

Chapter 3471: A Bold Speculation

“Are you sure you felt like things were under your control?” the World Cleansing Divine Water asked.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Then, the World Cleansing Divine Water said, “Alright. Try to control the space in your surroundings now, and I’ll have a look. If it’s true that you managed to slightly grasp the Mastery Dao, your future will be smooth-sailing even after you attain godhood.”

A hint of anticipation could be heard in the World Cleansing Divine Water’s voice as well when it spoke.

Duan Ling Tian closed his eyes and dismissed all unnecessary thoughts from his head. The sword rays formed by his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the law of space gathered and spun like a miniature tornado around him soon after. When he suddenly opened his eyes, the small tornado vanished. He punched the air in front of him before the air began to twist and ripple as though they were going to tear at any moment.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian pulled his fist back and unclenched his hand. Just like that, the air stopped distorting and rippling, returning to normal. Following that, he spread his arms like a condor spreading its wings. The air began to ripple and distort around him before he suddenly vanished from sight. When the space stopped distorting, he appeared again.

“What do you think?” Duan Ling Tian asked the World Cleansing Divine Water.

After mobilizing his Celestial Origin Energy and his law of space, he had gone with his gut feeling, based on the strange feeling of control he had over the space around him. At that time, he had felt as though he had become one with the space around him. With just a thought, he could control the space around him as though he was the master of the space.

After Duan Ling Tian’s voice fell, the space above his head began to distort and ripple before a miniature tiger suddenly appeared and fell into his hands. As soon as he closed his hand around it, it disappeared immediately.

“It’s truly the Mastery Dao!” the World Cleansing Divine Water exclaimed.

Duan Ling Tian asked, slightly stunned, “Sister Water, you... you seem to be quite excited about this?”

“Indeed. I even lost my composure for a moment,” the World Cleansing Divine Water that had regained its calm replied, “Not only have you begun to grasp the Mastery Dao, but you’re already in the preliminary stage of comprehending and creating it. In fact, your Mastery Dao is comparable to your Space Sword Dao; your Space Sword Dao hasn’t improved much lately...”

The World Cleansing Divine Water had always kept on Duan Ling Tian’s progress even before he came to the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven. Therefore, she knew Duan Ling Tian’s Space Sword Dao had only improved slightly.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was still shocked by the World Cleansing Divine Water's words. He could not believe his Mastery Dao was on par with this Space Sword Dao. After all, he had managed to progress so smoothly with Space Sword Dao because of his master and the solid foundation he had built when he was in the mundane realm. How could he not feel shocked when he heard that his Mastery Dao was already at the same level as his Space Sword Dao?

"In fact, it's the same if one becomes a supreme powerhouse through mastering one of the Four Supreme Laws or evolving one of the Five Divine Elements to its final form. The important thing is the Dao. For example, after completely mastering one of the Four Supreme Laws and fusing all its profundities, it would give birth to a Dao separate from the Weapon Dao. It could be the Devouring Dao, the Limitless Dao, or the Mastery Dao. It's the same once you've evolved one of the Five Divine Elements to its final form. To become a supreme powerhouse, one must completely master one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. After mastering it, the Supreme Divine Tribulation would descend from the heavens. If you're able to withstand the tribulation, after it's over, you'll be transformed into a supreme powerhouse.

Duan Ling Tian gained a deeper understanding of the supreme powerhouses after listening to the World Cleansing Divine Water's explanation. Previously, he only knew possessing one of the Five Divine Elements or comprehending one of the Four Supreme Laws would help one become a supreme powerhouse. It was only after he met Feng Qing Yang that learned it was also possible to become a supreme powerhouse by creating and mastering a Dao. After listening to the World Cleansing Divine Water's words, he finally realized whether it was the Five Divine Elements or the Four Supreme Laws, all of them led to the Daos.

"How did you manage to create a Mastery Dao?" the World Cleansing Divine Water asked. It said, "Even if you have the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity to help you comprehend the law of space, until you've completely fused all the profundities, you shouldn't have been able to create a Mastery Dao, a Limitless Dao, or a Devouring Dao."

"I'm not sure as well. However, I'm quite sure it has something to do with the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity." Even Duan Ling Tian did not know why he was so sure the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity had something to do with his creation of the Mastery Dao.

"Under normal circumstances, this should be impossible," the World Cleansing Divine Water said, perplexed, "From what I know, even the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity could not help experts, who have mastered a Dao and attained godhood, to create another Dao if they had yet to completely fuse all the profundities from the laws they comprehended. However, you actually managed to create a Mastery Dao before fusing all your profundities and becoming a god. Unless..." It trailed off suddenly. After a moment, she said hesitantly, "Unless..."

Duan Ling Tian interjected, finishing the World Cleansing Divine Water's words, "Unless my Supreme Powerhouse Divinity belongs to a supreme powerhouse who has comprehended three kinds of Daos..."

"Yes," the World Cleansing Divine Water raised its voice as it solemnly said, "However, that's impossible. From what I know, even supreme powerhouses who have comprehended two Daos are rare. These supreme powerhouses can even create Realms of Gods. As for those who have created three Daos, you

can only imagine how rare they are. Apart from being able to create Realms of Gods, they can easily destroy a Realm of Gods as well...”

Duan Ling Tian knew from before that only a specific number of Realms of Gods could exist at the same time. To build another Realm of God, one of the existing Realms of Gods had to be destroyed to maintain the number. The remnant of the Realm of Gods that he encountered in the past was one that had been destroyed by a supreme powerhouse.

Then, the World Cleansing Divine Water asked, “Do you really think such an existence would die, leaving his or her Supreme Powerhouse Divinity behind?”

“No.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. He finally realized why the World Cleansing Divine Water was skeptical earlier. As it turned out, it was incredibly rare for a supreme powerhouse to create and master three Daos at the same time.

“Nevertheless, this is also the only explanation for your creation of the Mastery Dao,” the World Cleansing Divine Water said. Inwardly, it was still perplexed, trying to figure out how a rare existence, such as a supreme powerhouse who had mastered three Daos, died.

“Are there any supreme powerhouses who created and mastered all four Daos? If there are, then it’s possible that the owner of my Supreme Powerhouse Divinity was killed by a powerhouse who has mastered four Daos!”

“A supreme powerhouse who mastered four Daos?” The World Cleansing Divine Water was briefly stunned by this question. Then, it said confidently, “Based on what I know, there hasn’t been a supreme powerhouse who has mastered all four Daos. Needless to say, mastering four Daos is the dream of all those who have already mastered three Daos. There are even rumors about how one would be able to rise above heaven and earth after mastering four Daos. It’s said these supreme powerhouses could even abolish the rule of having a fixed number of Realms of Gods. At that time, there might even be tens or hundreds of Realms of Gods

Duan Ling Tian inhaled sharply when he thought about tens of hundreds of Realms of Gods. If that happened, would the gods not rule over the Devata Realms? At that time, even Celestial Emperors would be as common as strays.

Duan Ling Tian spoke to the World Cleansing Divine Water the entire night, talking about the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth before drifting to other topics. He only put the conversation on hold when he received a message from Su Li just as the fourth round of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses was about to commence. Although he still had many questions for the World Cleansing Divine Water, he could only sever the connection of his Little World to the outside world.

Duan Ling Tian saw Su Li who had been waiting for him as soon as he emerged from the wooden house.

“Let’s go.”

After greeting Su Li, the duo made their way to the venue of the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses. After all, the fourth round was about to start soon!

Chapter 3472: The Rules of the Fourth Round

Out of the 300 participants in the fourth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses, 100 participants would be selected. The fourth round was also where the battles were more serious since the 300 participants who made it to this round were not mediocre. Even the weakest among them were comparable to top One Star Gods of War.

These 300 participants could even be considered as pillars in some ordinary heaven-grade forces. For example, in the Heavenly Pool Palace that Duan Ling Tian had briefly joined, there were a total of nine titled Celestial Emperors. The weakest among the nine titled Celestial Emperors was a One Star God of War who was rather advanced in age.

All of the participants, who were not only limited to humans but included Celestial Beasts, Celestial Plants, and Celestial Rocks as well, of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses were all below the age of 1,000. With 300 participants from 81 Devata Realms, on average, there were four participants representing each Devata Realm.

"Assuming each of the 81 Devata Realms have the same number of representatives in the fourth round, there should be 4 participants from each Devata Realms. When the 100 participants advanced to the fifth round, it's roughly only one participant from each Devata Realms."

Duan Ling Tian and Su Li happened to overhear these words when they arrived at the venue of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

Duan Ling Tian asked Su Li with a smile, "Su Li, are you confident? Even the weakest out of the 100 participants who will advance to the fifth round should be comparable to a top Two Star God of War. Most of them will be as strong as Three Star Gods of War or stronger..."

"I'm not worried about being able to rank in the top 100. However, I'm not as confident about ranking in the top 30," Su Li shook his head and replied with a wry smile, "I couldn't help but think sometimes about how perfect it would be the Battle of the Geniuses were held 200 or 300 years later. If that were the case, I'd be confident about ranking in the top 10 or top three, let alone the top 30. If you weren't participating, I would even be confident about ranking first."

"You can still aim to rank first even if I'm participating," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"No," Su Li shook his head and said, "You're monstrously talented. You've always been a monster even when we were in the mundane realm. Think about it; have I ever won a competition against you? From the Iron Blood City's Genius Camp to the Martial Competition of the Ten Dynasties and the Nan Dou Territory's secret zone... You always beat me. At this point, I've already given up on competing against you."

