

### Chapter 3631: Duan Ling Tian, a Ten Stars Student

The old man smiled upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's cry for help. He was not surprised since even the Hidden Fog Sect's most outstanding advanced god would have difficulty passing the sixth trial on the third floor of the Tower of Trials, let alone rudimentary and intermediate gods. Moreover, the advanced gods also needed to use their divine artifacts to pass the trial.

Whoosh!

A beam of light shot out as the old man raised his hand. Then, a shining orb appeared on the top of the tower. A beam of light shone down and shrouded the entire tower in just a second. At the same time, the third floor shone brighter than before. Following that, a streak of light shot out of the tower, and Duan Ling Tian appeared in the yard.

"Congratulations," the old man said to Duan Ling Tian as he smiled, "You passed the Ten Stars assessment, and you're now a Ten Stars student of the Hidden Fog Academy. I'm one of the teachers in the academy, and my name's Yun Hui. What's your name?"

Yun Hui was very enthusiastic when he spoke to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian could sense the change in the old man's attitude and was not surprised. After all, this was a world where the strong were revered. He replied, "Duan Ling Tian."

"That's a nice name," the old man said before asking again, "Where are you from?"

Duan Ling Tian randomly came up with a name. He did not put much thought into it since the Hidden Fog Academy did not care about their students' backgrounds. What mattered was their talent and comprehension skills. Those with high innate talent would achieve great feats even at a young age.

Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy were rare among the king-rank forces in and around Skywind City over the last century. Among the roughly 30 Ten Stars students, only four of them came from the Zhou clan and Zhong clan. They were considered top geniuses in Skywind City whose innate talent and comprehension skills were thought to be high. Naturally, this was only Skywind City. After all, the Hidden Fog Sect had about 30 disciples who were even more talented. At the same time, they had about 1,000 disciples whose capabilities and ages were the same as Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy.

Yun Hui, the teacher that presided over the Ten Stars assessment, had a good impression of Duan Ling Tian since Duan Ling Tian had passed the assessment. He would not have treated someone who failed the assessment with so much enthusiasm. He was certain that none of the current Ten Stars students were as brilliant as Duan Ling Tian. After all, Duan Ling Tian, who was unaware of this fact, had broken the record and became the fastest person to have completed the trials on the second floor of the Tower of Trials. Although Duan Ling Tian's speed slowed down on the third floor, it was still considered fast compared to the others.

'He managed to complete the trials on the second floor within 200 breaths,' Yun Hui thought to himself, 'Only the dean will be able to tell how he managed that...'

After a short conversation with Yun Hui, he said with a smile, "You're now officially a Ten Stars student of the Hidden Fog Academy. Since I have to stay here just in case there are others who are taking the assessment, I'll ask my junior who's also a teacher to bring you to the Registration Department. He'll help you with the process..."

Yun Hui knew there were only benefits to befriending such a talented young man. It would definitely pay off in the future. After all, he had no doubts Duan Ling Tian would perform brilliantly in the academy and have a high chance of becoming a high-ranking official in the Hidden Fog Sect. He was sure that Duan Ling Tian would become a Lord of Gods at the very least. Alas, he was unaware that the Hidden Fog Academy and the Hidden Fog Sect were just a springboard to Duan Ling Tian who planned to use them to elevate him to greater heights in the Profound Energy Land. Duan Ling Tian had no plans of staying in the Hidden Fog Sect for long.

"Thank you, senior." Duan Ling Tian remained polite despite knowing Yun Hui had ulterior motives for being so friendly.

"Since you're now a student of the academy, you can address me as Teacher Yun Hui," Yun Hui said.

About a dozen breaths later, a loud voice rang from the distance.

"Senior brother."

Following that, a middle-aged man with a medium build who was dressed in a long blue robe appeared. He had a jade-like complexion and sword-shaped brows. His expression eased as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "You must be Duan Ling Tian. I'm Tong Gu Yue, Yun Hui's junior brother. I'm also a teacher at the Hidden Fog Academy. I'm usually in charge of teaching Nine Stars students."

The teachers in the Hidden Fog Academy were assigned to different ranks of students according to their strengths. Yun Hui was the strongest teacher and was only second to the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy. He was qualified to be the vice dean of the academy if such a position existed. He was also an inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect even if he was ranked at the bottom. That was also the reason he had been assigned to teach at the Hidden Fog Academy.

"Teacher Tong," Duan Ling Tian greeted Tong Gu Yue with a smile. Although he knew Tong Gu Yue was weaker than him, he did not disdain Tong Gu Yue. Moreover, Tong Gu Yue was rather friendly toward. It was not in line with his character to judge someone based on their strength.

"Senior brother, I'll bring him to the Registration Department now," Tong Gu Yue said to Yun Hu.

"Alright," Yun Hui nodded and said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian will surely shock the existing Ten Stars students. Perhaps, he'll become the motivation they need..."

Over the last 30 years, there had been no new Ten Star students. The existing students had gotten so used to each others' abilities that it was no longer a challenge for them to spar. They cultivated obediently, and their relationships were harmonious. There were rarely any conflicts between them.

As one of the teachers of the Ten Stars students, the only time Yun Hui saw any liveliness in them was during the examination period. Otherwise, they lived a very mundane life. He was sure Duan Ling Tian's appearance would stir up excitement among them.

"Senior brother, it seems like you're very confident of Duan Ling Tian's ability," Tong Gu Yue said. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Come on. I'll bring you to the accommodation that had been prepared for the students after the registration."

Before leaving, Yun Hui handed Tong Gu Yue a slip of paper that verified Duan Ling Tian had indeed passed the Ten Stars assessment for registration purposes.

Apart from that, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy could watch Duan Ling Tian's performance while Duan Ling Tian was in the Tower of Trials. This was another way to verify that Duan Ling Tian had passed the assessment as well. Usually, he would only check on higher-ranking students since these students were the ones who were likely to become inner disciples of the Hidden Fog Sect..

### **Chapter 3632: The Ten Stars Students' Dormitory**

Duan Ling Tian followed Tong Gu Yue and flew deeper into the Hidden Fog Academy.

During the journey, Tong Gu Yue said, "Students are prohibited from flying in the academy unless they're with a teacher. Those who break the rules will be punished." Then, he laughed before he said, "Of course, newcomers will be given a chance and will only be warned for the first transgression."

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Tong Gu Yue showed Duan Ling Tian around the Hidden Fog Academy. As they were flying, Duan Ling Tian saw a group of people who had come to participate in the recruitment. There were fewer than 10 people who were taking the Nine Stars assessment. Most of the people who came for the recruitment were mostly younger than 1,000 years old and were here to take part in the One Star assessment.

If Duan Ling Tian did not use the Bone Aging Pill, he would have to take the One Star assessment as well. After all, he was not even 700 years old yet. However, if he showed his strength, he could still become a Ten Stars student. After all, age was not important; what was important was one's strength and talent. However, a student who was not even 700 years old passing the Ten Stars assessment would definitely stir up a huge commotion. Let alone the Hidden Fog Academy, even the Hidden Fog Sect would be shocked by it. Even the emperor-rank forces would not be able to remain indifferent. After all, someone who was not even 1,000 years old but possessed such strength was unprecedented in emperor-rank forces. Geniuses like that could only be found in supreme forces; these geniuses would be given the best resources and raised as prodigies of the forces.

"That's the dormitory for One Star and Two Stars students," Tong Gu Yue said as he showed Duan Ling Tian the accommodations of students below Ten Stars students. The students were placed in different buildings that were built close to each other.

After pointing out a few buildings in the vicinity of the student dormitories, Tong Gu Yue said, "I'll bring you to the Registration Department first before I bring you to the dormitory for Ten Stars students. That dormitory has the best cultivation environment in the Hidden Fog Academy. There are also various

places where you can comprehend the laws. However, to secure a spot, one has to be quite strong. The stronger you are, the longer you can stay to comprehend the laws. I'll explain more to you later when I show you the place."

With Tong Gu Yue's help, Duan Ling Tian quickly completed the registration and obtained his uniform. The emblem on his uniform had ten stars, indicating his rank.

"Ten Stars students' dormitory is quite close to the dean and teachers' residence, where the core of the Spirit Gathering Formation is located. For this reason, Ten Stars students enjoy the same rich Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy as the staff. Apart from that, Ten Stars students will also be given divine rocks occasionally. The academy will also post missions. Those who complete the missions will be rewarded with divine rocks as well. During exams, students also will be rewarded with divine pills, divine fruits, and divine facts if they perform outstandingly."

With Tong Gu Yue's explanation, Duan Ling Tian's knowledge of Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy increased.

"We've arrived."

