

SOVEREIGN 3671

Chapter 3671: Qi Yu

Subsequently, the sloppy young man raised his hand and pointed at the air. A crimson energy shot out and struck the space barrier.

Duan Ling Tian instantly felt a pulling force sweeping in from all directions. His surroundings alternated between darkness for a while before he realized he had arrived at a new place.

This realm was not as dark as the one before. A huge luminous pearl hung in the air, illuminating the entire place.

Duan Ling Tian found himself standing in a stone forest with various tall rocks. For a long time, he did not see anyone else at all. He knew he had climbed to the second step, meaning he was now in the second small realm. As for why he did not see anyone, he speculated his opponent must be hiding.

Duan Ling Tian swept his surroundings with his Divine Consciousness and soon detected an aura hidden behind a huge rock not far away.

As soon as the person sensed Duan Ling Tian's Divine Consciousness, he revealed himself immediately. He was a young man with a stern expression. He was dressed in a spotless blue robe, and he looked clean. He was the total opposite of the sloppy young man from the first small realm. He did not look like he had been imprisoned in this place for a long time.

Swoosh!

The stern young man looked at Duan Ling Tian indifferently. Without saying a word, he mobilized his Divine Energy that had been boosted with the law of water.

Duan Ling Tian finally discovered why the young man remained clean despite being imprisoned here. As it turned out, the young man had comprehended the law of water. He could sense the young man was much stronger than the sloppy young man he had met in the first small realm. This young man had comprehended all of the profundities from the law of water to the mastery stage. However, the young man had yet to comprehend any Fused Profundities. Similar to the sloppy young man, he was also an intermediate god.

Duan Ling Tian silently made his move. In just a moment, a raging spatial energy swept out, easily crushing his opponent's attack before injuring and sending his opponent flying.

The young man spat out a mouthful of blood before he looked at Duan Ling Tian fearfully. As though he was afraid Duan Ling Tian would attack again, he hurriedly activated the Teleportation Formation to send Duan Ling Tian away.

Just like that, Duan Ling Tian had reached the third step and entered the third realm. Like before, he had easily defeated his opponent.

The inner disciple imprisoned in the third small realm was still an intermediate god. He had comprehended all of the profundities of the law of metal to the mastery stage and had begun to

comprehend double Fused Profundities. Needless to say, his strength was still inferior to Duan Ling Tian's. In just a second, he was defeated by Duan Ling Tian with just one move.

The situation was the same on the fourth and fifth steps.

However, on the sixth step, Duan Ling Tian had to expend more effort to defeat his opponent. Naturally, this was only because he was hiding his true strength. If he had used all his strength, he would have defeated his opponent in just a blink of an eye.

On the seventh step, Duan Ling Tian's opponent was an advanced god who had comprehended a double Fused Profundity.

Since Duan Ling Tian was unwilling to use his full strength, he was having difficulties dealing with his opponent.

'Hmm?' When Duan Ling Tian was in the midst of the battle, he discovered his Divine Energy had suddenly surged. Then, he realized he had successfully broken through the bottleneck and became an advanced god.

'I had a breakthrough?'

Seeing that Duan Ling Tian had a breakthrough, not only was his opponent fearless, but his opponent charged forward even more aggressively than before. This was because he knew it took time for one's foundation to stabilize after a breakthrough and for one's Divine Energy to transform. He planned to launch a sneak attack at this moment. If he was successful, he was sure he would win the battle.

Swoosh!

Alas, Duan Ling Tian had foreseen his opponent would make a move. He teleported again and again as his opponent attacked in a flurry.

Just as Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base stabilized along with his Divine Energy, his eyes flashed coldly. He stopped teleporting before he said, "Since you have a death wish, I'll fulfill your wish!"

As his opponent charged forward again, Duan Ling Tian cast the Mastery Dao, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. Spatial energy raged around him, killing his opponent in just an instant.

This was the first person he killed since he entered the Heavenly Stairs. He did not kill his previous opponents since they did not have conflicts between them.

After killing his opponent, Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged on the ground to further stabilize his cultivation base and facilitate the transformation of his Divine Energy.

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Outside of the Heavenly Stairs.

Most of the eyes of the inner disciples, including Tang Wu Yan, were glued to the Heavenly Stairs. To be precise, they were glued to the spot of light that represented Duan Ling Tian.