In fact, Su Li counted himself lucky. Among everyone in the Iron Blood City's Genius Camp in the mundane realm, he and Duan Ling Tian were the only ones who had made it the furthest. It was rather rare for a mundane realm to have two people going as far as they did. Before he met Duan Ling Tian again at the Nan Dou Territory's secret zone and discovered Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base, he had thought more than once that he had surpassed Duan Ling Tian. Alas, after meeting Duan Ling Tian, he was quickly disabused of that notion. At this point, he had resigned himself to the fact that he would not be able to beat Duan Ling Tian. He no longer thought of Duan Ling Tian as human, but a monstrously talented freak. Perhaps, he only knew how depressing it feels.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel awkward upon hearing Su Li's words. Since he knew it was the truth, it seemed hypocritical to say otherwise just to comfort Su Li. In fact, if he said anything, he might even risk rubbing salt on Su Li's wound.

Duan Ling Tian and Su Li returned to their seats from before. When they arrived, they saw Ling Jue Yun, Tang San Pao, Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, and He Jian Yi were also seated at their original seats.

"Both of you are finally here." Tang San Pao's eyes brightened upon seeing Duan Ling Tian and Su Li. "You have no idea how tense and awkward it feels for the four of us to be with such a stoic person..."

"You're early," Duan Ling Tian said to Ling Jue Yun after shifting his gaze away from Tang San Pao.

Ling Jue Yun nodded in response; his cold expression seemed to thaw slightly.

Upon seeing this, Tang San Pao continued to say with wide eyes, "Hey, Duan Ling Tian, do you have a relationship with him? He's as cold as a block of ice to everyone, but he only responds to you. Could it be that these two handsome and bright young men like men?"

"No one would think you are mute even if you don't speak," Duan Ling Tian said. He felt Tang San Pao truly speak his mind without considering anything. Did Tang San Pao not know he had wives and children?

Although Duan Ling Tian had only met Tang San Pao recently, he could tell Tang San Pao was a free spirit. Perhaps, Tang San Pao had spent too much time in the mountain that he became socially awkward.

Su Li chuckled before he asked, "Tang San Pao, are you unaware that Duan Ling Tian already has wives and children?"

"Ah?" Tang San Pao was stunned. "I... I truly didn't know."

After saying that, Tang San Pao glanced at Ling Jue Yun. Although he did not speak, his thoughts were written all over his face. It was obvious he still thought Ling Jue Yun liked men and that Ling Jue Yun had unrequited feelings for Duan Ling Tian.

"I won't hesitate to dig your eyes out if you look at me again," Ling Jue Yun said icily even though his eyes were closed.

Upon hearing these words, Tang San Pao hurriedly averted his gaze. He did not want to provoke the cold-blooded and bloodthirsty Ling Jue Yun over such a trivial matter.

Needless to say, Tang San Pao was not the only one who thought Ling Jue Yun was coldblooded and bloodthirsty. Many people shared the same opinion as him.

"I'll have a chance to teach you a lesson soon," Tang San Pao muttered under his breath after he averted his gaze.

Although Tang San Pao's voice was not loud, the others clearly heard his words. Unlike the others who thought Tang San Pao was just complaining, Duan Ling Tian could not help but wonder if Tang San Pao was strong enough to fight Ling Jue Yun.

Tang San Pao had been extremely mysterious up until now. No one knew how powerful he was or how his master was. All they knew was that he should be as powerful as a Two Star God of War at least.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head slightly as he thought to himself, 'Regardless, he'll have to show more of his strength during the fourth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. In fact, most people who have been hiding their strength will have to show more of their strength as well...'

Just as Duan Ling Tian's master, Feng Qing Yang, had pointed out before, only a handful of participants, which included Duan Ling Tian and Ling Jue Yun, had shown strength comparable to a Three Star God of War or stronger before the fourth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. The others, despite their strength, only showed strength comparable to a top Two Star God of War at most.

"Almost all of the Heavenly Emperors and high-ranking officials from the Title Temple have arrived. The fourth round is about to begin!"

At this moment, many people discovered the Heavenly Emperors from the various Devata Realms and the high-ranking officials from the Title Temple had arrived.

"Hm?" At this time, Duan Ling Tian could feel the burning gaze of Ru Lai, the Great Sun Celestial Emperor, on him again. Ru Lai's gaze was like that of a predator staring at its prey. This made chills run up his spine. Perhaps, it was due to Tang San Pao's influence, he even briefly wondered if Ru Lai liked men.

Shortly after, Feng Qing Yang and Ding Fu, the Heavenly Emperor of the Primeval Heaven, arrived together, laughing and talking like best friends.

Apart from the Heavenly Emperor of the Luo River Heaven, the other 80 Heavenly Emperors were all present.

At this time, Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, finally made an appearance. He had likely arrived at the venue a while ago but only made an appearance after everyone had arrived.

"I'm sure all of you know the rules of the fourth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of Geniuses... It's best for everyone to be 100% focused during this round. It won't be easy to be among the 100 who will advance to the next round," Xu Kong Hai said. After he finished speaking, he looked at the participants meaningfully.

During the fourth round of Devata Realm's Battle of Geniuses, the 300 participants would be first divided into two groups consisting of 150 participants each. Following that, the Title Temple would arrange a one-on-one battle for the participants in each group. As participants were eliminated during the battles, once there were only 150 participants left, they would be divided again into two groups of 75 participants each. At the same time, the 225 participants who had lost their battles during the fourth round would fight each other until only 25 were left. At that time, there would be 100 participants who qualified to advance to the next round and 200 participants who lost their battles during the fourth round. With this, the 200 participants who lost could challenge any of the 100 participants slated to

advance to the next round. This would continue until all the participants had issued the challenges. With that, the top 100 participants would finally advance to the next round.

In simpler terms, the fourth round was rather similar to the third round. Instead of being given three chances to issue a challenge, participants could issue up to ten challenges during the fourth round. The other difference was that during the start of the fourth round, the Title Temple would be deciding which participants would be battling each other.

Chapter 3473: Zhong Gui Yu

‘They’ll divide the 300 participants into two groups of 150 participants, and they’ll arrange the battles in the early rounds?’

Many of the 300 participants could not help but frown upon hearing Xu Kong Hai’s words even though they had been mentally prepared to face what was thrown at them today. Since the Title Temple was going to arrange the battles, did it not mean they had a chance to use it to their advantage? Since the Title Temple would be arranging the battles in the early rounds, the Title Temple could match weak opponents with their representatives. However, if their representatives were not strong, they still would not be able to get past the later rounds. For this reason, no one said anything despite feeling unhappy. Moreover, since the Title Temple organized the Battle of the Geniuses, they deserved a little privilege. Most importantly, it did not affect the fairness of the competition.

However, it had to be said that those participants who were displeased with the rules were mostly those weaker participants ranked at the bottom of the 300 participants. Those participants who were strong and confident naturally were not bothered at all. They did not care if the Title Temple gave preferential treatment to those who represented them. After all, as long as one had absolute strength, one would be able to crush those participants who received preferential treatment. This was the confidence of the strong.

“Since there are so many of you, five battles will take place at the same time.”

Xu Kong Hai waved his sleeve after he finished speaking.

Five barriers shielded five battle rings in just a moment.

“These battle rings will be used during the fourth round. Anyone who’s forced out of the light barrier is considered eliminated. If you want to surrender, crush the jade token in your possession... If you die, your opponent will not be held responsible,” Xu Kong Hai said as he swept his gaze across the participants, “Please rise into the air. I’ll issue the jade tokens now.”

It did not take long before the 300 participants who made it to the fourth round received their jade tokens.

Apart from the light barriers surrounding the battle rings, there was also a Transportation Formations in each battle ring that would transport a participant out after he or she had crushed their jade token.

After returning to his seat, a thought suddenly appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s mind.

'If I want to kill my opponent, I wonder if my ability to control space will be able to prevent the Transportation Formation from sending my opponent out even after my opponent crushes his or her jade token...'

Duan Ling Tian's eyes were rather bright when he thought about this. Although he had yet to get a chance to test out his theory, he had thought it was possible for him to do such a thing.

After the participants had returned to their seats, Xu Kong Hai waved his hand. As soon as ten names appeared in the air, he said, "Those ten whose names have been chosen, please step forward and enter the battle ring to face the opponents that have been chosen for you..."

Following that, five out of the ten participants who had been named went to battle rings accordingly.

Although Duan Ling Tian was not familiar with the ten participants, it did not mean the other participants were unfamiliar with them as well. Soon enough, people began to discuss among themselves.

"That's Meng Fan Gui, right? I heard he's the strongest among the younger generation in the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's heaven-grade Profound Dream Sect."

Initially, most people were unsure if the participant was Meng Fan Gui from the Profound Dream Sect or someone who shared the same name. Soon after, they remembered there was only one Meng Fan Gui among the participants. With that, Meng Fan Gui began to receive a lot of attention.

"Meng Fan Gui? Is he famous?" Tang San Pao murmured to himself.

"Of course!" Zhang Tian You, who was seated next to Tang San Pao, solemnly said, "Meng Fan Gui is a disciple of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven's Profound Dream Sect. He specializes in illusory techniques, and he comprehends the law of darkness. He has never lost to anyone above the age of 2,000 Pavilion Shaft Heaven. He had killed a Three Star God of War before so many people speculated he's as strong as a Four Star God of War."

"As strong as a Four Star God of War?" Tang San Pao was taken aback. "I didn't expect someone speculated to be as strong as a Four Star God of War would be selected to battle first. I wonder who's his opponent..."

"I have never heard of his opponent's name. He's either not known or a disciple of a powerhouse who lives in seclusion..." Zhang Tian You glanced at Meng Fan Gui's opponent's name and shook his head.

"Regardless, I don't think he's a match for Meng Fan Gui."

"Although Meng Fan Gui is likely to be as strong as a Four Star God of War, the Title Temple has chosen him to fight first... I feel sorry for his opponent..."

"If Meng Fan Gui's opponent has heard of him, he might not even have the courage to fight Meng Fan Gui..."

"Well, even if his opponent isn't familiar with him, he should be familiar with him now after listening to the discussions in the surroundings."

The name of Meng Fan Gui's opponent was Zhong Gui Yu.

At this moment, the other five participants went into their respective battle rings to face their opponents.