Shortly after Tong Gu Yue led Duan Ling Tian through a thick fog, Duan Ling Tian saw an area filled with many courtyards. Five spacious courtyards were located in the center, surrounded by rings of courtyards that expanded outward. The further away from the center, the more courtyards there were. Clearly, the Ten Stars students' dormitory were these clusters of courtyard.

"The center courtyards are the cultivation grounds of the dean and teachers of the Hidden Fog Academy. The 75 courtyards that circled the five center courtyards are the courtyards for Ten Stars students. As you can see, the courtyards closest to center courtyards have the richest Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy, and the farthest courtyards have the thinnest Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. The courtyards are divided into four grades: nominal, primitive, mediocre, and prominent. Ten Stars students will receive different numbers of divine rocks depending on the grade of the courtyards they live in. This is to promote healthy competition between the students," Tong Gu Yue explained. Then, he sighed before he continued to say, "However, the better courtyards have been occupied by students with powerful backgrounds since a while ago. Although they might be weaker, the stronger students didn't dares to contend with them; they were afraid of provoking the students with good backgrounds. In the beginning, there were still a few bold students who dared to compete for the better courtyards. However, the students with powerful backgrounds would make life difficult for them after they join the Hidden Fog Sect. Most of these students with powerful backgrounds have connections in the Hidden Fog Sect, after all. For this reason, no one dare to compete for a better courtyard. This is considered a trivial matter so the Hidden Fog Action naturally doesn't do anything about it."

A hint of helplessness could be seen on Tong Gu Yue's face as he continued to say, "20 years ago, the dean announced that those who are treated unfairly should step forward and speak to him. However, the students have gotten used to such treatment that they were no longer bothered. Moreover, with no new blood coming in, their morale dropped even lower."

With these words, Duan Ling Tian could naturally tell Tong Gu Yue hoped he would be the person to shake things up among the Ten Stars students.

“There are five prominent-grade courtyards, 10 mediocre-grade courtyards, and 20 primitive-grade courtyards, which are fully occupied now. There are 37 Ten Stars students now, and two of them are staying in the nominal-grade courtyard. Since you’re a newcomer, you’ll be assigned to a nominal-grade courtyard first. You’re free to challenge anyone from the primitive-grade courtyards after notifying the academy. A notice will be sent to the courtyard and the occupant has to respond to your challenge within a month. Otherwise, the occupant will be evicted and moved to the nominal-grade courtyard. You can only challenge occupants in higher-grade courtyards in ascending order.”

After such a long time, Duan Ling Tian was no stranger to these rules. Many other places had such similar rules, after all.

“Where do I go to inform the academy of my intention to challenge another student?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“See that building over there?” Tong Gu Yue pointed at a building located outside the area of the Ten Stars students’ dormitory. “That’s where Ten Stars students go for... everything. You issue challenges here and collect divine rocks and rewards here among other things. All you need to do is show your identity token.”

“Duan Ling Tian, I hope you occupy a prominent-grade courtyard soon! Don’t worry. The dean is a man of his words,” Tong Gu Yue said after sending Duan Ling Tian to a nominal-grade courtyard. He wanted to motivate Duan Ling Tian and hoped Duan Ling Tian would not be intimidated by the students with powerful backgrounds. Following that, he left.

Duan Ling Tian knew the dean would only take action if there was irrefutable evidence. Otherwise, even if the dean was the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect, it would be difficult for him to take action against inner disciples or elders of the sect with whom the students had connections. This was also the reason that no one stepped forward despite the dean’s announcement 20 years ago.

The gates creaked loudly when Duan Ling Tian pushed them open. Motes of dust floated in the air. Clearly, the courtyard had been unoccupied for a long time.

Duan Ling Tian raised his hand and unleashed a wave of Divine Energy that swept through the courtyard and the house. In just a moment, the courtyard and house were spotless.

Just as he stepped into the house, a voice rang in the air.

“Are you the newcomer?”

A person appeared at the entrance of Duan Ling Tian’s courtyard. Based on the ten stars on his emblem, he was clearly a Ten Stars student as well.

### **Chapter 3633: Duan Ling Tian, a Cause for Alarm for the Ten Stars Students**

The Ten Stars student was an ordinary and honest-looking young man with a medium build. He seemed a little timid, but his eyes were bright and clear.

“How remarkable,” the young man said with a sigh, “There hasn’t been a new Ten Stars student in the Hidden Fog Academy for the last 30 years.”

“Please come in,” Duan Ling Tian said as he invited the young man in, “My name’s Duan Ling Tian. What’s yours?”

In fact, Duan Ling Tian still had other questions for Tong Gu Yue, but he did not ask them since he knew Tong Gu Yue had other matters to attend to. Hence, after giving it some thought, he decided to obtain more information from the other Ten Stars students after he settled down. Now that a student appeared at his doorstep, he was naturally pleased.

“My name is Liu Jin,” the young man said with a smile and entered the courtyard.

...

For the next hour, Duan Ling Tian managed to obtain the information he wanted from Liu Jin. Liu Jin even told him about the strongest Ten Stars students occupying the prominent-grade and mediocre-grade courtyards.

Four out of five Ten Stars students occupying the prominent-grade courtyards were members of king-rank forces in Skywind City. The fifth student was the Young Master of a major king-rank force in another city. They were not the strongest; there were many students living in the mediocre-grade courtyards who were stronger than time. However, since they did not have the support of a strong force, they did not dare to offend those five students. The five students’ strengths were actually only on par with some of the students living in the primitive-grade courtyards. Again, due to strong backgrounds, no one dared to challenge them.

“What’s the grade of your courtyard?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Liu Jin smiled sheepishly before he replied, “Just like you, I live in a nominal-grade courtyard. However, that’s not because the students in the primitive-grade courtyards have a better background than me. I’m just really weaker than them. I was the last Ten Stars student to join the Hidden Fog Academy before you came along. I used to be a Nine Stars student, and I’m about 2,800 years old this year.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded with a smile. “I’m glad I met you, Liu Jin. Thanks for taking the time to explain so many things to me.”

After Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he rose to his feet and looked outside.

“Are you going out?” Liu Jin asked.

“I’m going to issue a challenge,” Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile on his face.

Liu Jin was stunned. “You’re going to issue one of the occupants of the primitive-grade courtyards now?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “Do you mind showing me the way? I know where to get the notice of challenge, but I’m not quite sure what the procedures are. If it doesn’t inconvenience you, perhaps, you can show me what to do?”

“Sure, I’ll go with you,” Liu Jin said with a smile before he rose to his feet and lead Duan Ling Tian away.

...

The Ten Stars Pavilion was a place that attended to Ten Stars students. Usually, there would be a few teachers on duty.

Liu Jin led Duan Ling Tian to one of the counters to obtain a notice of challenge. A middle-aged man sat behind the counter.

“Duan Ling Tian, you should challenge one of the few students I mentioned earlier. They’re the weaker ones among those living in primitive-grade courtyards,” Liu Jin said solemnly.

Duan Ling Tian only smiled in response.

Liu Jin did not repeat himself since he was certain Duan Ling Tian would heed his advice. Then, he turned to greet the middle-aged man sitting behind the counter. “Teacher Chu.”

The middle-aged man smiled at Liu Jin. “Liu Jin? What brings you here? Are you finally sick of staying in the nominal-grade courtyard and have decided to move to a primitive-grade courtyard? How confident are you?”

The middle-aged seemed rather familiar with Liu Jin. Since there were not many Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy, the teachers responsible for them were familiar with all of them. Naturally, well-mannered students like Liu Jin got along very well with his teachers.

“Teacher Chu, you’re mistaken,” Liu Jin said as he shook his head, “I brought Duan Ling Tian here. I’m sure you’ve already heard that we have a new Ten Stars student, right?”

Teachers, especially those of Ten Stars students, were naturally notified when there were new Ten Stars students. Hence, Teacher Chu was not surprised when he heard Liu Jin’s words. “So, you’re Duan Ling Tian...”

“Teacher Chu...” Duan Ling Tian greeted Teacher Chu with a nod.

“Remarkable!” Teacher Chu smiled. “It’s been a long time since our academy had a Ten Stars student. Your appearance will definitely bring something new to the existing Ten Stars students. My name is Chu Feng Yang; I’m one of the teachers on duty in the Ten Stars Pavilion.” He paused for a moment before he continued to say, “Which Ten Stars student do you want to challenge? According to the academy rules, you must specify the person you intend to challenge before obtaining the notice of challenge so we can record it down.”

“Anyone will do. Why don’t you help me decide, Teacher Chu?” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

Upon hearing these words, Liu Jin frowned slightly. Then, he hurriedly said through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, just pick one of the names I mentioned earlier. If you do this, Teacher Chu will think you’re arrogant and that you look down on the students living in primitive-grade courtyards.”