Earlier, the spot of light had risen rapidly from the first to the sixth step. Finally, it had slowed down. In fact, after waiting for a while, they discovered the spot of light stayed on the seventh floor. It did not dim, but it did not move up to the eighth step.

Seeing this, one inner disciple sighed. "I think the seventh step is as far as he'll go."

"The fact that he managed to reach the seventh step despite being an intermediate god is amazing enough. As expected of the monstrous prodigy from Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy. He really lives up to his reputation!"

"That's right! Even the ten strongest inner disciples couldn't reach the seventh step when they were still intermediate gods."

"Even if he can't move up from the seventh step, he should still be proud of himself."

Tang Wu Yan did not pay attention to the conversations around her. Instead, she was staring at the spot of light that represented Duan Ling Tian. At the same time, a hopeful expression could be seen on her face.

At the same time, a spot of light on the eighth floor vanished, and a person appeared outside of the Heavenly Stairs. He was a tall and handsome young man dressed in a brown and blue robe. As soon as he appeared, he attracted the attention of many female disciples. They looked at him with bright eyes as though they wished they could pounce him immediately.

"Senior Brother Qi Yu!"

"Senior Brother Qi Yu has come out. Although he still has yet to climb past the eighth step, he stayed on the eighth step longer than before. I feel like he's going to rank first this time!"

"Senior Brother Qi Yu is really amazing!"

The inner disciples looked at Qi Yu and praised him to the high heavens. Their optimism toward Qi Yu was a stark contrast to their pessimism toward Duan Ling Tian.

Qi Yu was clearly pleased by the praises, based on the proud expression on his face. When he saw Tang Wu Yan, his eyes lit up, and his expression softened immediately. He returned the Heavenly Stairs Token back to the elder before he walked over to Tang Wu Yan and asked with a smile, "Junior Sister Wu Yan, did you just arrive or did you just come out from the Heavenly Stairs?"

"Senior Brother Qi Yu," Tang Wu Yan greeted Qi Yu before saying, "I've yet to enter the Heavenly Stairs."

"Oh?" Qi Yu asked, "Are you going to enter now then? Junior Sister Wu Yan, I remember you were on the seventh step for quite a long time previously and even made it into the top ten. This time, you must have a greater chance of climbing up to the eighth step. It seems like I'll have the honor of watching you advance to the eighth step today."

Qi Yu was very enthusiastic toward Tang Wu Yan. Naturally, this was because he liked Tang Wu Yan. This matter was not a secret in the Hidden Fog Sect. Many male inner disciples did not dare to express their affection to Tang Wu Yan due to their fear of Qi Yu.

"I don't plan to challenge the Heavenly Stairs for now. I'm waiting for my friend to come out," Tang Wu Yan replied. She was not particularly cold nor friendly toward Qi Yu.

Although Qi Yu was rather strong, his reputation was rather bad. As far as Tang Wu Yan knew, there were no fewer than five female inner disciples who had intimate relations with him. Those female disciples did not seem to mind his promiscuity so as an outsider, Tang Wu Yan did not have an opinion on it either. Nonetheless, her impression of Qi Yu was not good.

"Your friend? Who is it? Do I know him?" Qi Yu asked with a smile.

"I think so," Tang Wu Yan glanced at Qi Yu as she slowly said, "After all, Senior Brother Qi Yu, you've been challenging him once every month over the past three months."

Qi Yu's eyes widened as he asked with a hint of disbelief, "Junior Sister Wu Yan, the friend you mentioned is Duan Ling Tian?"

"Yes." Tang Wu Yan nodded. Then, she turned back to look at the spot of light that represented Duan Ling Tian without sparing another glance at Qi Yu.

Upon seeing this, Qi Yu's expression soured as he clenched his hands tightly. His eyes glinted coldly as he followed the direction of Tang Wu Yan's gaze. Previously, he only targeted Duan Ling Tian because of Tu Feng. However, because of Tang Wu Yan, even if Tu Feng did not say anything, he would still continue to challenge Duan Ling Tian.

This was the first time Qi Yu had seen Tang Wu Yan showing so much interest in a man, after all. He had never received such treatment from her before. How could he not be jealous of Duan Ling Tian?

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Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Qi Yu had left the eighth step nor was he aware that Qi Yu now held a personal grudge against him.