“He’s Zhong Gui Yu? He actually dares to face Meng Fan Gui?”

Many people’s attention was focused on a young man dressed in simple robes. He was pale, but his eyes were bright.

“Who is Zhong Gui Yu? I’ve never heard of him.”

“His strength should be that of a Two Star God of War at least.”

“He must be confident since he dares to enter the battle ring.”

“Not necessarily. Some people are fearless even when faced with a fearsome opponent. Moreover, it’s not a death duel. He just has to crush his jade token if he feels his life is on the line...”

“In my opinion, he only showed up because it’d be too embarrassing to not show up...”

...

In one of the battle rings.

Zhong Gui Yu who had just entered the battle ring fearlessly met Meng Fan Gui’s gaze.

Meng Fan Gui sneered. “How many moves do you think you’d be able to withstand before I defeat you?”

Meng Fan Gui’s face was expressionless as he replied indifferently, “I’ll surrender if I can’t defeat you in three moves.”

...

Although Zhong Gui Yu and Meng Fan Gui did not speak loudly, many people overheard their conversation.

“Three moves?”

Duan Ling Tian began to pay attention to Zhong Gui Yu after listening to these words as well. He had only briefly glanced at the grey-clad young man with a pale face but bright eyes and bushy brows who had a confident air about him.

“Those who would say words like these are either blindly arrogant or truly powerful,” Tang San Pao, who was seated behind Duan Ling Tian, muttered to himself.

Most of the people present thought Zhong Gui Yu was being blindly confident.

“Perhaps, Zhong Gui Yu hasn’t heard of Meng Fan Gui’s terrifying strength?”

“Isn’t that obvious? If he knew Meng Fan Gui is comparable to a Four Star God of War, he wouldn’t have said those words...”

“Is he deaf? Didn’t he hear the discussions in his surroundings?”

“Nonsense! If he’s deaf, how could he have replied to Meng Fan Gui’s question?”

On the other hand, there was a small number of people who were not quick to make judgments.

Even most of the Heavenly Emperors who were disinterested instinctively turned to look at Zhong Gui Yu after they heard his words.

“What an interesting lad...”

...

Meanwhile, Meng Fan Gui frowned upon hearing Zhong Gui Yu’s reply. His expression turned solemn, and his confidence seemed to have dropped slightly. After all, his opponent seemed confident about defeating him with three moves. Even a top Four Star God of War was not capable of something like that. He began to wonder if Zhong Gui Yu had strength comparable to a Five Star God of War.

With all these thoughts in mind, Meng Fan Gui grew uneasy. However, he did not let it show on his face. Instead, he said, “I can’t wait to see how you’re going to defeat me with three moves, seeing as you’re so confident.”

After Meng Fan Gui finished speaking, his Celestial Origin Energy surged and shrouded him like a black fog. Then, it suddenly shot out like a meteor toward Zhong Gui Yu.

At the same time, Meng Fan Gui had vanished from sight.

“Meng Fan Gui has used his illusory technique!”

Even if the participants used their Divine Consciousness, they still could not locate Meng Fan Gui. As for Heavenly Emperors, they had a hard time locating with their naked eyes. Only those who had attained godhood could clearly see what was happening.

At this time, Meng Fan Gui crept up toward Zhong Gui Yu slowly.

On the other hand, Zhong Gui Yu remained calm and unmoving, obviously unafraid of the impending attack from Meng Fan Gui. After a while, he said, “Darkness will always be defeated by light.”

With that, his body burst forth with a blindingly white light.

Many of the participants with weaker cultivation bases felt a sharp pain in their eyes, causing their expressions to change drastically.

Chapter 3474: The Battle Between Light and Darkness

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The blinding white light that shot out of Zhong Gui Yu’s slightly thin body shrouded the entire place. As the light spread, the attack from the law of darkness seemed to slowly lose its effectiveness. When it reached him, only half of its force remained. All he did was casually wave the white light sword in his hand to dispel the attack.

“One move,” Zhong Gui Yu said indifferently.

At the same time, the scorching white light continued to intensify.

...

“It’s the law of light’s Territory Profundity!”

“No, it’s not just that. Not counting the Elementary Profundity, it’s fused with at least two other profundities.”

A few observant participants could tell Zhong Gui Yu’s attack using the Territory Profundity was extraordinary and that it had been fused with two other profundities from the law of light.

Meanwhile, under everyone’s watchful eyes, Meng Fan Gui’s figure began to appear in the blinding white light.

At this moment, Meng Fan Gui cried out, “Darkness Territory!”

With that, darkness seemed to descend on the battle ring.

Currently, the scorching light and the freezing darkness were battling in the battle ring. They kept pushing against each other, struggling for dominance.

“Two moves.” Zhong Gui Yu took a step forward before the white light brightened again. Subsequently, three pairs of wings sprouted on his back. The wings resembled those depicted on angels back on earth.

Zhong Gui Yu flapped his wings and rose up; he did not fly up and only hovered near the ground. He stared at Meng Fan Gui frostily as he raised his right hand and swung it down.

A crescent white saber suddenly appeared and slashed at Meng Fan Gui.

Meng Fan Gui was not intimidated. With a wave of his hand, a black wheel with a diameter of ten suddenly appeared, blocking the crescent white saber.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The power of light and darkness collided; darkness and light struggled in the battle ring continuously. It made for a rather impressive sight.

The two opponents’ figures could only be seen after the dust settled.

“This will end after the third move,” Zhong Gui Yu said again before he suddenly bent forward and curled up into a ball before his three pairs of wings wrapped around him. When he dropped to the ground, he shone with growing brightness.

At this time, the participants could sense the terrifying energy that was brewing in the battle ring.

‘No, I can’t allow this to go on!’ Meng Fan Gui’s expression changed drastically. His hair tie broke, causing his hair to flutter in the air amidst the black energy. They looked like venomous snakes.

At the same time, what looked like a cane appeared in Meng Fan Gui’s hand. To be precise, it was actually a staff; it was an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon with a soul.

Meng Fan Gui then muttered solemnly, “I call upon your names, my brethren in the dark. Fight for me!”

Following that, Meng Fan Gui muttered a series of unintelligible words. The only people who understood his words were those who had also comprehended the law of darkness.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Thunder clapped in the air above Meng Fan Gui's head before the sound of explosion rang in the air. Following that, a tear appeared in the space before it turned into an ancient stone gate. Numerous figures, big and small, could be seen emerging from the stone gate at this moment. They were all formed by some kind of dark energy and their eyes flashed red with bloodlust.

...

"It is the Summoning Profundity from the law of darkness!"

"After comprehending the Summoning Profundity from the law of darkness, one can summon powerful creatures from the dark side after chanting some ancient incantations. Those unintelligible words earlier must be ancient incantations, right?"

"I think so..."

...

At this time, Meng Fan Gui brandished the staff in his hand.

Soon enough, a blood-red figure appeared, cackling sinisterly.

...

"That's the Nether Blood, the soul of Meng Fan Gui's Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon!"

Many of the participants recognized Meng Fan Gui's weapon and its soul.

Zhang Tian You, who was seated behind Duan Ling Tian, solemnly said, "I heard the soul of Meng Fan Gui's Celestial Weapon is a blood spirit that was personally captured by Heavenly Emperor Gongsun Xuanyuan of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven in the Land of the Dead, which is also one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. It is called the Nether Blood. Apparently, the Patriarch of the Profound Dream Sect traded for the blood spirit to customize Meng Fan Gui's weapon. After all, Meng Fang Gui is the beloved great-grandson of the Patriarch of the Profound Dream Sect.

With Zhang Tian You's explanation, Duan Ling Tian and the others learned that the soul of Meng Fan Gui's Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon was a blood spirit that was captured by Gongsun Xuanyuan, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, in the Land of the Dead, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. There was no way it was an ordinary blood spirit.

"Apart from divine artifacts, there aren't any weapons that are a match for it. In fact, even divine artifacts without souls won't be a match for it..." Zhang Tian You said as he stared at the staff in Meng Fan Gui's hand intently.

Those who were aware of Meng Fan Gui's special weapon were also staring at it intently.

"What's he doing?"

At this moment, many participants were growing restless and uneasy as well as they continued to watch Meng Fan Gui who had cast the law of darkness' Summoning Profundity. They could tell he was casting something terrifying and elaborate as they watched the blood spirit appear before it turned into countless beams of light that shot into the bodies of the creatures he had summoned from the dark side. Following that, a faint red translucent shield appeared on the creatures' bodies. The bloodlust in the air grew palpable immediately.

The creatures growled and hissed along with the blood spirit's sinister cackling. All of them made their way toward Zhong Gui Yu who was still curled on the ground, covered by his wings.

...

"With this move, Meng Fan Gui can easily strike down a Four Star God of War. If Zhong Gui Yu can withstand this move, then there's no doubt he's at least as strong as a Five Star God of War!"

This was one of the rare instances where Tang San Pao looked solemn.

The audience who were usually noisy had fallen silent as well at this moment.

Everyone was staring at the scene before them with rapt attention.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The dark creatures attacked Zhong Gui Yu who was still curled up into a ball on the ground. Blows after blows landed on his wings. Nevertheless, they remained pristine.

As the blows continued to rain down, Zhong Gui Yu's indifferent voice suddenly rang out.

"Are you tickling me with these attacks?"

Upon hearing this, Meng Fan Gui's turned ashen immediately as he cried out, "Nether Blood, merge!"

The creatures suddenly stopped attacking. The transparent red shield that shrouded them seemed to pull all of them together. They began to merge until they resembled a humanoid creature the size of a hill with a terrifying aura.

"In terms of offensive strength, my Blood Spirit Amalgamation is equivalent to a triple Fused Profundity," Meng Fan Gui stared at Zhong Gui Yu who was still curled up into a ball on the ground and calmly said, "Now, are you going to continue hiding or come out to face my attack?"