Meanwhile, the smile on Chu Feng Yang’s face froze. His gaze turned pointed as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. After a moment, he said, “Are you sure? If you let me decide, I’ll choose the strongest occupant for you...”

At the end of his words, Chu Feng Yang's lips curled up into a contemptuous smile. Clearly, he expected Duan Ling Tian to change his mind.

"Teacher Chu..." Liu Jin smiled wryly.

Before Liu Jin could say more, Duan Ling Tian interjected, "I'm sure. Teacher Chu, please go ahead and select my opponent for me."

Chu Feng Yang's expression turned solemn. "Are you sure, Duan Ling Tian?"

"Teacher Chu, do I look like I'm joking?" Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

"Very well," Chu Feng Yang said, "Since you're sure, I'll arrange for you to fight... Ding Yan."

At this moment, Chu Feng Yang finally realized Duan Ling Tian was truly unafraid of the occupants of the primitive-grade courtyards. Moreover, he had sent a message to Yun Hui. When Yun Hui replied and told him that Duan Ling Tian could even win a challenge against an occupant from the prominent-grade courtyard, he finally realized why Duan Ling Tian was so confident.

Duan Ling Tian was unbothered when he heard Chu Feng Yang's words. The students in the primitive-grade courtyards were just stepping stones for him to occupy a prominent-grade courtyard.

On the contrary, Liu Jin exclaimed in shock, "Ding Yan?"

"Liu Jin, there's no need to be surprised," Chu Feng Yang glanced at Liu Jin and said through Voice Transmission, "Ding Yan and the others from the primitive-grade courtyards aren't a match for Duan Ling Tian at all. You have no idea how strong he is."

Liu Jin was stunned again when he heard Chu Feng Yang's words.

"Anyway, you'll see for yourself soon enough," Chu Feng Yang said, "You should try to maintain a good relationship with him; it'll only benefit you."

"How strong is he, Teacher Chu?" Liu Jin asked curiously through Voice Transmission. He knew the sudden change in Chu Feng Yang's attitude and words meant that Chu Feng Yang had received news about Duan Ling Tian.

"You'll find out when he fights Ding Yan. Even then, Ding Yan will likely only be able to make him use a small part of his strength," Chu Feng Yang said.

Ding Yang was considered average among the Ten Stars students. Based on Yun Hui's words, Chu Feng Yang could tell Yun Hui thought Duan Ling Tian was capable of defeating any of the Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy. Although it sounded unbelievable, he trusted Yun Hui.

'Duan Ling Tian...' A hint of anticipation flashed in Chu Feng Yang's eyes when he looked at Duan Ling Tian. There was no doubt that the existing Ten Stars students would be alarmed by Duan Ling Tian..

### **Chapter 3634: Ding Yan**



Not all Ten Stars students were aware that the Hidden Fog Academy was recruiting students today. Even those who were aware were not very interested. After all, no one of them thought there would be a new Ten Star student. It had been 30 years since a Ten Star student had appeared in the academy. Moreover, that Ten Star student was a Nine Star student who had been promoted. It was even more unlikely for outsiders to become a Ten Star student. The last time an outsider became a Ten Star student was 100 years ago.

...

Inside a primitive-grade courtyard in the Ten Stars students' dormitory.

Two individuals sat in front of a table, chatting and sipping tea.

"In another 50 years, I'll be able to graduate and become an inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect."

"You'll graduate earlier than me. It'd take me another 100 years before I can graduate," one of them said with a sigh.

"The academy is too strict on students who want to graduate early and become an inner disciple. To do that, one must break a ten-star record of the academy."

"Well, the academy hopes to temper our body and mind by setting such a high bar. After all, the sect is very different from the academy. The competition is much fiercer in the sect. There's no one above the age of 3,000 in the academy, but there's no lack of geniuses above that age in the sect. You can imagine how hard it is to compete with them..."

"I know. There's no doubt competition can motivate one to work harder. It's too bad that it's not a competition of strength among the Ten Stars students in the academy; it's more of a competition of who has a better background..."

With these words, the duo looked in the direction of the heart of the dormitory as their eyes flashed with a hint of resentment.

Among the five prominent-grade courtyards, only one of the occupants gained the right to live there through his own strength. The other four relied on their backgrounds to occupy the prominent-grade courtyards. If those four were to rely on their strength alone, at best, they would be assigned to live in mediocre-grade courtyards.

The atmosphere grew heavy as the duo continued to sip tea in silence.

Bam!

At this moment, a commotion from the neighboring courtyard shattered the silence.

Following that, a voice drifted in from outside.

"Ding Fan! The new Ten Stars student, Duan Ling Tian, has decided to challenge you. You know the rules so I won't explain. Don't delay too much. Otherwise, you'll be declared the loser by default."

The duo exchanged a glance upon hearing this voice.

"That's the Ten Stars Pavilion's Teacher Chu Feng Yang, right?"

“I think so.”

The duo rose to their feet in unison and left the building. They saw three figures standing outside the neighboring courtyard. They were familiar with two of the three figures: Chu Yang Feng, a teacher, and Liu Jin, one of the weakest Ten Stars students.

The third unfamiliar figure stood at the side. It was a purple-clad young man. His bearing was extraordinary, emitting an aura that made people feel inferior.

“Is he the new Ten Stars student?”

“Didn’t you hear Teacher Chu earlier? He even challenged Ding Fan!”

“Heavens! There hasn’t been an outsider who’s been able to become a Ten Stars student since 100 years ago!”

The duo was thoroughly shocked. They made sure to commit the name, Duan Ling Tian, to memory.

Bam!

At this moment, the door slammed open and a red-clad figure walked out. In just a moment, he had appeared at the gates of the courtyard. The gates were pushed open by his powerful energy instantly.

“Duan Ling Tian?” The red-clad figure picked up the notice of challenge at the entrance before he looked at Duan Ling Tian. “Teacher Chu, he’s Duan Ling Tian?”

Duan Ling Tian sized the red-clad figure up. He naturally knew the red-clad figure was Ding Yan, the opponent whom Chu Feng Yang had selected for him.

Ding Yan was almost 2 meters tall and had an honest-looking face. His thick brows made him look fierce. All in all, he looked like an iron tower. The aura he emitted was scorching hot that it felt as though he was going to burst into flames at any moment.

Based on Ding Yan’s aura and what Liu Jin had told him, Duan Ling Tian knew Ding Yan comprehended the law of fire.

“That’s right.” Chu Feng Yang nodded. “Since you already know the rules, there’s no need for me to explain them. Since you’re here, let’s decide on the date of the challenge.”

“There’s no need for that. Since you’re here, I won’t trouble you to make another trip. We can proceed with the challenge now,” Ding Fan said as he shook his head, “Moreover, I need the exercise. It’s been a while.”

After Ding Yan finished speaking, he looked at Duan Ling Tian intently. His eyes flashed as he said arrogantly, “You have to be quite strong to be able to pass the Ten Stars assessment. However, in your quest to occupy a primitive-grade courtyard, you’ve challenged the wrong person. Today, I, your senior brother, will teach you a lesson. Young people shouldn’t be impulsive. Of course, if you need time to prepare...”

Before Ding Yang finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian interjected, “No need. We can do it now.”

Duan Ling Tian's tone was indifferent as though Ding Yang's attitude did not bother him at all. Then, he continued to say, "This way, after our challenge, Teacher Chu can help me obtain another notice of challenge.."

Chu Feng Yang's eyes widened slightly upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words while shock was written all over Liu Jin's face.

Ding Yang was briefly stunned. When he recovered his senses, he chuckled. "Kid, you really think you can beat me?"

"Teacher Chu, there's a venue built especially for challenges, right?"

Chu Feng Yang nodded. "It's the arena at the back of the Ten Stars Pavilion."

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ding Yan and said tonelessly, "Since you're up for it, let's go to the arena."

Ding Yan's eyes glinted coldly as he said, "Since you wish to be beaten, I'll fulfill your wish."

Ding Yan took the lead and made his way to the arena.

Duan Ling Tian, Chu Feng Yang, Liu Jin followed after him.

At this time, quite a few people from the surrounding courtyards had gathered. After listening to the conversation, realization finally dawned on them.

"Someone challenged Ding Yan?"

"Duan Ling Tian? He passed the Ten Stars assessment today?"

"He just joined the academy, and he's already trying to snatch a primitive-grade courtyard for himself?"

"Even if he wants to occupy a primitive-grade courtyard, there's no need for him to challenge Ding Yan, right? Ding Yan is one of the strongest among the occupants of primitive-grade courtyards, after all. There are only a few who are a match for him. Even then, they can only fight to a draw..."

"That's right! I heard he has a high comprehension of the law of fire as well! That gives him an advantage over those who have the same cultivation base as him!"

"I wonder why the new student chose to challenge him of all people!"