After becoming an advanced god and stabilizing his cultivation base and Divine Energy, he rose to his feet and muttered to himself, "Alright, let's advance to the eighth step."

Chapter 3672: Xue Hai Shan

In fact, after killing his opponent on the seventh step, Duan Ling Tian had felt the pulling force from the Teleportation Formation trying to send him to the eighth step. However, when he found he could withstand the pulling force, he decided to further stabilize his cultivation base and Divine Energy after becoming an advanced god.

After he was done, he finally allowed him to be taken away by the pulling force.

In just a blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian found himself hovering above a literal sea of blood. He could smell the metallic stench of blood rising from the sea. When he did not see or sense anyone with his Divine Consciousness, a vague idea appeared in his mind.

He rose higher up into the sky and stood with his hands on his back as he asked tonelessly, "You can create such life-like illusions with your bloodline power and hide your aura from my Divine Consciousness; I have to say you're quite impressive. However, I'll have to disappoint you if you think you'll be able to catch me off guard."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian's voice fell, the sea began to bubble as though it was boiling. After a moment, the sea vanished into thin air, and a middle-aged man dressed in a dark red robe appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian. The middle-aged man was tall. He had a pair of piercing eyes. His eyebrows and stern expression made him look fierce. As soon as he appeared, he said, "Not bad. You managed to discover this is from my bloodline power."

Now that the sea of blood had vanished, Duan Ling Tian found himself in a plain field.

"Since I've been brought here, how could there be no one around? Since I couldn't detect you with my Divine Consciousness, it's only obvious that I'd figure out what was happening," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"You're quite smart. In the past, I killed quite a few inner disciples before they could even react. They didn't even have a chance to leave the Heavenly Stairs," the middle-aged man said confidently with a sinister smile, "I've been so bored during my time here. The only fun I have is playing with the inner disciples who come here. Since you're rather smart, I'll try not to kill you."

"Kill me?" Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly. "Oh, then I'll have to thank you for sparing my life."

"Brat, are you mocking me?" the red-clad middle-aged man said with a sneer, "Very well. You'll soon have a taste of despair. I, Xue Hai Shan, is the strongest among the inner disciples imprisoned on the eighth step."

Xue Hai Shan moved as soon as he finished speaking. Divine Energy surged from his body, boosted by the law he comprehended. With a flick of his finger, everything seemed to have frozen.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised when he felt the familiar energy. 'The law of time?'

It did not take long for Duan Ling Tian to figure out that Xue Hai Shan, the advanced god imprisoned here, had comprehended the law of time, one of the Four Supreme Laws. The law of time was also the most mysterious law.

Since one could control time with the law of time, it made the law difficult to guard against.

Duan Ling Tian could also tell Xue Hai Shan had already comprehended one triple Fused Profundity from the law of time.

"Although you've only comprehended one triple Fused Profundity from the law of time, it's indeed enough to make you the strongest among the prisoners on the eighth step," Duan Ling Tian said as Divine Energy surged out from his body. Then, he cast two triple Fused Profundities consecutively.

A terrifying spatial energy swept out, colliding with Xue Hai Shan's law of time, preventing the law of time from affecting Duan Ling Tian.

The law of space was also one of the Four Supreme Laws and was not inferior to the law of time even if the law of time was more mysterious.

With two triple Fused Profundities, Duan Ling Tian managed to keep the law of time at bay.

Upon seeing this, Xue Hai Shan's arrogant expression was replaced by an expression of disbelief. He exclaimed in shock, "Y-you... You comprehended two triple Fused Profundities from the law of space?!"

There was a reason why Xue Hai Shan was confident he was the strongest among those imprisoned on the eighth step. Despite all the prisoners on the eighth step being advanced gods who had comprehended one triple Fused Profundity, he was the only one who had comprehended a supreme law. Hence, this gave him an edge over the others.

Now that he was facing an opponent who not only comprehended a supreme law but also comprehended two triple Fused Profundities, he was at a loss. He felt hopeless and helpless. After all, he knew now he was no match for Duan Ling Tian.

"Do you want to continue?" Duan Ling Tian asked. Without waiting for a reply, the spatial energy raged like a storm, easily pushing Xue Hai Shan's attack back.