"You think I'm hiding?" Zhong Gui Yu replied. His voice sounded different from before; it was slightly coarser now.

Subsequently, the three pairs of wings unfurled, revealing Zhong Gui Yu who was shrouded with a golden light. Coupled with the white light, he looked divine.

"Before light, darkness will fade."

As Zhong Gui Yu spoke, two beams of light shot out and merged into a gigantic humanoid figure dressed in white and golden armor. It wielded a huge hammer in its hand.

At the same time, a hammer had also appeared in Zhong Gui Yu's hand at some point. It looked exactly like the hammer in the giant figure's hand.

"Ignorant!" Meng Fan Gui's eyes flashed coldly as he said emotionlessly, "Nether Blood, tear him apart!"

The huge dark figure stomped over to Zhong Gui Yu with a long spear in its hand. The tip of the spear glowed red like blood. It looked as though it had been forged in hell and had reaped countless lives.

"Three moves," Zhong Gui Yu said.

The armored giant brandished its hammer, causing the air to freeze. Following that, the void shook as a deafening explosion reverberated in the air.

Chapter 3475: Who's Your Senior Sister?

Boom!

After the deafening explosion, the giant hammer began to flash with a blinding light not dissimilar to the blazing sun. The light chased away the darkness, destroying everything in its path. When it shone on the ferocious creatures charging toward Zhong Gui Yu that had been strengthened by the blood spirit, the creatures let out a terrified shriek.

Following that, a pillar of red light shot up into the sky. The Nether Blood abandoned the creatures that it had been using as vessels, returning to the Emperor Grade Celestial Staff in Meng Fan Gui's hand.

Meng Fan Gui was still in a daze when the Nether Blood's raspy voice rang in his ears, "Crush the jade token and leave now! Otherwise, even if you don't die, you'll be grievously injured."

Simultaneously, a dignified voice that brooked no argument rang in Meng Fan Gui's mind.

"Crush the jade token."

Meng Fan Gui was not surprised when he heard Nether Blood's warning and had felt slightly hesitant to do as it suggested. However, as soon as he heard the second voice, he did not hesitate and hurriedly crushed his jade token.

At the instant Meng Fan Gui vanished from the battle ring, the giant hammer smashed down on the spot where he had just been standing a moment ago, causing the ground to quake violently.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Countless beams of light ricocheted in the battle ring, crashing against the light barrier.

The light barrier trembled, and it did not take long before cracks began to form on it.

Upon seeing this, the expression of Meng Fan Gui, who had just left the battle ring, changed drastically. "He's so powerful!"

"I wouldn't have asked you to crush your jade token if you could withstand that attack..." the Nether Blood in the Emperor Grade Celestial Staff said in a trembling voice. Then, it said confidently, "If I wasn't

fast enough, I would've been cleansed by his light energy. He's definitely as strong as a Five Star God of War at least! If I wasn't weakened after becoming your weapon's soul, I wouldn't need to fear him!"

Nether Blood belonged to the Blood Spirit Clan in the Land of the Dead, which is one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. It was incredibly strong; its strength was comparable to a Six Star God of War. If it were someone else other than Gongsun Xuanyuan, the Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, it would not have been captured and brought out of the Land of Dead to become the soul of a Celestial Weapon.

'A Five Star God of War!' Meng Fan Gui did not doubt Nether Blood's words. Moreover, he knew Nether Blood's strength was comparable to a Six Star God of War before becoming his weapon's soul. According to his grandfather, they had to suppress Nether Blood's cultivation base since he was not powerful enough to make Nether Blood submit to him. As such, his grandfather had requested Gongsun Xuanyuan to suppress Nether Blood's strength to that of a Three Star God of War.

Similarly, the crowd was shocked by this display as well. They inhaled sharply when they looked at the light shield that was about to shatter in disbelief.

"He's definitely as powerful as a Five Star God of War at the very least!"

"Heavens! What's the Title Temple thinking? This is only the beginning, and yet, they've already arranged for those with strength comparable to Four and Five Star Gods of War to fight?!"

"I feel like I'm dreaming. Since when are those below the age of 1,000 with the strength of Four or Five Star Gods of War so common?"

"They arranged for a battle between those with strength comparable to Four and Five Star Gods of War... Are they trying to stir up a commotion on purpose?"

On the other hand, the Heavenly Emperors of the various Devata Realms were surprised as well.

The higher-ups from the Title Temple branches were surprised and at a loss as well. They knew Meng Fan Gui's strength, but they did not know Zhong Gui Yu was so strong. Otherwise, they would not have arranged for him to fight first.

Normally, this kind of battle between two strong participants only happened during the fifth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses where the participants fought for a place in the top 30. It was unexpected that during the first batch of battles in the fourth round there was already a battle between participants with strength comparable to Four Star and Five Star Gods of War.

"We had assumed Zhong Gui Yu had strength comparable to a Two Star God of War... Who knew he's as powerful as a Five Star God of War?"

"Where did Zhong Gui Yu come from?"

"No one knows... We only know that he came from the Boundless Heaven."

"Initially, I thought the Title Temple pitted Zhong Gui Yu against Meng Fan Gui because he comprehended the law of light that was the opposite of the law of darkness that Meng Fan Gui comprehended. No one thought he'd be able to defeat Meng Fan Gui; everyone thought he would only

be a stepping stone for Meng Fan Gui. Who knew he has strength comparable to a Five Star God of War and was actually able to defeat Meng Fan Gui with three moves?”

The battles in the fourth round were arranged by the Title Temple. When they assigned Zhong Gui Yu to fight Meng Fan Gui, no one expected Zhong Gui Yu to win. The end result shocked everyone present on the scene.

Even Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, was surprised. He only regained his senses when he saw the light barrier he erected around the battle ring was about to shatter.

Swoosh!

Xu Kong Hai raised his hand before a huge translucent palm fell from the sky, like a hand smacking down a mosquito, to dispel Zhong Gui Yu's energy that was wreaking havoc in the battle ring.

And so, Zhong Gui Yu obtained his first win by defeating Meng Fan Gui who was as strong as a Four Star God of War.

While the young geniuses whispered among themselves, they would look at the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven furtively.

“After today, I believe there'll only be a few people who don't know Zhong Gui Yu...”

“Zhong Gui Yu is from the Boundless Heaven, right?”

“I wonder if the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven knows him.”

The Heavenly Emperor of Boundless Heaven was the maternal grandfather of the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace, a heaven-grade force in the Boundless Heaven that Duan Ling Tian once joined. Moreover, the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace had been hostile toward Duan Ling Tian until he discovered Duan Ling Tian was the only true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. After that, he had abandoned all thought of harming Duan Ling Tian and became courteous toward Duan Ling Tian.

The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven smiled wryly when one of his peers asked him if he was familiar with Zhong Gui Yu. He said, “I don't know him. He came with the Boundless Heaven's Title Temple...”

The other party nodded. “Since you don't know him, it's likely he's a disciple of an expert living in seclusion in the Boundless Heaven.”

“Perhaps...” The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven thought it was likely as well. If Zhong Gui Yu was from one of the forces in the Boundless Heaven, it would be impossible for him to have not heard about Zhong Gui Yu at all. If he had met Zhong Gui Yu in the past, he would have fought to accept Zhong Gui Yu as a disciple. For Zhong Gui Yu, he was willing to set aside his pride as a Heavenly Emperor.

In fact, the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven had not completely dismissed the thought of accepting Zhong Gui Yi as a disciple. Eventually, he could no longer hold back and sent Zhong Gui Yu a message through Voice Transmission.

“Zhong Gui Yu, I’m the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven. I’d like to accept you as my disciple; do you agree?”

Without waiting for Zhong Gui Yu’s reply, he said through Voice Transmission again, “If you join me, there’s no need for you to hold back when you’re in the Boundless Heaven. You can do as you please, and no one will dare to offend you!”

In his opinion, Zhong Gui Yu must be flattered to receive such a message from a Heavenly Emperor.

Alas, contrary to his expectations, Zhong Gui Yu glanced at him indifferently before he said, “Put aside the fact that I already have a master, you’re not qualified to be my master...”

The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven, who did not expect such a reply, was so shocked that he had even forgotten to be angry. When he finally regained his senses, he said with a growl, “Brat, you’re really arrogant. Who’s your master? Do you really think he’s stronger than I am?”

Zhong Gui Yu still remained indifferent when faced with the angry Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven. “Why? Do you want to fight my master?”

“Well, we’ll have to see if he dares to accept my challenge...” the Heavenly Emperor of Boundless Heaven said with a low voice.

“Are you sure? If you are, I’ll ask my master to go to the Heavenly Palace of the Boundless Heaven when I return,” Zhong Gui Yu replied, clearly amused.

At this time, the Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven who had calmed down finally sensed something was amiss. He asked, “Who’s your master?”

“You won’t know him even if I tell you his name. All you need to know is that he’s stronger than Heavenly Emperors. He’s already attained godhood several centuries ago...”

‘A god? His master is a god living in the Boundless Heaven?’

The Heavenly Emperor of the Boundless Heaven was scared stiff and shocked upon hearing those words.

Zhong Gui Yu did not care about the reaction of the Heavenly Emperor of Boundless Heaven and flew back to his seat. When he flew past Duan Ling Tian, he said through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, my senior sister talked about you a lot, and she holds you in high regard. I hope you won’t disappoint me with your performance during the Battle of the Geniuses...”

“Hm?” Duan Ling Tian was surprised when he received Zhong Gui Yu’s Voice Transmission. He asked in confusion, “Who’s your senior sister?”

Zhong Gui Yu replied, “Xu Ya Si.”

Chapter 3476: Su Li’s Turn

“Xu Ya Si.”

Duan Ling Tian was surprised by Zhong Gui Yu’s reply. How could he have known that Zhong Gui Yu’s senior sister was also his Eldest Senior Sister when he was in the heaven-grade Heavenly Pool Palace in the Boundless Heaven?