Needless to say, this group of Ten Stars students followed Duan Ling Tian and the others to the arena to watch a show. After all, it's been a while since there was such an exciting challenge. Moreover, since there was a newcomer, the fight was bound to be interesting compared to the fights between students with whom they were familiar.

"Let's go! There's going to be a good show"

"I'm going to tell Wang Dong about this!"

...

It started with just a few students. However, as the news spread, more and more students began to gather. Even a few from the mediocre-grade courtyards joined in the fun as well.

A flock of students could be seen making their way to the arena that was located behind the Ten Stars Pavilion, which existed only to help Ten Stars students, at this moment.

Everyone watched as Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air above the arena across from Ding Yan.

“He’s Duan Ling Tian? The new student?”

“It’s been 100 years. I can’t believe an outsider became a Ten Star student today. Since he passed the Ten Stars assessment, he has to be quite strong. At the very least, he can’t be weaker than the weakest among us.”

“He’s like a newborn calf that’s unafraid of tigers. He’s just joined the academy, and yet, he dares to challenge one of the strongest occupants of primitive-grade courtyards.”

“I heard Teacher Chu selected his opponent for him.”

At this moment, almost 20 students were gathered. This number was half the total number of Ten Stars students.. Clearly, everyone could not wait to watch the show.

### **Chapter 3635: The Berserkfication Vein**

Apart from the Ten Stars students and Chu Feng Yang, who would be presiding over the battle, the other teachers who had nothing to do in the Ten Stars Pavilion had come as well.

A middle-aged man dressed in a long brown robe, one of the teachers in the Hidden Fog Academy’s Ten Stars Pavilion, asked with a smile, “Teacher Chu, who do you think will win the challenge?”

“Teacher Yuan, you have a rather good relationship with Ding Yan so you must be rooting for him, right?” Chu Feng Yang asked in return.

It was only natural that the teachers had their own favorite students. The teachers did not only favor outstanding students. Some teachers favored personable students like Liu Jin.

“Teacher Chu, do you think Ding Yan will lose?” Teacher Yuan looked at Chu Feng Yang meaningfully upon hearing Chu Feng Yang’s words. He asked, “Do you know something we don’t? Teacher Yun Hui who’s in charge of the Ten Stars assessment is your junior uncle, right?”

“Teacher Yuan, you’re overthinking things,” Chu Feng Yang said as he shook his head and smiled. Clearly, he did not intend to reveal the truth. He said, “I’m not sure if Ding Yan will lose or not. However, for Duan Ling Tian to challenge Ding Yan, Duan Ling Tian must be confident of his victory. There are so many students Duan Ling Tian could challenge but he didn’t even object to fighting Ding Yan when I suggested Ding Yan...”

At this moment, another teacher, who had overheard the conversation, chimed in, “You have a point, Teacher Chu.”

Teacher Yuan scoffed. "They say the young know no fear. This newcomer has no idea who he's up against. Ding Yan is capable of defeating most of the Ten Stars students occupying the primitive-grade courtyards within ten moves. Although they're staying in courtyards of the same grade, their strengths vary."

Clearly, Teacher Yuan did not think Duan Ling Tian was a match for Ding Yan.

Another teacher, an elderly man, nodded. "Teacher Yuan has a point as well... In any case, let's just watch the battle. We'll know the results soon enough."

Another teacher urged Chu Feng Yang, "Teacher Chu, hurry up and announce the start of the battle!"

Since Chu Feng Yang was presiding over the challenge, naturally the battle would only start once he had announced so.

Meanwhile, Ding Yan had grown rather impatient waiting for Chu Feng Yang.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that the battle would only start once Chu Feng Yang announced it. Since Ding Yan did not attack, he did not attack as well. After all, with his current cultivation base, it would be easy for him to defeat Ding Yan. With that, it would be shameless for him to strike first.

At this moment, Chu Feng Yang said loudly, "The battle begins now!"

Ding Yan's eyes glinted coldly as he said to Duan Ling Tian in a low voice, "Brat, let's see why you're so confident as to challenge me!"

Ding Yan's red robe began to flutter in the air despite there being no wind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the next moment, flames raged around Ding Yan. He looked like a phoenix that had risen from the ash at this moment.

The heatwave swept toward the crowd in just an instant.

Ding Yan had instantly cast a double Fused Profundity.

After all, apart from being a god, one of the requirements to become a Ten Stars student was to comprehend all profundities to the mastery stage and to comprehend a double Fused Profundity. However, he had already comprehended a triple Fused Profundity. Among all the Ten Stars students, he was ranked in the middle; this meant he was stronger than half his peers.

"A triple Fused Profundity. Ding Yan is really terrifying!"

"He surely lives up to his reputation as the strongest Ten Stars student occupying the primitive-grade courtyard. Not only is he skilled in the law of fire, but I heard he also possesses the Berserkfication Vein that can temporarily raise his Divine Energy of a rudimentary god to that of an intermediate god!"

"There are many people in Realms of Gods who possess bloodline power, but they're rare in Skywind City. Normally, these people would only appear in powerful clans or sects."

"However, I don't think Ding Yan came from a prominent clan or sect, right?"

“The bloodline power comes from supreme powerhouses. Ding Yan doesn’t have to come from a powerful force to possess the bloodline power.”

‘Bloodline power?’ Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow when he heard the conversations in his surroundings. He was naturally familiar with bloodline power. Ling Jue Yun, a friend whom he had met in a Devata Realm, a member of the Ling clan in a Realm of Gods possessed a bloodline power as well. During their sparring sessions, Ling Jue Yun had even used his bloodline power.

Depending on how closely related one was to a supreme powerhouse, one would be able to awaken the bloodline power. There were different bloodline powers. Sometimes, one would inherit the same bloodline power in one’s family, but there were rare cases where one could awaken a different bloodline power. Ling Jue Yun had also Duan Ling Tian that direct descendants of the Ling clan all possessed the bloodline power.

‘The Berserkification Vein? How interesting,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes lit up.

At this moment, Ding Yan glared at Duan Ling Tian and coldly said, “Duan Ling Tian! I’ll give you three breaths to prepare yourself before I attack. I don’t want people to say I’m bullying the newcomer!”

“That’s unnecessary.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. “You can attack now. I want the battle to end as soon as possible so Teacher Chu can help me arrange for another challenge.”

Apart from Liu Jin and Chu Feng Yang, everyone thought Duan Ling Tian’s words were preposterous as well/

Teacher Yuan, who clearly favored Ding Yan, said disdainfully, “Teacher Chu, this student whom you think highly of is really arrogant. I hope he’ll be able to back up his words. Otherwise, he’ll become a laughingstock in the Hidden Fog Academy.”

“Well, he’ll just have to suffer the consequences for his words then,” Chu Feng Yang said perfunctorily with a shrug. Based on Duan Ling Tian’s attitude, he was certain Yun Hui was right about Duan Ling Tian being extraordinary.

“Ding Yan is about to attack!”

“The newcomer managed to provoke Ding Yan!”

The group of Ten Stars students exclaimed when they saw Ding Yan preparing to attack.

Flames surged on Ding Yan’s body, looking as though the god of fire had descended to the mortal realm. He no longer spoke. All he wanted to do was teach the newcomer a lesson.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow. He raised his hand and mobilized his Divine Energy that was even more terrifying than Ding Yan’s.

“An intermediate god!”

“Duan Ling Tian is an intermediate god?!”

Everyone present was shocked by this.

Since it was impolite to probe another person with one's Divine Consciousness, Chu Feng Yang had no idea Duan Ling Tian was an intermediate god. How could he not be shocked as well?

"The newcomer is an intermediate god?!"

"He's not even 2,800 years old! What a monstrous talent!"

"No wonder he dares to challenge Ding Yan!"

Similar to the others, Ding Yan was also shocked by this discovery. He hastily mobilized his bloodline power, and his Berserkfication Vein boosted his cultivation base from that of a rudimentary god to that of an intermediate god instantly.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Ding Yan was shrouded by terrifying flames as he continued to charge toward Duan Ling Tian.

"Ding Yan's not holding back. He plans to defeat Duan Ling Tian with just a strike!"

Since Ding Yan was just a rudimentary god, his comprehension of the law was certainly not as profound as Duan Ling Tian who was an intermediate god. Hence, he planned to defeat Duan Ling Tian by using his bloodline power before Duan Ling Tian had a chance to counterattack..

### **Chapter 3636: Six Lightning Bolts**

The Ten Stars students and the teachers were taken aback by the scene before their eyes.

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian is about to be defeated!"

"Ding Yan has temporarily raised his cultivation base to that of an intermediate god through his Berserkfication Vein so his cultivation base is on par with Duan Ling Tian's. It won't be difficult for him to defeat Duan Ling Tian as long as he doesn't give Duan Ling Tian a chance to act."