Xue Hai Shan scoffed coldly with a sour expression on his face before he brought out a small and square flag that was inscribed with complex patterns. After he channeled his Divine Energy into it, his offensive strength soared immediately. For a while, not only did he seem to be able to rival Duan Ling Tian, but it also seemed like he could pressure Duan Ling Tian.

"Do you think you're the only one with a mediocre divine artifact?" Duan Ling Tian asked tonelessly. Inwardly, he was rather surprised that Xue Hai Shan would bring out a divine artifact with a soul. Naturally, he was not afraid. With just a wave of his hand, he brought a sword, which was a divine artifact with a soul, out.

Swoosh!

After imbuing the sword with his Divine Energy, he swung it with all his might.

At the same time, the spatial energy converged before transforming into a huge sword ray.

Duan Ling Tian's attack easily destroyed Xue Hai Shan's attack before it landed on Xue Hai Shan.

Xue Hai Shan's crimson robe was immediately shredded. His body was riddled with wounds in just a blink of an eye. His face was pale, and an expression of despair could be seen on his face.

Although Duan Ling Tian had held back at the last minute, Xue Hai Shan still suffered minor injuries due to his close proximity to Duan Ling Tian's attack.

Swoosh!

When a gust of wind blew past them, Xue Hai Shan felt stinging pain from his wounds. Despite the pain, he was overjoyed. After all, he was certain he would die just a moment ago. Then, he bowed and hastily said, "Thank you for showing mercy, sir! I, Xue Hai Shan, will forever remember your kindness. May I ask for your name?"

“Duan Ling Tian,” Duan Ling Tian replied. He had spared Xue Hai Shan’s life because earlier, Xue Hai Shan had said he would not kill him.

“Duan Ling Tian. Alright, I’ll remember your name!” Xue Hai Shan nodded. “If I manage to leave this place in the future, I’ll definitely repay this favor!”

Duan Ling Tian did not take Xue Hai Shan’s words to heart. After all, most of the inner disciples had committed a great crime to be imprisoned here. It would be a long time before they were released. Moreover, Xue Hai Shan was weaker than him. Hence, he did not think Xue Hai Shan would be able to repay the favor.

Before Duan Ling Tian left, Xue Hai Shan reminded him, “When you’re on the ninth step, you shouldn’t hesitate to use your token to leave when you encounter any danger. Moreover, once you climbed up the ninth floor, you would’ve broken all the record.”

“Are the prisoners on the ninth step and above all Kings of Gods?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Xue Hai Shan replied, “Over 90% of them are Kings of Gods. There are few advanced gods who have comprehended two triple Fused Profundities; you’d be lucky to encounter them. If you encounter a King of Gods, it’d be difficult for you to defeat him even if his comprehension of the law is only mediocre. Try to hold on as long as you can on the ninth step. However, don’t hesitate to leave as soon as you encounter danger.”

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Hey, let’s drink together after I leave this place!” Xue Hai Shan said before sending Duan Ling Tian to the ninth step with the Teleportation Formation.

After Duan Ling Tian vanished into thin air, Xue Hai Shan said with a sigh, “I didn’t expect there’d be an advanced god who has comprehended two triple Fused Profundities in the Hidden Fog Sect. Moreover, the law he comprehended is the law of space, one of the Four Supreme Laws.”

Even before Xue Hai Shan was imprisoned, disciples like Duan Ling Tian were a rarity. Perhaps, only his younger brother, Xue Hai Chuan, was as talented.

“More than 10,000 years have passed, I wonder how’s that kid, Hai Chuan, is doing? With his innate talent and comprehension skills, he must be a Lord of Gods now, right? At the very least, he should be an advanced King of Gods now...” Xue Hai Shan muttered to himself.

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Meanwhile, there was a huge uproar outside of the Heavenly Stairs.

“Heavens! Duan Ling Tian climbed up to the ninth step!”

“Am I seeing things?”

Chapter 3673: The Prisoner on the Ninth Step of the Heavenly Stairs

Duan Ling Tian's reputation had long preceded him in the Hidden Fog Sect. Perhaps, only those who were in closed-door cultivation were the only ones who had yet to hear about him.

Moreover, over the past three months, Qi Yu, one of the top ten inner disciples in the Hidden Fog Sect, had repeatedly challenged Duan Ling Tian, causing Duan Ling Tian to become even more famous.

