and observed the fights around them as though they were above the fights.

It did not take long for the fights to turn violent. Many had already crushed their jade token to escape from life-threatening attacks. In just a short while, there were no less than twenty participants who had given up.

Miserable cries could also be heard intermittently from those who did not crush their jade tokens in time. Perhaps, it was due to their drive to advance to the next round, they were slow to crush their jade tokens and were killed as a result.

For a time, there was only one death in the second round. However, as time passed, the death toll began to rise. This served as a warning to the others so most people would crush their jade tokens to surrender rather than take the risk.

At this moment, Zhang Tian You, who was standing behind Duan Ling Tian, looked warily ahead, slightly to the right, before he suddenly said, "Someone is heading in our direction."

Although Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting did not formally ask to team up with Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian did not say anything when the duo followed him. Seeing this, both of them were relieved and were determined to pull their weight in the team. Therefore, Zhang Tian You was quick to alert the others when he saw someone approaching them.

When Duan Ling Tian and the others looked up, they saw a group of seven participants approaching them. The leader of the group was the first to kill a person in the battle ring. Based on his performance, his strength should be comparable to a Two Star God of War at least. He was a young man with an

average appearance and an average build. Lightning bolts flashed around him, making him look like the god of thunder. His aura was fierce as well, capable of striking fear into the hearts of weaker opponents.

“That’s the only true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven... If I can eliminate him, I’ll be able to boast about it for the rest of my life!” the leader of the group of seven said. Clearly, he intended to eliminate Duan Ling Tian.

As for the remaining six people, all of them possessed strength comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor. Out of the six, two of them seemed rather strong.

“Not only are you the true disciple of a Heavenly Emperor, but I heard you possess the strength of a strong titled Celestial Emperor despite only being a little over 600 years old. Please show me, Lin Wei, how powerful you are!” The young man, who called himself Lin Wei, brought a gigantic hammer that was flashing lightning bolts. Without any more words, he brought the hammer down toward Duan Ling Tian and the others. The sky seemed to change color as the hammer fell with a huge destructive force.

Meanwhile, when Duan Ling Tian saw Lin Wei’s profundities that flashed brightly, he could tell Lin Wei had strength comparable to a top Two Star God of War; he also determined Lin Wei should be the strongest in the group.

Duan Ling Tian had heard Lin Wei’s words earlier so he knew Lin Wei had intentionally targeted him to make a name for himself. A small smile appeared on his face as he thought to himself, “Since when did I, Duan Ling Tian, become an easy target in people’s eyes?”

As Lin Wei drew closer, a cold scoff rang in the air.

Ling Jue Yun, who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, sneered. At the same time, a clone of him with blood-red eyes from the law of death appeared. As soon as the clone appeared, it shot toward Lin Wei like a streak of red light.

“You’re seeking death!” Lin Wei smiled mockingly. Duan Ling Tian was his target; he would mercilessly kill and destroy everyone and everything that stood in his path.

“So what if you have a clone from the law of death? I will crush it with my hammer!” Lin Wei’s hammer continued to fall like a meteor. The lightning bolts flashed in a frenzy as the hammer drew closer and closer to its target before they struck Ling Jue Yun’s clone as though it was undergoing a heavenly tribulation.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions rang in the air as the hammer was about to land on Ling Jue Yun’s clone.

At the same time, the energy of Ling Jue Yun’s clone skyrocketed suddenly. Its speed increased twice, and it easily dodged the hammer. It moved with the agility of a monkey as it reached out and grabbed Lin Wei’s neck in just a blink of an eye.

Lin Wei’s expression changed drastically when he felt the hand closing in on his throat. He struggled and cried out, “No!”

Just as Lin Wei was about to crush his jade token, with one hand tightly gripping Lin Wei's neck, the clone reached out and pressed its other hand down on Lin Wei's shoulder. In just a split second, it separated Lin Wei's head from its body with its bare hands.