"Based on the current situation, Duan Ling Tian is likely to lose unless his comprehension of the law is more profound than Ding Yan's."

"I agree."

"Based on his age, it's impossible for his comprehension of the law to be more profound than Ding Yan's. Nonetheless, it's still remarkable that he has achieved so much at his age."

"That's right! It's impossible for an inexperienced intermediate god to defeat Ding Yan who's now as strong as an intermediate god unless he's a prodigy of an emperor-rank or supreme rank force."

Most of the people present thought Duan Ling Tian was going to be defeated. Even Liu Jin who knew better could not help but worry about Duan Ling Tian.

Chu Feng Yang alone remained confident of Duan Ling Tian's victory. After all, his junior uncle, Yun Hui, had disclosed to him how extraordinary Duan Ling Tian was.

'The Berserkfication Vein?' Duan Ling Tian remained calm as Ding Yan who was shrouded in flames charged at him.

The crowd thought Duan Ling Tian was shocked by Ding Yan's strength.

However, when Ding Yan arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian suddenly vanished into thin air.

"It's the Teleportation Profundity?!"

"He comprehends the law of space?!"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian reappeared high above Ding Yan in the distance.

The sudden twist caused the crowd's opinion to change again. They realized they had been wrong to judge so quickly earlier. Since Duan Ling Tian comprehended the law of space, it would be easy for Duan Ling Tian to stall for time until the effect of the Berserkfication Vein disappeared. Ding Yan's bloodline power would only last about 15 minutes, after all. Moreover, Ding Yan would also suffer a slight backlash from using the Berserkfication Vein.

"Ding Yan is at a disadvantage now."

"A intermediate god who has comprehended the Teleportation Profundity to the mastery stage. Perhaps, only those who comprehended the law of wind and have comprehended double or triple Fused Profundity would be able to catch up to Duan Ling Tian."

"Ding Yan has lost."

Boom!

The flames on Ding Yan's body exploded at this moment as he turned into a ball of flames shooting toward Duan Ling Tian like a cannonball.

Swoosh!

Once again, Duan Ling Tian easily dodged Ding Yan's attack with the Teleportation Profundity.

After a few more attempts, Ding Yan roared, "Duan Ling Tian, you coward! All you know how to do is run away!"

Ding Yan was growing anxious. After all, there was not much time left before the bloodline power would vanish. At that time, it would be impossible for him to defeat Duan Ling Tian due to the gap between their cultivation bases. At this moment, he regretted how arrogantly he had accepted the challenge. He would not have been so arrogant if he had known earlier that Duan Ling Tian was an intermediate god who had comprehended the law of space. In fact, he would not have even accepted the challenge; he would let Duan Ling Tian have his primitive-grade courtyard. After all, with his strength, he could easily challenge another person to stay in a primitive-grade courtyard.

Duan Ling Tian smiled contemptuously. "You think I'm stalling for time?"

"Isn't that obvious?" Ding Yan scoffed.

"That's not the case," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently, "I'm only curious about your bloodline power and wanted to have a longer look at it. However, since you can't wait to be defeated, I'll fulfill your wish."



Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes when he finished speaking. Then, he imbued his Divine Energy with the Space Elemental Profundity. When he raised his hand, the void began to ripple and twist. Then, he cast four double Fused Profundities from the law of space.

In just an instant, dark clouds began to gather.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian brought his hand down...

Boom!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air as six lightning bolts struck from the void. The six lightning bolts surrounded Ding Yan, trapping him in a cage of lightning that looked like a box.

The thunderous sound pulled the crowd back to their senses.

“Amazing!” Chu Feng Yang’s eyes lit up. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to attack so decisively, trapping Ding Yan.

All the teachers, including Teacher Yuan who favored Ding Yan, were dumbfounded.

“How’s this possible? He’s not even 2,800 years old, but he’s an intermediate god and has comprehended four double Fused Profundities from the law of space?!”

Ding Yan had only comprehended three double Fused Profundities from the law of fire. Moreover, the law of fire was inferior to the law of space that was one of the Four Supreme Laws. Comprehending three double Fused Profundities from the law of space was much more difficult than comprehending four double Fused Profundities from the law of fire.

Such a monstrous talent was unprecedented in Skywind City~

The Ten Stars students exclaimed in disbelief one after another.

“Heavens! Are my eyes playing tricks on me? The newcomer has comprehended four double Fused Profundities from the law of space?”

“It’s not just that, but he’s also younger than most of us!”

“I thought Ding Yan would surely defeat him. As it turns out, I’ve underestimated him!”

“After so many years without new blood, I didn’t expect when a newcomer finally joins us, he’ll have such heaven-defying strength!”

“Any lord-rank forces would happily accept him and nurture him, right?”

At the same time, Liu Jin, the first person to befriend Duan Ling Tian, was still in a daze. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian was so strong even if he had heard about it from Chu Feng Yang.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian clenched his hand before raising it. “Let’s end this.”

“Show mercy!”

Chu Feng Yang’s expression changed slightly.

The other teachers' expressions changed as well.

Teacher Yuan wanted to intervene, but it was too late.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The lighting cage suddenly exploded.

Ding Yan cried out in excruciating pain. "I surrender! I surrender!"

The teachers of the Hidden Fog Academy collectively sighed in relief when they heard Ding Yan's voice; Duan Ling Tian did not kill Ding Yan.

When the turbulent spatial energy subsided, Ding Yan's miserable figure was revealed. His robe was torn. The explosion singed his hair, leaving him with bald spots. His body was covered in wounds.

Swoosh!

Flames suddenly surged from Ding Yan's body, turning the wounds on his body to faint scars. Then, he brought out another red robe and put it on. However, his burnt hair did not grow back. After he was done, he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complex gaze and asked, aggrieved, "Why didn't you tell me you're an intermediate god and has comprehended four double Fused Profundities earlier? I would've let you have the primitive-grade courtyard without a fight."

Ding Yan sounded like a little girl who was whining at this moment.

Needless to say, the crowd was stunned by the sight of a tall and burly handsome young man behaving like a girl..

### **Chapter 3637: Hong Jun**

Ding Yan was arrogant, but Duan Ling Tian knew that did not mean Ding Yan was an evil person. Hence, not only did he spare Ding Yan's life, but he had also held back, causing Ding Yan to only suffer minor injuries.

Although Duan Ling Tian looked calm outwardly, he felt chills running up his spine when he saw the way Ding Yan was behaving. Why was Ding Yan whining like a little girl? It made him shudder to see a grown man acting like a little girl.

While the crowd was still in shock, Duan Ling Tian asked Chu Feng Yang, "Teacher Chu, can I occupy the primitive-grade courtyard now?"

Chu Feng Yang nodded. "Yes. You've defeated Ding Yan, after all. You'll be moving to the second primitive-grade courtyard immediately."

There were 20 primitive-grade courtyards altogether. Despite sharing the same cultivation environment, they were given numbers.

Duan Ling Tian nodded before he said, "Teacher Chu, I hope you'll be able to arrange for me to challenge an occupant of a mediocre-grade courtyard soon. I don't care about my opponent's strength as long as he and she can accept the challenge as soon as possible. I want to move to the prominent-grade courtyard as quickly as possible."

Although Duan Ling Tian's strength had exceeded everyone's expectations, they still felt skeptical. Although he could definitely occupy a mediocre-grade courtyard with his strength, he would be average among the occupants of mediocre-grade courtyards at most. Not only were the occupants there intermediate gods who had comprehended four double Fused Profundities, but they also possessed bloodline powers. Most of them were 3,000 years old and were about to graduate from the Hidden Fog Academy. Naturally, they did not know that these occupants, none who had comprehended the Four Supreme Laws, were no match for Duan Ling Tian in terms of innate talent and comprehension skills.

"You want to challenge the next person as soon as possible?"

The teachers and the students of the Hidden Fog Academy were shocked by Duan Ling Tian's words. Then, their eyes quickly shifted to two figures: a middle-aged man dressed in a blue long robe and a young man dressed in a long white robe.

'Are they students staying in mediocre-grade courtyards?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as he looked at the duo.

One of the men said, "Duan Ling Tian, I would like to challenge you, but I'm on the brink of breaking through so I have to return to cultivate now. If you want to battle with me, you'll have to wait until I leave my closed-door cultivation. It'll take about one month."

As soon as the man finished speaking, he left without a word.

Then, the other man said, "Duan Ling Tian, I'm not strong enough to fight you at this moment. You'll have to wait until I'm stronger."

With that, the man left as well.

The other Ten Stars students could not help but chuckle when they saw the duo leaving in a haste.

"Cowards! They knew they're no match for Duan Ling Tian so they came up with such lame excuses!"