Many people were looking forward to Qi Yu and Duan Ling Tian's fight, after all. Most of them were confident Qi Yu would win the fight. Although Duan Ling Tian had comprehended triple Fused Profundities from the law of space, Qi Yu had also comprehended triple Fused Profundities from the law of wind. Moreover, Qi Yu was already an advanced god while Duan Ling Tian was just an intermediate god. With that, even if Duan Ling Tian had comprehended one of the Four Supreme Laws, it would still be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to defeat Qi Yu.

Today, Duan Ling Tian stuck out even more since Tang Wu An had shown that she had a good relationship with him. Most importantly, his performance during the Heavenly Stairs Battle was too shocking. They did not expect him to make it to the eighth step. They would not have been surprised if he was an advanced god, but he was just an intermediate god. How was it possible for an intermediate god to reach the eighth step?

Similar to the others, Qi Yu was also shocked that Duan Ling Tian successfully climbed up to the eighth step. He thought to himself, 'It's already amazing that he managed to pass the seventh step and climb up to the eighth step. However, considering how long he took on the seventh step, it's likely he won't be able to hold out for long on the eighth step.'

However, not long after that, Qi Yu was shocked again.

After advancing to the eighth step, it did not take long before Duan Ling Tian advanced to the ninth step.

The difficulty on the eighth step far surpassed that of the seventh step. There was a reason why even the strongest inner disciples with the cultivation of god could not make it past the eighth step. To climb to the ninth step, they would have to kill or defeat their opponents.

Everyone was naturally shocked by Duan Ling Tian's feat.

"Duan Ling Tian actually climbed up to the ninth step?! Heavens! He actually passed the eighth step!"

Tang Wu Yan wore a surprised expression on her pretty face. "H-he actually passed the eighth step?"

Although Tang Wu Yan had never been to the eighth step before, she had climbed up to the seventh step, after all. The opponents on the seventh step were very strong. She could not defeat her opponents at all, hence, she failed to advance to the eighth step. How could she not be shocked that Duan Ling Tian passed the eighth step and advanced to the ninth step?

At this time, many people began to speculate among themselves.

"Do you think the person who's imprisoned on the eighth step went easy on him?"

"Went easy on him? Impossible! You know they're prisoners of the Hidden Fog Sect who used to be inner disciples. With every win, their sentence would be reduced! How could they have gone easy on him?"

“Nonetheless, there have been cases where those prisoners went easy on the participants for various reasons. For example, some of them had lost the will to live or they were familiar with their opponents.”

Rumors, when repeated enough, would suddenly gain credibility. As the inner disciples continued to speculate, more and more people were convinced that Duan Ling Tian only managed to advance to the ninth step because the prisoner on the eighth step had gone easy on him.

Qi Yu sneered. “So what if he’s ranked first? No one believes in his strength anyway!”

Although Tang Wu Yan also thought it was likely that the prisoner on the eighth step went easy on Duan Ling Tian, she felt uncomfortable when she heard Qi Yu’s words. Hence, she said, “Senior Brother Qi Yu, you can’t say that. There’s a chance he defeated his opponent fair and square.”

Qi Yu said with a smile, “Junior Sister Wu Yan, he spent so much time on the seventh step. With that, do you really think he’d be able to defeat his opponent fair and square?”

Tang Wu Yan frowned as she said, “It’s possible that he had a breakthrough on the seventh step and spent time stabilizing his cultivation base before he advanced to the ninth step.”

“Breakthrough? How could there be such a coincidence?” Qi Yu shook his head. However, at the mention of a breakthrough, he felt slightly frightened. After all, he could still intimidate Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian was an intermediate god. However, once Duan Ling Tian broke through and become an advanced god, he would no longer be able to suppress or intimidate Duan Ling Tian anymore.

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Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian successfully entered the small realm on the ninth step after Xue Hai Shan from the small realm on the eighth step activated the Teleportation Formation.

This time, Duan Ling Tian found himself above beautiful mountains and rivers. He saw an elegant figure dressed in a white robe standing at the peak of a mountain with his hands on his back. He was a middle-aged man who looked like a scholar. Although his appearance was ordinary, his temperament and bearing were extraordinary. One would not miss him even in a sea of people.

“Not bad. You managed to come here despite only being an advanced god,” the middle-aged scholar said tonelessly.

Before the middle-aged scholar finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian felt the other party’s Divine Consciousness sweep over him lightly. After reciprocating the action, he exclaimed in shock, “You’re an advanced god as well?”