Blood splattered everywhere, creating a horrifying sight.

At this moment, those who were fighting nearby froze for a moment, looking at Ling Jue Yun warily.

"W-we're sorry.... We'll leave immediately!"

The six participants who came with Lin Wei wore terrified expressions on their faces as they watched the strongest person in their group being torn into two. They hurriedly apologized and tried to scurry away.

Ling Jue Yun ignored their words. His clone continued to move, and in just a moment, it ripped another two people apart. Blood splattered everywhere as severed limbs flew in the air.

The remaining four participants were seized by terror as they watched the gory scene. They no longer dared to hesitate and crushed their jade tokens immediately despite feeling unresigned. How could they not feel unresigned? They had strength comparable to titled Celestial Emperors, and yet, they could only flee with their tails between their legs. Nevertheless, the lingering fear they felt when they saw their teammates being ripped apart tamped down their resentment and unwillingness. If it could have easily been them who were ripped apart, after all.

After they were transported out of the battle ring, they looked at the grey-clad Ling Jue Yun who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian warily.

"I didn't expect Duan Ling Tian's friend to be so strong. Based on his performance so far, he has to be as strong as a top Three Star God of War at least. In fact, there's a high possibility he's comparable to a Four Star God of War!"

Up until now, Ling Jue Yun's attacks could be considered the most fearsome and violent among all the participants. Even if there were those who were stronger than him, their attacks were not so gory and violent, and they would not go for the kill as soon as they attacked. It did not seem like he was in competition; it seemed more like he was killing his enemies.

'Wow, he is so powerful!' Zhang Tian You and Wang Ting, who were standing behind Ling Jue Yun, shared the same thought. Chills ran up their spines as they watched him kill the three young geniuses, whose strength was similar to theirs, with just one move. When they shifted their eyes back to him, their eyes were filled with wariness. They could not help but wonder to themselves, 'Who's Duan Ling Tian's friend? He has to be as strong as a top Three Star God of War at least, if not a Four Star God of War. Ordinary Three Star Gods of War won't be a match for him at all...'

Apart from Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, and the participants from the Wind Prop Heaven's Title Temple who were aware of Ling Jue Yun's strength, the others were shocked and grew wary of Ling Jue Yun.

"Who's he?"

"I don't think I've heard of him before. His mastery of the law of death is flawless!"

“His comprehension of the law of death is extraordinary, and he’s decisive. It’s not too bad if he’s merely a Three or Four Star God of War. It’d be troublesome if he were a Five Star God of War...”

Many people thought Ling Jue Yun was bloodthirsty and cruel. He did not even give his opponents a chance before he killed them.

Naturally, in a competition like this, one could only oneself for one’s death. The rules had been set, and one could leave with the jade token at any given time. If one persisted and refused to crush one’s jade token, no one would feel sorry for one’s death.

Meanwhile, the Heavenly Emperors on the floating islands only glanced at Ling Jue Yun for a moment. Based on the current strength he displayed, he was still not worthy of their attention. There were also quite a number of Heavenly Emperors who disliked Ling Jue Yun’s cruelty.

Currently, those who died or surrendered totaled up to more than 200 people. This meant there were still more than 700 participants in the ring.

The battles continued in the ring. However, since Ling Jue Yun’s display of strength, no one else dared to challenge Duan Ling Tian and the others. They fought and killed among themselves but treated Duan Ling Tian’s group as though they did not exist.

At this time, the sound of flesh being torn rang in the air.

The crowd had another person to fear as they watched a young man dressed in bloodstained robes kill indiscriminately with his saber. The young man had a medium build, and his expression was a mix of iciness and determination. His gaze was piercing and fierce as he fought. If one were to look closely, one would see that his bloodstained robe used to be dark grey. The young man did not avoid the blood splattered everywhere when he killed his opponents. It was as though the blood that dyed his robes a red was a badge of honor.