Duan Ling Tian thought Zhong Gui Yu might be his Little Junior Brother so he asked, "Did Teacher take you in recently?"

After asking the question, Duan Ling Tian felt it was unlikely. After all, Zhong Gui Yu had shown strength that was not any weaker than Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor from the Heavenly Pool Palace.

"You misunderstood," Zhong Gui Yu said, "Although I'm Senior Sister Xu Ya Si's junior brother, my master isn't her father. We share another master..."

Duan Ling Tian knew Xu Ya Si was extraordinary even from before. In the past, even the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace, who was a Six Star God of War at that time, was wary of her strength. This meant that she had to be on par with a Six Star God of War as well at that time. Now that so much time had passed, there was no doubt she had grown even stronger.

'Third Senior Sister and Sixth Senior Brother had said that that Eldest Senior Sister left the Heavenly Pool Palace a long time ago... She was incredibly mysterious about whereabouts so none of them knew where she went...' When Duan Ling Tian recalled his seniors' words, it was not difficult for him to figure out that Xu Ya Si must have been accepted as a disciple by some expert. Her master was likely the reason for her tremendous improvement as well. At that time, his teacher, Xu Lang, had also been shocked by her strength. It was likely even Xu Lang was unaware that his daughter had a powerful master.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian asked curiously through Voice Transmission, "Who's your master?"

Zhong Gui Yu's reply was swift. "Our master lives in seclusion, hence, you won't know him even if I tell you his name. All you have to know is he's also a god..."

'A god?' Although Duan Ling Tian knew that someone who had outstanding disciples like Xu Ya Si and Zhong Gui Yu had to be extraordinary, he was still slightly surprised when he heard Zhong Gui Yu's words. As it turned out, his Eldest Senior Sister's master was a god.

"Duan Ling Tian, apart from the Exploding Element Celestial Fruit that the Title Temple put up as a reward, I joined the Battle of the Geniuses because of you as well..." Zhong Gui Yu bluntly said, "I am going to defeat you in the Devata Realms Battle of Geniuses so that our senior sister knows that I'm the strongest among her junior brothers. She'll know that you, whom she often praised, aren't a match for me as well!"

Based on Zhong Gui Yu's words, it was obvious that Xu Ya Si's opinion was important to him.

Duan Ling Tian was rather surprised when Zhong Gui Yu said that Xu Ya Si had praised him and thought highly of him. After all, he had only met her twice, and both times, she had remained aloof. Therefore, it was unexpected that she would praise him. He mused inwardly, 'It seems like Eldest Senior Sister is only cold on the outside; she's actually warm on the inside...'

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded in response to Zhong Gui Yu's challenge. He was not the slightest bit worried even though Zhong Gui Yu's strength was that of a Five Star God of War at least.

...

After Zhong Gui Yu and Meng Fan Gui's battle, the other battles seemed dull in comparison. Although there were battles where participants possessed the strength of a Three Star God of War, they could not compare to Meng Fan Gui and Zhong Gui Yu who possessed the strength of a Four Star and a Five Star God of War respectively.

Most people only watched the battles briefly before they continued chatting among themselves. The crowd only began to pay attention again when it was finally Su Li's turn to fight.

Although Su Li was said to have strength only comparable to a Two Star God of War, his age made him remarkable. He, along with Duan Ling Tian, was only a little over 600 years old, making him one of the two youngest participants in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. For this reason, everyone paid attention to him. After all, young geniuses at such an age were rare even in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

"I didn't expect to be the first among us to fight," Su Li said with a smile as he straightened his robes before flying toward the battle ring with a sword ray under his feet.

Due to Su Li's fame, most people had overlooked his opponent. They only began to notice his opponent when he entered the battle ring. Based on their words, it seemed like his opponent was rather famous as well.

"Su Li's opponent is Tuoba Ping!"

"Tuoba Ping is the strongest among the younger generation in the heaven-grade Tuoba Clan in the Eternal Journey Heaven. About two decades ago, he was already as strong as a Three Star God of War. I'm sure he's only grown more powerful since then..."

"I think Tuoba Ping is one of the stronger ones among those with the strength of a Three Star God of War..."

"I didn't expect Su Li would have to fight Tuoba Ping in his first fight. Wasn't the Title Temple afraid that the people would protest when they arranged this battle? After all, I'm sure they know about Tuoba Ping's strength..."

"It seems like the Title Temple doesn't want Su Li to win!"

"It's really unfair. Su Li's only a little over 600 years old, but they arranged for him to fight Tuoba Ping..."

"Su Li is merely a little more than 600 years old and they had arranged for him to fight Tuoba Ping. It is so unfair!"

Although Su Li was indifferent to it, some of the young geniuses could not help but feel indignant on Su Li's behalf because they thought the Title Temple was being unfair to Su Li.

...

In one of the battle rings.

Tuoba Ping was a tall and handsome young man with a well-built body. He was dressed in a sky-blue robe with silver trimmings. As soon as Su Li entered the battle ring, he said with a faint smile, "Su Li. The only advantage I have is my age. If it weren't for that, I don't think I'd feel confident about defeating you today. After all, when I was your age, I wasn't even as strong as a titled Celestial Emperor..."

"Defeat me?" Su Li smiled faintly. "It's not as easy as you think to defeat me."

"Is that so?" Tuoba Ping's eyes lit up immediately. "It seems like you're very confident about your strength. In that case, let's have a good and fair fight! Bring it on!"

Su Li nodded before he flew into the air. The sword ray beneath his feet began to solidify while his robe fluttered in the wind. He looked like an ethereal Sword Celestial at this moment.

Tuoba Ping's robes fluttered in the air as well as his body began to shine with an intense golden light. It did not take long before the golden light seemed to solidify and settle on top of his skin like armor. This was the Metal Profundity from the law of metal.

"Since both of us use swords, let's cross swords today..." Although Su Li had yet to bring out his Celestial Weapon, it was not difficult for Tuoba Ping to figure out Su Li was a sword user as well.

Tuoba Ping waved his hand before a glowing emerald sword appeared out of thin air. With just a glance, one could tell it was extraordinary.

...

"Three Star God of War..." Duan Ling Tian, who was seated among the audience, watched from afar with narrowed eyes. "Tuoba Ping is indeed a good opponent for Su Li."

Although Duan Ling Tian had not seen Su Li unleash all his strength yet, he knew that Su Li had yet to gain the strength of a Four Star God of War. He knew this because Su Li had said he was not confident he would be able to place in the top 30. If Su Li already possessed the strength of a Four Star God of War, he would not have been worried about not being able to make it into the top 30. After all, most of those with the strength of a Four Star God of War should be able to easily enter the top 30, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts, the sound of swords whistling in the air pulled him back to his senses.

He shifted his gaze back to the battle ring and saw Su Li and Tuoba Ping's figures flashing around as golden sword rays shot toward Su Li from all directions. Only those with higher cultivation bases were able to capture the two participants' movements at this moment.

As the sword rays continued to fall, Su Li was left with less and less place to retreat. It was obvious Tuoba Ping wanted to corner Su Li.

Suddenly...

Swoosh!

Su Li made a move as a thunderous sword cry rang in the air, overpowering the sounds from the countless sword rays. He seemed to have transformed into a giant sword at this moment. The giant sword slashed out, looking as though it could destroy everything in its path.

Chapter 3477: The Tables Have Turned

Similar to the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Feng Qing Yang, Su Li specialized in the law of destruction. For this reason, Feng Qing Yang had invited Su Li to stay with him for a time to guide him.

It was impossible for Feng Qing Yang to teach Su Li as he would Duan Ling Tian; the most he could do was help Su Li gain a better understanding of the law of destruction.

However, although Feng Qing had openly shared his knowledge of the law of destruction with Su Li and answered many of the questions that had been bothering Su Li, due to law of destruction's difficulty, Su Li needed more time to apply what Feng Qing Yang had taught him. Hence, Su Li did not improve much since Feng Qing Yang last saw him because he had yet to fully grasp Feng Qing Yang's words.

Swoosh!

Despite not having improved much, Su Li was already rather strong. His Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the law of destruction shrouded him before he transformed into a blood-red sword.

The blood-red sword soared into the sky, breaking through Tuoba Ping's sword rays that were raining down on him.

Su Li did not waste time and retaliated immediately after breaking through Tuoba Ping's first round of attacks.

Duan Ling Tian who was sitting among the audience nodded slightly. His eyes were narrowed as he murmured to himself, "Su Li isn't in a disadvantageous position at all..."

After Su Li and Tuoba Ping traded a few rounds of blows, Su Li began to gain the upper hand.

Upon seeing this, a rare smile bloomed on Duan Ling Tian's face. "It seems likely that Su Li will win this match."

...

Back in the battle ring.

The duo, who both displayed the strength of a Three Star God of War, seemed to be evenly matched as they continued to exchange blows. The blood-red sword and the golden sword rays clashed continuously.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sword cries did not cease at all.

The crowd was thrilled by the duel between two Sword Celestials.

"Tuoba Ping really lives up to his reputation!"

“I didn’t expect Tuoba Ping to possess the strength of a Three Star God of War!”

Many people were shocked by Tuoba Ping’s strength. Previously, most of them thought that his strength would be mediocre. However, this battle proved them wrong.

Nevertheless, as much as they were surprised by Tuoba Ping, they were even more surprised by Su Li.

“Heavens! Is Su Li really only a little over 600 years old?”

“He’s already so strong at such a young age... If he continues to progress, can you imagine how heavenly-defying he will be when he reaches 1,000 years old? At that time, he’ll probably be comparable to a Five or Six Star God of War!”

“I wouldn’t have believed this if I didn’t witness it with my own eyes! To think someone who’s just a little over 600 years old is so strong!”

“Based on the strength he displayed so far, he’s comparable to Duan Ling Tian, the only true disciple of legendary Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang. In fact, Duan Ling shares the same age as Su Li, and they’re both friends as well!”