"It's not surprising! After all, they're only slightly stronger than Ding Yan. As those who rank bottom among the occupants of the mediocre-grade courtyards, they know they're no match for Duan Ling Tian."

"I really didn't expect a monstrous talent like him would appear in the Hidden Fog Academy!"

"I wonder if Duan Ling Tian possesses bloodline power as well. If he does, he stands in defeating the top three strongest occupants among those living in the mediocre-grade courtyards."

"That's right. The trio is more than strong enough to stay in the prominent-grade courtyards. It's unfortunate they did not come from a powerful sect or clan. It's unfortunate that they can only stay in the mediocre-grade courtyards."

Even the teachers, including Chu Feng Yang, were speechless.

Chu Feng Yang looked at Duan Ling Tian with a wry smile and said, "I'm afraid the occupants in the mediocre-grade courtyards are too afraid to challenge you. Your only option is to challenge the trio."

"I'm fine with that..." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

At this moment, Teacher Yuan looked at Duan Ling Tian and chimed in, "I've sent a message to Hong Jun. He's a Ten Stars student living in the mediocre-grade courtyard. He's happy to accept the challenge and will come immediately if you agree to it. What do you think?"

Chu Feng Yang nodded. "Duan Ling Tian, Hong Jun is one of the three strongest among those who occupy the mediocre-grade courtyards. If you're in a hurry, you can do as Teacher Yuan said.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Teacher Yuan, whose name was Yuan Lei, with a smile. "I'll have to trouble you then, Teacher Yuan!"

Yuan Lei could not help but frown. Why did it sound like he was doing Duan Ling Tian a favor? He had planned to use Hong Jun to humiliate Duan Ling Tian. He was naturally unhappy that Duan Ling Tian had defeated Ding Yan.

Hong Jun was also one of the Ten Stars students who had a good relationship with Yuan Lei. He was ranked fifth among the Ten Stars students. It was unfortunate that the occupants of the prominent-grade courtyards all obtained their courtyards due to their background, Hong Jun could only stay in the mediocre-grade courtyard. After all, let alone Hong Jun, even Yuan Lei did not dare to offend those from the prominent-grade courtyards.

After a moment, Yuan Lei said to Duan Ling Tian, "He'll arrive soon."

A commotion broke out when it was confirmed that Duan Ling Tian would be facing Hong Jun soon.

'Hong Jun...' Liu Jin's expression turned grim as he hurriedly said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Senior Brother Duan, Senior Brother Hong Jun is the fifth strongest among the Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy. He comprehended the law of fire and has comprehended four double Fused Profundities as well."

After the match, Liu Jin had also changed the way he addressed Duan Ling Tian. After all, the cultivation world was a place where the strong were revered.

"Moreover, he possessed the Tsunami Vein that suits the law of water very well. It's said that when he cast his bloodline power and the law of water, his attack is already comparable to a triple Fused Profundity."

'His attack has the force of a triple Fused Profundity?'

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian replied, "Thank you for the reminder, Liu Jin. You don't have to worry so much about me."

Upon seeing how calm Duan Ling Tian was, Liu Jin wondered if Duan Ling Tian had hidden his real strength again. Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian possessed a bloodline power as well.

"Senior Brother Duan..."

At this moment, another voice rang through the Voice Transmission in his mind. The person warned him about Hong Jun just like Liu Jin did.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised when he found the Voice Transmission was from Ding Fang whom he had just defeated. With this, his impression of Ding Fan improved slightly.

Splash! Splash! Splash!

The silence was broken by the sounds of waves crashing against the shore. Soon enough, amidst the waves in the sky, a young man dressed in a long blue robe emerged. He was a handsome young man with slender brows who wore a perpetually aloof expression on his face. His back was straight, and his posture was arrogant.

Meanwhile, the eyes of the Ten Stars students lit up upon seeing the blue-clad young man. The way they idolized the blue-clad young man reminded Duan Ling Tian of the fangirls on earth.

At this time, Yuan Lei said with a smile, "You've arrived."

"Yes," Hong Jun replied tonelessly as he nodded.

Yuan Lei did not seem put off by Hong Jun's disrespectful behavior. After all, this was how Hong Jun was. He had connections with Hong Jun through some of Hong Jun's clan elders.

Yuan Lei looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "He's the genius under the age of 2,800 whom I mentioned earlier. He comprehended four double Fused Profundity and defeated Ding Yan with a strike."

At the same time, Hong Jun nodded at the other teachers before he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian..

### **Chapter 3638: Attack With All Your Might**

Hong Jun was among the top five Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy. He was a descendant of the Hong clan, a small clan that was under the control of a king-rank force in Skywind City. For this reason, despite his strength, he did not dare to provoke the others with better backgrounds who were occupying the prominent-grade courtyards. After all, who knew if he would cause disaster to befall his clan as well if he provoked those people. He naturally did not wish for anything to happen to his clan; they had carefully cultivated him since he was young. Most importantly, he was the Second Young Master of the Hong clan, the second son of the Clan Leader of the Hong clan. For all these reasons, he did not dare to act selfishly and put his clan at risk.

Since Hong Jun did not dare to offend those with strong backgrounds who were occupying the prominent-grade courtyards and he was not a match for the one occupant of the prominent-grade courtyard who did not rely on his background to occupy the courtyard, he could only stay in a mediocre-grade courtyard.

Due to his helplessness, Hong Jun was filled with discontentment and frustrations.

Hong Jun was in the midst of comprehending the law of water earlier when he received Yuan Lei's message. He was intrigued when he heard about the newcomer who had yet to turn 2,800 years old but had already comprehended four double Fused Profundities from the law of space. Apart from that, the newcomer had also defeated Ding Yan with a single strike.

Since Yuan Lei favored Ding Yan, Hong Jun was naturally acquainted with Ding Yan and was familiar with Ding Yan's strength. Moreover, Ding Yan was among the strongest among those who occupied the primitive-grade courtyards. Once Ding Yan improved, he would be able to move to a mediocre-grade courtyard as well.

At this moment, Hong Jun said expressionlessly, "I don't like long battles so attack with all your might."

Yuan Lei who was standing next to Hong Jun moved to stand next to Chu Feng Yang before he asked with a smile that carried traces of disdain, "Teacher Chu, do you still think Duan Ling Tian will win?"

"Why? Do you want to bet with me?" Chu Feng Yang asked in return as he glanced at Yuan Lei.

Yuan Lei narrowed his eyes upon hearing Chu Feng Yang's words. "Teacher Chu, does this mean you are betting Duan Ling Tian will win this challenge?"

"Yes. However, I'm afraid you don't dare to make a bet with me," Chu Yang Feng replied with a smile.

Yuan Lei hesitated. He did not dare to act rashly when he saw the smile on Chu Feng Yang's face. As a teacher of the Hidden Fog Academy and an elder of the Hidden Fog Sect, he naturally would not act recklessly. Moreover, he knew the person in charge of the Ten Stars assessment was Yun Hui, Chu Feng Yang's junior uncle.

After a brief moment, Yuan Lei asked pointedly, "It seems like Elder Yun Hui has mentioned Duan Ling Tian's strength to you..."

"Teacher Yuan, you're really wise," Chu Feng Yang replied tonelessly.

Yuan Lei narrowed his eyes as he looked at the purple-clad figure standing in the distance. He wondered inwardly, 'Is he really capable of defeating Hong Jun?'

In fact, the other four strongest Ten Stars students could not even defeat Hong Jun and could only fight to a draw with him. In other words, if Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat Hong Jun, Duan Ling Tian would become the strongest Ten Stars student in the Hidden Fog Academy.

"Attack with all my might?" Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly. "Why don't you make the first move? I'd like to see you attack with all your might as well..."

"As you wish!" As soon as Hong Jun's voice fell, a blue energy surged from his body. As the energy churned around him, they cast a blue light on him.

"I command the waves to rise!"

As the blue energy surged and churned, a dark blue energy suddenly shot out and fused with the churning blue energy that looked like a tsunami. With that, the strength of the tsunami-like energy rose tremendously.

"It's the Tsunami Vein!" one of the Ten Stars students exclaimed.

The number of students who came to spectate the battle had grown bigger. They were not surprised when Hong Jun told Duan Ling Tian to attack with all his might. After all, in the past, one of the top five strongest Ten Stars students had held back while fighting Hong Jun. As a result, he was nearly defeated

by Hong Jun. Fortunately, he managed to unleash all his strength at the critical moment and fought to a draw with Hong Jun.

“Senior Brother Hong Jun is still the same. He’s going to attack with his four double Fused Profundity after he uses his bloodline power, the Tsunami Vein.”

“Senior Brother Hong Jun’s strength is comparable to an intermediate god who has a triple Fused Profundity. If Duan Ling Tian didn’t hide his strength earlier, there’s no way Duan Ling Tian will be able to defeat Senior Brother Hong Jun.”

“Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian would still cause an uproar in the academy even if he only manages to fight to a draw with Senior Brother Hong Jun!”

The students and teachers eyes shone with anticipation as Hong Jun attacked with all his might, Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Energy that had been imbued with the Space Elemental Profundity began to soar. As the spatial energy appeared, the void began to ripple and twist causing Duan Ling Tian to look distorted.

All of a sudden, nine spatial tears appeared in the void above Duan Ling Tian. Nine sword rays from the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity appeared, ready to shoot toward Hong Jun.

The spectators held their breaths as the two opponents were about to collide.

“If you’re capable of blocking my attack, it’ll be considered as your win. I’ll challenge another person who occupies a mediocre-grade courtyard,” Duan Ling Tian said at this moment.

Duan Ling Tian’s domineering words naturally shocked the spectators. Even Chu Feng Yang was shocked. Although Yun Hui had told him that Duan Ling Tian was the strongest among the present Ten Stars students, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian was able to defeat Hong Jun with a strike, as Duan Ling Tian had just implied. After all, Hong Jun was one of the strongest Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy.

“Ridiculous!” Hong Jun roared.

Duan Ling Tian had successfully provoked the usually taciturn and aloof student.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The tsunami-like energy swept out toward Duan Ling Tian, causing the void to distort in its wake. Some of the students even had to retreat to avoid the backlash.

On the contrary, Duan Ling Tian remained calm. He did not move at all. When Hong Jun’s attack traveled halfway out, he finally waved his hand casually. An ear-piercing buzzing noise rang in the air as spatial energy swept out and the nine sword rays shot out.

Some students with weaker cultivation bases were even bleeding from their eardrums, injured by the buzzing noise. Upon seeing this, many people hurriedly activated their energy to protect themselves.

Yuan Lei was dumbfounded when he saw this. “How’s this possible?!”

The other teachers were in shock as well.

Chu Feng Yang who tried to remain calm outwardly was no exception. Nevertheless, his eyelids and the corners of his lips could not help but twitch.

'Junior uncle didn't tell me his comprehension of the law alone is so strong...

### **Chapter 3639: Zhong Ke Qi**

The ear-piercing noise rang in the large arena behind the Ten Stars Pavilion, shocking the Ten Stars students, including Liu Jin and Ding Yan.

When Duan Ling Tian had waved his hand, the energy from a Fused Profundity had swept out before the sword rays from the Cross-Dimensional Slash Profundity shot out, seamlessly merging together. With that, the force of his attack rose tremendously.

With this, when two opponents' attacks collided, Duan Ling Tian's attack easily overwhelmed Hong Jun's attack.

When Hong Jun regained his senses, he hurriedly brought out his artifact to defend himself against the attack that was sweeping toward him. Even then, he only barely managed to defend against it.

"I lost." Although Hong Jun's robe remained intact, his hair tie had snapped, causing his hair to flutter in the air. At this time, a blue translucent sword could be seen in his hand. It was clearly an extraordinary sword. This was his artifact. Although he managed to defend against Duan Ling Tian's attack by a slight margin, he was not happy at all. In fact, a hint of fear could be seen in his eyes as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was out of his expectations that the newcomer possessed such strength. If he did not utilize his artifact earlier, he would not have been able to withstand the attack. Moreover, his opponent did not use an artifact at all. This clearly meant that Duan Ling Tian was far stronger than him.

The students and teachers fell silent at this moment, shocked. When they regained their senses, they all wore expressions of shock and disbelief on their faces.

"Heavens! I'm not dreaming, am I? Duan Ling Tian comprehended a triple Fused Profundity from the law of space as well?"

"I didn't think another genius would appear in the Hidden Fog Academy again after thousands of years..."

"Duan Ling Tian is even better than that genius from 4,000 years ago. That genius only comprehended the law of fire while Duan Ling Tian comprehended the law of space, one of the Four Supreme Laws, that's known for being difficult to comprehend!"

"In today's battle, Duan Ling Tian proved he's stronger than the five strongest Ten Stars students. Those five people, including Hong Jun, are just stepping stones to his success!"

"Where did such a monstrous talent come from? He doesn't even need to go through the Hidden Fog Academy to join the Hidden Fog Sect with his talent! Why did he come to the academy?"

Many people wondered why Duan Ling Tian did not directly go to the Hidden Fog Sect when he was more than qualified to do so. Naturally, they did not know that Duan Ling Tian wanted to keep as low a



profile as possible to avoid being targeted. It was better to slowly ascend the ranks and use the academy as a springboard to enter the Hidden Fog Sect. Although the process was longer, it was safer.

Duan Ling Tian knew he did not have any connections in the Profound Energy Land and only had himself to depend on. Hence, he could not act rashly.

“Teacher Yuan, I would’ve won if you agreed to bet with me earlier,” Chu Feng Yang said teasingly when he regained his senses. Although he was shocked by the extent of Duan Ling Tian’s strength, he was not as shocked as the others.

Yuan Lei, who had regained his senses, said unhappily, “Teacher Chu, everyone in the academy knows you’re very cautious and won’t act unless you’re certain of your success. With that, do you think I’ll be fooled into making a bet with you?”

After that, Yuan Lei observed the purple-clad figure in the distance. He did not expect that the newcomer was not only highly talented but possessed such a profound comprehension of the law as well. With such strength, the newcomer was the strongest student in the entire Hidden Fog Academy. The newcomer, Duan Ling Tian, really surprised him today.

Duan Ling Tian remained calm when faced with the countless surprised people staring at him. After defeating Hong Jun, he asked, “Teacher Chu, I can challenge the occupants from the prominent-grade courtyards now, right?”

“Yes.” Chu Feng Yang smiled and nodded. “There are five people occupying the prominent-grade courtyards. Two of them are as strong as Hong Jun as for the other three...”

Although Chu Feng Yang did not finish his words, the spectators in the surroundings had already filled in the blanks for Duan Ling Tian.

“Hey, that person from Skywind City’s Zhong clan is occupying a prominent-grade courtyard, right?”

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up. He recalled how the fourth Clan Leader of the Zhong clan had been rude to him at the Zhou clan’s action half a month ago. At that time, the fourth Clan Leader of the Zhou clan was so angry that he had been determined to seek revenge from him.

“Teacher Chu,” Duan Ling Tian said, “I want to challenge Zhong Ke Qi who’s staying in the prominent-grade courtyard.”

“Are you sure?” Chu Feng Yang asked.

Zhong Ke Qi was also a Ten Stars student. He was the only son of the second Clan Leader of the Zhong clan, and thus, a direct descendant of the Zhong clan. The main Clan Leader of the Zhong clan was his uncle who doted on him greatly. Moreover, his uncle had no children of his own so he loved him even more. His uncle treated him like a son since his father was one of the earliest to have children in the clan. For this reason, many people in Skywind City thought that he was likely to become the main Clan Leader of the Zhong clan in the future.

For this reason, many people were afraid of offending Zhong Ke Qi. In Skywind City, only a few people dared to provoke him. However, these few people also occupied a prominent-grade courtyard so there was no reason for them to provoke him.

At the same time, when the spectators heard Duan Ling Tian intend to challenge Zhong Ke Qi, they were shocked. None of them, including Chu Feng Yang and Hong Jun, expected him to challenge the little prince of the Zhong clan.

“Zhong Ke Qi?!”

“Duan Ling Tian is going to challenge Zhong Ke Qi?!”

In Skywind City, Zhong Ke Qi was also known as the little prince of the Zhong clan.

At this time, Ding Yan’s voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind again. He said solemnly through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, Zhong Ke Qi is the pride of the Zhong clan. Although his talent and comprehension skills aren’t the best, his status is definitely one of the highest. If you rob him of his prominent-grade courtyard, you’ll end up offending the Zhong clan as well.”

Following that, Liu Jin’s Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind as well. “Duan Ling Tian, are you sure you want to challenge Zhong Ke Qi?”

Chu Feng Yang looked at Duan Ling Tian silently, waiting for Duan Ling Tian to confirm again that he indeed wished to challenge Zhong Ke Qi. He did not dissuade Duan Ling Tian like the others because he wished Duan Ling Tian’s presence would bring much-needed to the group of Ten Stars students. Duan Ling Tian challenging Zhong Ke Qi would definitely bring about a change. Apart from that, he was also certain the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy would keep his words and protect Duan Ling Tian to the best of his ability. After all, the dean had always admired prodigies like Duan Ling Tian. The dean would definitely value Duan Ling Tian who had a high innate talent and comprehension skills.