Based on Xue Hai Shan’s earlier words, Duan Ling Tian knew he was lucky that his opponent on the ninth step was an advanced god. After all, most of the prisoners on the ninth step were Kings of Gods with just a few advanced gods.

‘Xue Hai Shan said that the advanced gods imprisoned on the ninth step have all comprehended at least two triple Fused Profundity... It seems like my opponent is such a person.’

Upon seeing the shock on Duan Ling Tian's face, the middle-aged scholar asked expressionlessly, "Are you surprised?" Then, he said pridefully, "However, I'm different from the advanced gods you faced previously. If I'm not mistaken, your opponent on the eighth step is an advanced god who had comprehended a triple Fused Profundity, right? Let me tell you, I can kill that kind of person with just a strike."

"I believe you," Duan Ling Tian said as he nodded, "Since you're imprisoned on the ninth step, you're definitely stronger than those on the eighth step. However, I'm rather curious about something... Why did the Hidden Fog Sect imprison a powerful cultivator like you? You're an advanced god who had comprehended two triple Fused Profundities. Someone like you is rare in the Hidden Fog Sect."

After Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he waited for the middle-aged scholar's reply.

"It seems like you know quite a lot," the middle-aged scholar said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a deep gaze, "Perhaps, if I had committed another crime, the sect might overlook it due to my talent. Do you know what crime I committed?"

"What?" Duan Ling Tian was startled.

"I killed my master, the former Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect," the middle-aged scholar replied with a grin, revealing two rows of white teeth.

Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian trembled slightly. He was shocked his opponent had killed his master. Not only that, but his opponent master was the former Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect. His gaze turned into one of disgust as he continued to look at the middle-aged scholar.

"What? Do you despise me?" the middle-aged man asked with a smirk, "Do you know why I killed him?"

The middle-aged scholar's voice turned solemn as he said, "He ordered the annihilation of my clan and said he did it for me! Thousands of lives were lost because of him!"

At the same time, a ferocious cyan energy rose from the middle-aged scholar's body.

"Could you be mistaken?" Duan Ling Tian frowned. He did not understand why the Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect would annihilate his disciple's clan.

"Mistaken? Of course not! When the assassin he sent to kill my family returned to report to him, I overheard their conversation! How could I be mistaken? Back then, I told him that I had no wish of becoming the next Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect. I want to return to my clan and lead the clan to greater heights.. I had hoped that my clan would join the ranks of king-rank or lord-rank forces! He was unhappy with my decision. He did not want me to return to my clan so he killed everyone!"

Chapter 3674: Do You Have a Death Wish?

The middle-aged scholar grew more and more agitated as he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian could sense the middle-aged scholar's bitterness and hatred. He now understood why the Hidden Fog Sect would imprison such a talented cultivator. With the crime the middle-aged scholar

had committed, even if the sect did not kill him, they definitely would not set him free. Otherwise, it would only bring disaster to the sect in the future.

Since the middle-aged scholar was chosen to be the next Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect, Duan Ling Tian knew the man had to be highly talented. With that, how could the Hidden Fog Sect let a potential threat continue to grow stronger? The small realms in the Heavenly Stairs that restricted one's cultivation base from advancing were the best place to imprison the middle-aged scholar.

"So you're sentenced to life in here?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"What do you think?" The middle-aged scholar sneered as he said, "I was only over 2,300 years old when I became an advanced god and comprehended two triple Fused Profundities from the law of wind. Only a few people in the history of the sect achieved this. The only reason they didn't kill was so they could use me to train the disciples of the sect! How could they let me out? It's natural that I was sentenced to life."

The middle-aged scholar smiled mockingly as he said, "The Hidden Fog Sect is a dignified lord-rank sect, but they're so cowardly! They were even afraid of an advanced god like me back then! How ridiculous!"

Duan Ling Tian was surprised by the middle-aged scholar's achievements when he was younger.

"Alright, enough of this," the middle-aged scholar finally said, "Boy, do you want to leave on your own or do you want me to send you out?"

The middle-aged scholar's Divine Energy that had been boosted with the law of wind surged violently as he looked at Duan Ling Tian intently.

Duan Ling Tian smiled. "Although I don't plan to pass the ninth step, I'm afraid you're not capable of sending me out of here if I'm unwilling."