“My childhood friend is from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and is doing quite well... Before the start of the Battle of the Geniuses, he mentioned Su Li and Duan Ling Tian. According to him, Su Li and Duan Ling Tian came from the same mundane realm and have been best friends for many years. They’re both prodigies of the same generation.”

“Su Li and Duan Ling Tian are from the mundane realm? Since when did ascenders have such heaven-defying talent?”

While the crowd was discussing Su Li, the topic gradually shifted to include Duan Ling Tian as well. Many people were shocked that the duo come from the same mundane realm and were even more shocked to find out the duo were ascenders.

After all, it was rare for ascenders to be so talented. Even natives of the Devata Realms could not compare to the duo. Most of them felt like they had lived in vain after learning about this.

There were also some who found out Duan Ling Tian was an ascender earlier when Feng Qing Yang destroyed the clone of Situ Zhugqing, the Heavenly Emperor of the River Luo Heaven.

“Duan Ling Tian came from the same mundane realm as Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, right? This means Su Li also came from the same mundane realm as Feng Qing Yang!”

“There were many heaven-defying talents from the Yan Huang Realms and several other realms. However, I’ve never heard of so many talents from the same era in a mundane realm!”

Due to this discussion, many people became curious about the mundane realm that Duan Ling Tian, Feng Qing Yang, and Su Li hailed from.

With this, Duan Ling Tian could feel the crowd’s eyes on him as well.

At this time, Tang San Pao, who was sitting behind Duan Ling Tian, suddenly said with a smile, “Su Li has a high chance of winning this match!”

“That’s only if Tuoba Ping has used all the tricks up his sleeve and isn’t hiding his strength,” Zhang Tian You said, “I don’t know if it’s true, but I heard his Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon has an artifact soul. It was a present from the Clan Leader of the Tuoba Clan for his 900th birthday.”

“An artifact soul?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes narrowed. He naturally knew the difference between Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons with artifact souls spirits and those without artifact souls.

Duan Ling Tian was about to send a message to warn Su Li when...

Hahaha!

Tuoba Ping, who had been pressured by Su Li up until now, suddenly laughed heartily. “Amazing! This is great! Su Li, you really impressed me! I admit I’m slightly weaker than you. However, this battle isn’t just about strength. Celestial Weapons play an important role as well...”

As soon as Tuoba Ping finished speaking, a green light surged out of his sword before an unknown evil-looking beast appeared.

“It’s a sword’s spirit!”

“Another Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon that has an artifact soul!”

As soon as the unknown beast appeared, the sword’s aura changed completely, becoming stronger and more domineering.

Swoosh!

Tuoba Ping pointed his sword at Su Li. A green sword ray appeared suddenly; it was shrouded by his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the law of metal.

In just an instant, Su Li who had the upper hand fell into a disadvantageous position due to Tuoba Ping’s Celestial Weapon.

“What a powerful Celestial Weapon!” Su Li’s expression was grim as he looked at Tuoba Ping’s sword. He smiled bitterly, inwardly regretting refusing the kind gesture from the Sect Leader of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect.

Before Su Li left for the Devata Realms’ Battle of the Geniuses, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect intended to lend him their Sect Guarding Sword that contained a powerful sword spirit. It was an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon passed down from the time when the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect was at its peak.

Rumor had it that Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon had killed many Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons’ artifact souls in the past. It was like the bane of all artifact souls.

...

Meanwhile, the young geniuses shook their heads as they watched Su Li fall into a disadvantageous position.

“I was so sure that Su Li would win. Who knew I thought Tuoba Ping’s Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon has an artifact soul? An Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon without an artifact soul isn’t a match for it.”

Even Duan Ling Tian was slightly frowning as well. Unless Su Li used the divine artifact he had found in the remnant of a Realm of Gods, it was impossible for him to defeat Tuoba Ping. Naturally, Duan Ling Tian would not bring the divine artifact out. After all, exposing the divine artifact would undoubtedly attract trouble. There were many who coveted divine artifacts after all.

Even if no one was bold enough to attack Su Li for his divine artifact in the Heavenly Palace of the Primeval Heaven, he would definitely be ambushed during his journey back to the Jade Emperor Heaven.

Even if Feng Qing Yang declared he would protect Su Li, it would not stop people from risking their lives to obtain a divine artifact. After all, unless Feng Qing Yang could be with Su Li all the time, it was impossible to stop people from attempting to snatch the divine artifact from Su Li.

Although Duan Ling Tian knew Su Li was not rash, he could not help but remind Su Li through Voice Transmission, “Don’t use your divine artifact even if it means you have to surrender...”

He was slightly worried Su Li would use the divine artifact out of desperation despite knowing better.

Su Li was so focused on his battle with Tuoba Ping that he did not even respond to Duan Ling Tian.

Hence, Duan Ling Tian stopped sending Voice Transmissions to Su Li. Moreover, he knew Su Li had heard his message.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Tuoba Ping looked like a god wielding a sword as his body shone with a dazzling golden light.

The green sword ray shone with a tinge of gold suddenly increased in size before it shot toward Su Li. In front of the gigantic sword, he looked extra small.

As the sword ray shot out, the ground trembled in its wake. Even the barrier around the battle ring trembled slightly.

“Su Li, surrender now,” Tuoba Ping said indifferently.

Su Li stood his ground. His eyes were fixed on the greenish-gold sword ray as though he was in a trance.

In just a blink of an eye, the sword ray was already halfway away from Su Li. However, it did not seem like Su Li had the intention of dodging the attack at all.

Upon seeing this, even Tuoba Ping frowned slightly. He had no intentions of killing Su Li, after all. However, there was nothing he could do if Su Li refused to surrender or crush his jade token.

Chapter 3478: A Sudden Breakthrough

“Su Li!” Duan Ling Tian’s expression changed drastically as Su Li remained frozen on the spot as though he was in a trance.

Duan Ling Tian rose to his feet instinctively, wanting to pull Su Li out of harm’s way.

At the same time, the others thought Su Li must have lost his mind. How could he be in a daze during such a critical moment? Some of them even wondered if Tuoba Ping had cast an illusory technique.

Tuoba Ping naturally knew Su Li's odd behavior had nothing to do with him. After all, he was not skilled in illusory techniques.

"Su Li!!" Tuoba Ping frowned as he watched Su Li about to die under his sword attack. At the same time, he decided to withdraw his attack. Although he could not completely withdraw the force of his attack and the force would likely gravely injure Su Li, at least Su Li would not die.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to step in and intervene during the crucial moment, Feng Qing Yang's voice rang in his ears. "Don't disturb him!"

Upon hearing his master's words, Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned to look at Su Li. Previously, he was too anxious to notice the destructive energy raging around Su Li's body. It was as if cold water had slowly come to a boil.

At this moment.

"I understand now," Su Li murmured as his eyes suddenly brightened. The blood-red energy around him flashed as a terrifying destructive energy swept out in his surroundings, causing the barrier around the battle ring to tremble.

Tuoba Ping's expression changed drastically when he sensed something was amiss. He could tell Su Li was like a different person now; Su Li had clearly become much stronger than before. He could not help but shudder inwardly when he sensed Su Li's energy.

'Did he have a breakthrough and possess the strength of a Four Star God of War now?' This thought suddenly appeared in Tuoba Ping's mind. The difference between a Three Star God of War and a Four Star God of War was like heaven and earth where the latter could easily defeat the former.

'I hope I'm wrong about it...' Tuoba Ping thought to himself as he mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy to attack Su Li with all his might. As soon as sensed Su Li's change, his intention to withdraw his attack vanished as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The golden-green light from the huge sword shone even more dazzling than before, illuminating the battle ring. It seemed as though it would be too late for Su Li to escape now even if he had broken through and now possessed the strength of a Four Star God of War.

"You're just in time." Su Li casually tossed his Celestial Sword.

A blood-red sword ray appeared immediately and increased in size at an alarming rate before it shot toward the giant sword with a terrifying destructive force.

The void rippled and twisted in its wake as though it was about to tear.

...

The young geniuses could sense the terrifying energy from Su Li's attack as well, and they were confused and shocked.

"How did he suddenly grow so strong? Was he holding back his strength earlier?"

"It feels like he has fused another two profundities with his attack... That's probably why his strength has increased tremendously..."

"Heavens! His attack seems to be on par with the attack from Tuoba Ping's Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon that has an artifact soul!"

...

Similarly, the Heavenly Emperors of various Devata Realms and higher-ups from the Title Temple branches were surprised as well. Their eyes were filled with admiration as they looked at Su Li.

Unlike most of the young geniuses, they could clearly feel that Su Li was not a match for Tuoba Ping. Therefore, they knew he was not holding back his strength earlier when his destructive energy suddenly grew stronger.

"Su Li's comprehension skills are terrifying. When faced with a life-or-death situation, he actually managed to gain a deeper understanding of the law of destruction, resulting in a breakthrough!" one of the Heavenly Emperors said.

and achieved a breakthrough!" one of the Heavenly Emperors exclaimed.

"I heard that Su Li is from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect in the Jade Emperor Heaven. Who knew that such a monstrous talent would appear after that genius... I wonder if the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven can handle him," another Heavenly Emperor said with a sigh as he glanced at Yu Hao Tian, the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven.

In the past, the heaven-grade Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect had a genius who was strong enough to challenge Yu Hao Tian. It was unfortunate he was eventually defeated and perished.

That incident seemed to be the start of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect's downfall. Rumor had it that the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven had intentionally pressured the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect. Therefore, the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect left the Jade Emperor Territory and moved to the Nan Dou Territory where they thrived.

At this moment, the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven, Yu Hao Tian, was sitting with Heavenly Emperor of the Pavilion Shaft Heaven, Gongsun Xuanyuan.

"He's a disciple of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect?" Gongsun Xuanyuan asked.