Finally, Duan Ling Tian replied, “Yes, I’m sure.” After a moment, he asked, “However, Teacher Chu, I heard that Zhong Ke Qi isn’t even as strong as Hong Jun. Will he dare to accept my challenge? Don’t tell me I have to wait until the deadline is up when he has to give up his prominent-grade courtyard?”

A frown could be seen on Duan Ling Tian’s face at this moment. Clearly, he was unwilling to wait.

“According to the rules, you have no choice but to wait,” Chu Feng Yang said with a wry smile. This was a rule everyone had to follow.

At this moment, a cold scoff rang in the air. Soon enough, a young man dressed in a brocade robe appeared.

The spectators’ eyes instantly shifted to the luxuriously-clad young man who appeared in the sky above the arena that was located behind the Ten Stars Pavilion.

“It’s Zhong Ke Qi!”

“It seems like someone told him about what happened so he came!”

**Chapter 3640: The Strongest Student in the Hidden Fog Academy**

Zhong Ke Qi's sudden appearance was beyond everyone's expectations. They instinctively shifted their eyes toward Duan Ling Tian.

"Are you Duan Ling Tian?" Zhong Ke Qi looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully as soon as he arrived, asking, "Which clan or sect are you from? How dare you challenge me? Do you think the Zhong clan is weak? Brat, do you know what a king-rank clan stands for?"

Duan Ling Tian ignored Zhong Ke Qi and asked Chu Feng Yang, "Teacher Chu, since he's here, I can challenge him in person, right?"

"Yes." Chu Feng Yang nodded with a smile. Earlier, he had been worried Duan Ling Tian would give up when Zhong Ke Qi appeared and threatened him. He was relieved when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. After a moment, he said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Don't worry. The dean will protect you. The Zhong clan won't dare to cross the line. Moreover, with your innate talent and comprehension skills, I'm sure the dean would be more than happy to accept you as his disciple. If you're the dean's disciple, the Zhong clan definitely won't dare to act against you!"

Upon hearing Chu Feng Yang's words, Duan Ling Tian recalled he had heard the voice of Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy, during the Zhou clan's auction. At that time, Murong Sui Feng sounded confident and domineering. He also recalled the rumors he heard about how Murong Sui Feng had possibly broken through and become a Lord of Gods. He also knew Murong Sui Feng was widely acknowledged to be the strongest person in Skywind City.

Duan Ling Tian did not respond to Chu Feng Yang. After all, it was impossible for him to become Murong Sui Feng's disciple. He only had one master, and that was Feng Qing Yang who was still in the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms.

'I wonder how's master?' Duan Ling Tian was overcome with guilt when he thought about his master. After all, it was mostly because of him that his master was in such a state now. Without him, his master would be cultivating peacefully in the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. When the passages between the Devata Realms and the Realms of Gods opened, his master would have a meteoric rise after entering one of the Realms of Gods.

His master, Feng Qing Yang, had comprehended the Sword Dao, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. Apart from that, he had inherited the legacy of a supreme being. Hence, there was no doubt that he would rise to prominent ranks after coming to the Realm of Gods. However, because of Duan Ling Tian, he could only hide in the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhong Ke Qi and said with a contemptuous smile, "You're the little prince of the Zhong clan, right? I, Duan Ling Tian, challenge you to a fight now. Are you going to accept the challenge or are you going to run away like a coward?"

Zhong Ke Qi's expression soured immediately. He did not expect the new student would boldly challenge him even after he had mentioned his clan. He wondered if Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the Zhong clan's influence in Skywind City or if Duan Ling Tian truly thought the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy would be able to protect him.

"Duan Ling Tian," Zhong Ke Qi said threateningly through Voice Transmission, "Do you think the dean can protect you? Let me remind you that he's also the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect. He'll be

too busy managing the sect and the academy's affairs to truly protect you. Can he stay by your side all the time to protect you? Whether it's in Skywind City or the Hidden Fog Sect, our Zhong clan will have a way to deal with you!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled when he heard Zhong Ke Qi's threats. "There's no need to threaten me through Voice Transmission. You only have two choices today: accept my challenge or run away like a coward. Wait, there's also a third choice: admit defeat now. Considering everything, I think the best choice for you is to admit defeat."

"You!" Zhong Ke Qi did not expect Duan Ling Tian would expose and humiliate him. His anger surged as he roared, "You'll regret this! I'll make you regret this!" Then, he looked at Chu Feng Yang and said through gritted teeth, "Teacher Chu, I admit defeat!"

After he finished speaking, Zhong Ke Qi flicked his sleeve and left. Naturally, he was not so stupid to accept Duan Ling Tian's challenge no matter how angry he was. He was not even a match for Hong Jun who was soundly defeated by Duan Ling Tian; how could he accept Duan Ling Tian's challenge? As much as he hated it, he knew admitting defeat was the best choice.

He had considered ignoring Duan Ling Tian and returning to his prominent-grade courtyard. Before the time was up, he would send a message to the Zhong clan so the clan would pressure Duan Ling Tian until Duan Ling Tian withdrew his challenge. However, how could he do so when Duan Ling Tian asked if he was going to flee like a coward? Although no one would dare to laugh at him openly, they would definitely make fun of him behind his back. He would be known as a coward from henceforth. Naturally, he did not want this to happen.

As Zhong Ke Qi left, he did forget to say to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission again, "Duan Ling Tian, enjoy the time you have now! You don't have long to live!"

Duan Ling Tian naturally did not take Zhong Ke Qi's words to heart. After obtaining the right to occupy Zhong Ke Qi's prominent-grade courtyard, he did not waste time and left the arena.

When Duan Ling Tian finally vanished from sight, everyone finally regained their senses.

"After so long, there's finally a switch in the occupants for the prominent-grade courtyards! With this, there are only two unworthy occupants of the prominent-grade courtyards left!"

"Where did Duan Ling Tian come from? He's really terrifyingly strong!"

"With this strength, he's stronger than all of the present Ten Stars students! There's no doubt he's now the strongest student of the Hidden Fog Academy!"

"To think he's not even 2,800 years old! When he matures, he'll definitely hold a high position in the Hidden Fog Sect! Who knows he might even be selected as a candidate to become the future Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect?"

The students discussed enthusiastically among themselves.

The teachers seemed to be in a good mood. Even Yuan Lei was smiling. As a teacher of the Hidden Fog Academy, he naturally hoped for more fairness in the academy and for the Ten Stars students to

improve. How could any teacher stand to watch their students' progress stagnating? With competition, progress would surely follow.

Without competition, the Ten Stars student would only grow complacent. This would only result in them being mediocre. Even if they could join the Hidden Fog Academy, they would not have high positions.

"He's amazing," Liu Jin thought to himself. He sighed inwardly, filled with mixed feelings. He had thought the new student would be living in a nominal-grade courtyard like him, but to his shock, in just a day, before even settling down in the nominal-grade courtyard, the new student won the right to occupy a primitive-grade, mediocre-grade, and prominent-grade courtyards consecutively. In the end, the new student would be living in the prominent-grade courtyard that was previously occupied by Zhong Ke Qi, the little prince of the Zhong clan.

...

News of Duan Ling Tian's actions spread quickly through the entire Hidden Fog Academy.

Everyone, including new students, was shocked by the news.

"We're all new students, but the difference between us and Senior Brother Duan is too vast! He's really amazing!"

"That's right! As soon as he joined the academy, he defeated Senior Brother Hong Jun, one of the five strongest students in the Hidden Fog Academy! He's now the strongest student of the Hidden Fog Academy!"

"Apart from that, I heard that he's also the first outsider to have participated in the Ten Stars assessment in 30 years! He's also the first Ten Stars student in the academy after 30 years! As soon as he appeared, he stirred up such a commotion!"

The Hidden Fog Academy was buzzing.

...

In the evening.

The setting sun cast a red light on the sky.

As darkness gradually descended, two figures flashed away from the sky above the Hidden Fog Academy, leaving no trace behind.

The two figures belonged to a young girl and a beautiful woman. If Duan Ling Tian saw them, he would recognize them as Duan Qiao Yu and Yu Qiu Xuan whom he had met in the Zhou clan's trading zone half a month ago.

...

That night, a small commotion broke out in Skywind City's Zhong clan.

“Did you hear? Our Young Master admitted defeat when he was challenged and had to give up the prominent-grade courtyard he was living in!”

Despite Zhong Ke Qi’s wish to keep the news from spreading, it had spread to the Zhong clan as well. After all, the members of the clan had friends in the academy as well.

Apart from that, several king-rank forces received the news as well.

Contrary to the gloomy atmosphere in the Zhong clan, the other king-rank forces took pleasure in the Zhong clan’s misfortune. They openly made fun of the Zhong clan.

That night, there was bloodshed among these disciples of king-rank forces when they met outside.. To be precise, it was the disciples of the Zhong clan against the disciples of the other king-rank forces.