Yu Hao Tian nodded. "He's considered one of a kind in the history of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect... How unexpected. After being on the decline for so many years, the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect managed to produce such a great talent."

“Do you feel the pressure?” Gongsun Xuanyuan asked with a smile on his face, “That genius from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect had caused quite some damage to you in the past... Although you killed him eventually, it still took you a few hundred years to fully heal from the injuries he dealt you.”

Nobody knew about the matter as clearly as Gongsun Xuanyuan did.

The genius Sword Celestial from the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect was evenly matched with Yu Hao Tian during their earth-shattering battle. In the end, Yu Hao Tian managed to defeat him and kill him by a slight margin. In fact, Yu Hao Tian did not intend to kill him, but at that critical moment, things were out of his control. If Yu Hao Tian did not gain a slight edge at that time, he would have been the one who died.

Due to severe injuries, Yu Hao Tian went into closed-door cultivation for a few hundred years to recover. During the time he was away, his nephew, Yang Jian; Three-eye Celestial Emperor, had used his name and ordered the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Palace of the Jade Emperor Heaven to attack the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, forcing the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect to flee the Jade Emperor Territory and move to the Nan Dou Territory.

Since Yang Jian had acted under Yu Hao Tian’s name, Yang Jian did not dare to go overboard. Nevertheless, he was still punished by Yu Hao Tian when Yu Hao Tian emerged from closed-door cultivation.

At that time, Yu Hao Tian had planned to invite the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect back to the Jade Emperor Territory since he treated that genius as his confidant. However, when he went to the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and discovered they seemed to be thriving even more after leaving the Jade Emperor Territory, he decided it was best to leave them alone and left without a word.

Although rumors were rife about him suppressing the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect, he did not bother to explain himself.

“Finally, there seems to be hope for them.” Yu Hao Tian nodded. “The fraternal twins from the Gan Jiang Progeny and Mo Xie Progeny of the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect might be able to hold their own against me if they manage to grow stronger before I attain godhood. However, they won’t be able to pressure me much. Su Li, on the other hand, is a different story. He reminds me of that person... Perhaps, it’s only a matter of time before he catches up to me.”

Based on his words, Yu Hao Tian clearly thought highly of Su Li.

“I’m afraid he’ll try to avenge the Thousand Tribulations Sword Sect and dethrone you,” Gongsun Xuanyuan said with a smile.

“I have nothing to say if he’s really capable of that...” Yu Hao Tian said sincerely with a smile on his face.

...

On the other side.

“His comprehension skills aren’t bad...” Feng Qing Yang smiled when he saw Su Li’s law destruction had risen another level after his breakthrough. He was the first to notice earlier when Su Li suddenly fell into

a trance; he was also the first to figure out that Su Li must have had an epiphany and was on the cusp of a breakthrough. Therefore, he had stopped Duan Ling Tian from intervening.

Based on Su Li's performance, he could tell that Su Li had taken his advice to heart. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for Su Li to successfully fuse two profundities from the law of destruction at such a crucial moment. Moreover, the fusing method Su Li had used was the method he taught Su Li. It had to be said although he imparted his knowledge to Su Li, it all depended on Su Li to grasp his words and achieve a breakthrough.

'This breakthrough will grant him the strength of a Four Star God of War... With his current strength, he should be able to make it into the top 30 with ease,' Feng Qing Yang thought to himself.

...

Most of the young geniuses were unaware that Su Li had a breakthrough and assumed he was hiding his strength earlier.

However, there were a few astute young geniuses who knew Su Li had a breakthrough. With this knowledge, they knew Su Li would defeat Tuoba Ping.

At the same time, a smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face again as he watched the blood-red sword collide with the golden-green sword. 'He's successfully broken through!'

Chapter 3479: The Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven's True Disciple

Su Li stood unmoving, and his back was straight like a spear. At this time, the terrifying blood-red sword ray was colliding with Tuoba Ping's domineering golden-green sword attack.

The two swords clashed with each other, appearing to be evenly matched. However, in the blink of an eye, the blood-red sword ray that was glowing like the sunset suddenly expanded. Its light was so bright that the golden-green sword seemed to be shrinking back in fear.

"Argh!"

A strange and miserable screech rang from the middle of the battle ring, causing chills to run up people's spines.

"That's the voice of Tuoba Ping's sword spirit!"

Just as these words fell, the golden-green sword vanished.

Similarly, Tuoba Ping had disappeared as well and reappeared outside of the battle ring.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The barrier shook violently as the blood-red sword ray struck it, looking as though it was going to shatter at any moment. Nevertheless, in the end, it managed to withstand the attack.

Upon seeing this, realization dawned upon Duan Ling Tian. "It seems like the attack of a Four Star God of War is the limit the barrier is able to withstand..."

'Su Li will be able to make it into the top 30...' Duan Ling Tian was overjoyed when Su Li won the match.

After Su Li's breakthrough, he now possessed strength comparable to a Four Star God of War. Apart from the Heavenly Emperors and high-ranking officials of the Title Temple branches, many astute young geniuses could tell Su Li had a breakthrough. Even those who were unaware earlier could guess what had happened by now.

"He's only slightly over 600 years old but possesses the strength of a Four Star God of War. It seems like he's even more talented than Duan Ling Tian."

"That's right... Duan Ling Tian's strength is only that of a Three Star God of War."

Although Duan Ling Tian had won previously, his opponent was only a Two Star God of War. Therefore, most of the people could only confirm he was stronger than a Three Star God of War.

It was not surprising people thought Su Li was stronger than Duan Ling Tian after watching Su Li's match.

Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian did not care about other people's opinions of him.

"Su Li, did you hide your strength earlier or did you have a breakthrough mid-battle?" Tuoba Ping, who had crushed his jade token and left the battlefield earlier, asked with a bitter smile.

The few young geniuses who were still unaware of Su Li's breakthrough were taken aback and began to discuss among themselves.

"What is Tuoba Ping saying? Did he think Su Li had a sudden breakthrough earlier?"

"Isn't that terrifying? Can you imagine how good his comprehension skill must be to have a sudden breakthrough?"

"That's right... He's really heaven-defying!"

Meanwhile, Su Li replied to Tuoba Ping, "Speaking of which, I have you to thank for it... I wouldn't have been able to break through so quickly if it weren't for the pressure from your sword attack..."

This confirmation caused an uproar again among the young geniuses even if most of them had already guessed it.

...

When Su Li returned to his seat, Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile, "Su Li, you must be confident about making it into the top 30, right?"

Su Li grinned. "Senior Feng Qing Yang's efforts to teach me would've been in vain if I still couldn't enter the top 30 in the Battle of the Geniuses."

"Hm?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up upon hearing Su Li's words. "Your breakthrough has something to do with my master?"

Su Li nodded. His lips curled up into a smile as he said, "I wouldn't have had a sudden breakthrough if Senior Feng Qing Yang didn't guide me previously... Of course, the pressure from Tuoba Ping's attack played an important role as well." Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Duan Ling Tian, my current strength should be comparable to yours... right?"

Duan Ling Tian's current strength was still a mystery to Su Li. Before his breakthrough, he did not ask Duan Ling Tian this question since he knew he had to be weaker than Duan Ling Tian. However, after his breakthrough due to the law of destruction and gaining the strength of a Four Star God of War, he had become much more confident.

Duan Ling Tian smiled mysteriously and said, "You'll know once we battle each other..."

"I'll be waiting then." Su Li nodded. Hints of fighting spirit burned in his eyes at this time.

At this moment, Tang San Pao gave Su Li a thumbs-up as he said, "Su Li, you're amazing! You even broke through in the midst of a battle! It shouldn't be a problem for you to enter the top 30 now that you possess the strength of a Four Star God of War!"

Su Li looked at Tang San Pao and nodded politely. "I'm sure you'll enter the top 30 as well. In fact, It's likely that four people in our group will make it into the top 30..."

"Top 30?" Tang San Pao was briefly stunned by Su Li's words. When he regained his senses, he shook his head and said, "Su Li, my goal isn't to rank in the top 30. My goal is to rank in the top 3 in the Battle of the Geniuses!"

"Top 3?"

Not only Su Li, but Duan Ling Tian and the others were surprised by Tang San Pao's reply as well. They did not expect him to be so ambitious.

"Brother San Pao." At this moment, Zhang Tian You reached out and patted Tang San Pao's shoulder before he shook his head and said with a smile on his face, "It's good to be ambitious, but it's important to be realistic as well. In my opinion, you should aim to enter the top 100. As the saying goes, 'The higher the expectations, the greater the disappointment'."

Although Zhang Tian You did not know much about Tang San Pao, he did not think Tang San Pao was too strong, based on Tang San Pao's behavior. Those who were strong were usually cold and aloof. They discovered Tang San Pao was a chatterbox after they had gotten familiar with him. For this reason, he did not think Tang San Pao would be as strong as Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, or Ling Jue Yun.

"You don't believe me?" Tang San Pao glanced at Zhang Tian You. "Alright. Just wait and see. If the Title Temple arranges for me to fight someone comparable to a Four Star God of War, I'll definitely defeat him!"

As it happened, a few battles after Su Li's battle, Tang San Pao was the second person in Duan Ling Tian's group who was called out to enter the battle ring. His opponent was called Yu Lan Sheng.

"Yu Lan Sheng..." Something stirred in Duan Ling Tian's mind when he saw Yu Lan Sheng's name appear. This name had left an impression on him when he looked through the list of the top 300 participants.

"Heavens! It's Yu Lan Sheng!" Zhang Tian You, who was sitting next to Tang San Pao, sprung up to his feet and instinctively looked at Tang San Pao with a hint of disbelief. "Brother San Pao, your wish has come true! I'm amazed! Brother San Pao, do you know some techniques to see the future? Shouldn't you specialize in the law of time?"

Contrary to what Zhang Tian You said, Tang San Pao did not comprehend the law of time.

“It’s Yu Lan Sheng!” Tang San Pao’s eyes burned brightly as he rose to his feet. “It seems like the Title Temple knows me to have arranged for me to battle Yu Lan Sheng, someone who’s as strong as a Four Star God of War, in the early bouts of the fourth round. Moreover, he’s also the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven!”

With these words, Duan Ling Tian finally remembered why Yu Lan Sheng’s name left an impression on him; Yu Lan Sheng was suspected to be stronger than a Four Star God of War.

“The Jade Emperor’s true disciple?” Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze to the handsome young man who had just flown out from the left corner of the spectators’ seats.

The handsome young man was tall and well-built. His long hair rested on the back of his turquoise robe. His thick eyebrows perfectly framed his big and bright eyes, and he seemed to have a smile permanently etched on his face.

At the same time, the other young geniuses were discussing among themselves.

“It’s Yu Lan Sheng!”

“Heavens! Another participant who’s suspected to be stronger than a Four Star God of War has entered the battle ring. A decade ago, Yu Lan Sheng was already said to be comparable to a Four Star God of War...”

“Who’s Tang San Pao? How unlucky that he’s chosen to fight Yu Lan Sheng!”

“I’ve never heard of Tang San Pao... Could he be like Zhong Gui Yu as well? Maybe this battle isn’t a big deal to him?”

“You’re overthinking... Do you think there are so many people like Zhong Gui Yu?”

Amid the pessimistic voices, Tang San Pao smiled and said to Duan Ling Tian and the others, “Watch closely. It’ll be over in a blink of an eye. Make sure you don’t miss it.”

Following that, Tang San Pao flew into the battle ring.

Chapter 3480: Another Five Star God of War

‘This Tang San Pao...’ When Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze back to Tang San Pao, he discovered the always present smile on Tang San Pao’s face had been replaced by an indifferent expression. Tang San Pao, who looked cold and aloof now, was like a completely different person.

“Brother Tang San Pao has great acting skills... He looks more like an extraordinary genius now,” Zhang Tian You said with a smile. Clearly, he thought Tang San Pao was only putting on an act.

In fact, the majority of the people present did not think a nobody like Tang San Pao was strong. All of them were certain he would be easily defeated by Yu Lan Sheng, the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven.

The crowd was not surprised when Yu Lan Sheng attacked with the strength of a top Four Star God of War. However, they were shocked when they saw Tang San Pao deflect Yu Lan Sheng's attack and retaliated.

A wave of terrifying energy surged out and shrouded Yu Lan Sheng immediately. Despite how hard Yu Lan Sheng struggled and used his Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon, which contained an artifact soul, he could not break out of Tang San Pao's restraint.

When Tang San Pao exerted more strength to further restrain Yu Lan Sheng, Yu Lan Sheng crushed his jade token.

Just like that, Tang San Pao defeated Yu Lan Sheng with two moves.

At this moment, it was as silent as a graveyard in the venue of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

Tang San Pao broke the silence first. "Too bad. It seems like this is the extent of the strength of the true disciple of the Heavenly Emperor of the Jade Emperor Heaven. It's like that the only people whom I need to fight using my full strength are Duan Ling Tian and Yu Dong Fang, the true disciples of the Heavenly Emperors of the Solitary Destructive Heaven and the Pavilion Shaft Heaven respectively."

After Tang San Pao finished speaking, he moved to return to his seat.

Before Tang San Pao left, Yu Lan Sheng asked with an unsightly expression on his face, "Who are you?"

Yu Lan Sheng had tried his best earlier, but Tang San Pao was so much stronger than he was defeated in just an instant.

"I'm Tang San Pao; I'm just a nobody," Tang San Pao said as he turned to look at Yu Lan Sheng indifferently. However, as soon as he returned to his seat, his indifference vanished immediately. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and the others with a triumphant smile on his face and asked, "What do you think? Did you look closely like I told you to earlier?"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, Zhang Tian You, Wang Ting, He Jian Yi, and even Ling Jue Yun were looking at Tang San Pao in shock and disbelief. It was as though they were meeting Tang San Pao for the first time.

"Who are you? Why did you approach me? What purpose?" Duan Ling Tian asked solemnly as he raised an eyebrow. He was undeniably shocked by Tang San Pao's strength. Similar to Zhang Tian You, he did not think Tang San Pao was very strong based on Tang San Pao's behavior. However, after witnessing Tang San Pao's battle, he realized Tang San Pao was no weaker than a Five Star God of War.

In the past few Devata Realms' Battles of the Geniuses, the highest number of participants comparable to a Five Star Gods was only nine. Since then, the number had been on a decline; there were not many young geniuses below the age of 1,000 who possessed the strength of a Five Star God of War recently. It was not an easy feat after all to possess such strength at such a young age.

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian could not help but be wary of Tang San Pao who had been friendly toward him since the beginning. He wondered if Tang San Pao had ulterior motives for approaching him.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Su Li furrowed his brows whereas Zhang Tian You and the others looked at Tang San Pao fearfully. Was it true that Tang San Pao harbored ulterior motives?

Tang San Pao said, slightly confused, "What purpose would I have? I only approach you so I can get to know you. I want to defeat you during the Battle of the Geniuses so I can brag to that old man!"

"That old man?" Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows.

"He's my master!" Tang San Pao said with a smile, "Your master suffered a beating from that old man in the past... However, after your master returned from the Asura Hell, that old man went to challenge your master and was beaten to a pulp by your master's clone, which was not even from the main law that your master comprehended. I've been by the old man's side for so many years, but it was my first time seeing him suffer a defeat so miserably! For that reason, my goal, participating in the Battle of the Geniuses, is to defeat you so I can brag to the old man that I defeated the true disciple of the person who beat him up!"

Following that, Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Feng Qing Yang to verify Tang San Pao's words.

"That's his disciple?" Feng Qing Yang was quite surprised as he received Duan Ling Tian's message.

"Don't worry, he's not lying. Earlier, when he attacked, I'd thought Tang San Pao's movements are similar to that person. I didn't expect him to be that person's disciple."

"Master, before you entered the Asura Hell, his master defeated you? Elder Huo told me that before you entered the Asura Hell, you were already an Eight Star God of War," Duan Ling Tian asked in shock.

"His master is an expert who lives in seclusion. He's a Nine Star God of War who's about to attain godhood," Feng Qing Yang said.

With this, Duan Ling Tian finally understood why his master was defeated previously. It was easy for a Nine Star God of War to defeat an Eight Star God of War after all. However, after Feng Qing Yang attained godhood, it was only natural that those who had yet to attain godhood, like Tang San Pao's master, were no match for Feng Qing Yang.

"It won't be easy for you to defeat me." Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly as he looked at Tang San Pao. He felt relieved after Feng Qing Yang confirmed Tang San Pao truly did not have any ill-intentions; Tang San Pao only wanted to defeat him so he could brag to his master.

"It seems like you're at least a Five Star God of War." Tang San Pao's eyes lit up. "I've already suspected this before, but now that you confirmed it, I really can't wait to battle with you!"

Without waiting for Duan Ling Tian's reply, Tang San Pao turned around eagerly to look at Xu Kong Hai, the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, and shouted, "Vice Temple Master Xu, can you assign Duan Ling Tian to me for my next match? I can't wait to battle him!"

Xu Kong Hai was slightly taken aback by Tang San Pao. In the end, he only glanced at Tang San Pao before shifting his gaze away, ignoring him. Then, he looked at the young geniuses in the battle rings and said, "Carry on!"

The participants in the battle rings had temporarily stopped fighting because they wanted to watch Yu Lan Sheng's fight. Who knew, just like Meng Fan Gui, Yu Lan Sheng would be defeated by a nobody as well?

There was now another participant as strong as a Five Star God of War had appeared in the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses. Most importantly, among these outstanding participants, two of them had unknown origins.

"How arrogant! How dare he ignore me! Once I attain godhood, I'll definitely go to the Title Temple to beat him up!" Tang San Pao said indignantly as he looked at Xu Kong Hai's back.

Despite the fact that there were four ongoing battles, the crowd's attention was now focused on Tang San Pao. They were intrigued by this mysterious character who was just like Zhong Gui Yu.

"There are so many people trying to poach me! I wonder if I should tell the old man about them when I return so he can challenge them to a duel?" Tang San Pao murmured to himself as he rested his chin on his hand, glancing at the group of Heavenly Emperors and higher-ups from Title Temple branches.

The corner of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched when he heard Tang San Pao's words. He felt slightly amused and helpless thinking about how Tang San Pao wanted his master, a Nine Star God of War, to beat up the Heavenly Emperors and higher-ups from the Title Temple branches. Naturally, based on Tang San Pao's words, he knew some of the Heavenly Emperors and higher-ups from Title Temple branches must have tried to recruit Tang San Pao. After all, how could they know that Tang San Pao's master was a Nine Star God of War? They probably thought Tang San Pao was a humble sectless cultivator.

Duan Ling Tian knew those who tried to recruit Tang San Pao had yet to attain godhood. After all, gods would not disdain themselves to recruit celestials unless the celestial was incredibly outstanding. Although Tang San Pao was very strong and seemed rather talented based on his age and strength that was comparable to a Five Star God of War, he was not outstanding enough to attract the attention of gods. Moreover, there was no guarantee now that Tang San Pao would be able to attain godhood. There were many geniuses who were outstanding when they were young but became mediocre as time passed. On the flip side, there were also those who were mediocre but became outstanding later.

Nevertheless, at this time, there was no doubt Tang San Pao was talented and strong for his age.

...

When dusk arrived, they were only halfway through the fourth round of the Devata Realms' Battle of the Geniuses.

Xu Kong Hai said, "The next bout will be today's final bout... Those who haven't been called will continue tomorrow. There's a possibility the fourth round might even extend until the day after tomorrow."

After he finished speaking, 10 names of those who would be participating in the final matches for the day appeared.

One of the names immediately caught everyone's attention: Duan Ling Tian!