"Very well. Then, have a taste of my strength."

As soon as the middle-aged scholar finished speaking, he made a move.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A hurricane spun around the middle-aged scholar's body as a terrifying energy swept toward Duan Ling Tian like a starving beast.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Duan Ling Tian's spatial energy surged out and easily devoured the violent and storm-like energy.

The middle-aged man's expression changed drastically as he exclaimed in shock, "Y-you've comprehended triple Fused Profundities from the law of space?!"

There were eight profundities in a law. Naturally, with so many profundities, one could comprehend many triple Fused Profundities. It was not limited to just one or two. Needless to say, the more one comprehended, the stronger one would be.

When Duan Ling Tian attacked, he had used three triple Fused Profundities from the law of space to destroy the middle-aged scholar's attack. He had done it with the ease he had when defeating Xue Hai Shan from the eighth step.

Boom!

At this time, the surging spatial energy landed heavily like a giant hammer on the middle-aged scholar, sending him flying back.

At the critical moment, Duan Ling Tian restrained his strength. Otherwise, the middle-aged scholar would have died.

"You!" When the middle-aged man regained his senses, his face turned pale with fright. He watched as the purple-clad young man standing in the distance brought out the Heavenly Stairs token to leave.

"He's not advancing to the tenth step?" The middle-aged scholar was puzzled as he watched Duan Ling Tian leave.

When a thought suddenly appeared in his mind, he reached out to wipe the blood off the corner of his mouth and smiled. He muttered to himself, "It seems like he's trying to maintain a low profile. After all, no advanced gods had ever made it to the tenth step of the Heavenly Stairs in the history of the Hidden Fog Sect. Even the strongest advanced god in the history of the sect only made it to the ninth step."

Then, he sighed, feeling slightly embarrassed. "To think he's even more talented than I was back then. I didn't think such a person would appear in the Hidden Fog Sect."

...

Outside of the Heavenly Stairs.

As people watched the spot of light that represented Duan Ling Tian, they all thought Duan Ling Tian would be soon eliminated.

Even Tang Wu Yan thought the same.

However, they were surprised when Duan Ling Tian had yet to come out even after a long time.

"Is he really so strong that he manages to hold on against his opponent on the ninth step?! Otherwise, how could he last for so long?"

"Impossible! There must be another reason!"

Many people shook their heads. They did not believe Duan Ling Tian was capable of holding his ground for so long against his opponent on the ninth step.

"He took such a long time to pass the seventh step. It's impossible for him to be able to hold out for so long."

"That's right! There must be another reason for this!"

"Exactly! I'm even more convinced now that the prisoner on the eighth step of the Heavenly Stairs went easy on him!"

Naturally, no one would be able to guess that Duan Ling Tian stayed on the ninth step for so long because he was chatting with his opponent.

After a while...

Swoosh!

Under everyone's expectant gazes, Duan Ling Tian appeared before everyone's eyes after the spot of light on the ninth step went dark.

Needless to say, everyone assumed Duan Ling Tian was sent out after being defeated by his opponent.

"Duan Ling Tian's here!"

"I still can't believe he climbed up to the ninth step! If nothing changes, then he'll definitely rank first this time!"

"How lucky."

Duan Ling Tian ignored the conversations in his surroundings and handed the Heavenly Stairs token to the old man guarding the Heavenly Stairs. "Elder, this is my token."

The old man asked curiously, "You fought with the prisoner on the ninth step for so long?"

Duan Ling Tian shook his head, "No, the battle ended quickly with just one move."

Everyone, disciples and elders alike, assumed that Duan Ling Tian was defeated by his opponent with just a move. Not even in the wildest dreams would they be able to imagine that it was the other way around.

Everyone continued looking at Duan Ling Tian curiously, urging him with their eyes to tell them why he was at the ninth step for so long.

"We chatted for a while," Duan Ling Tian said.

His response naturally shocked everyone. It did not cross their minds that he was on the ninth step for so long because he was chatting with his opponent.

'How could he be so lucky? He even found an opponent to chat with!'

Many disciples had tried to engage their opponents in conversations in hopes of prolonging their time in the small realms. However, they were always ruthlessly sent out of the Heavenly Stairs.

"How lucky," Qi Yu said in a voice dripping with mockery as he sneered.

Qi Yu's voice was very clear due to the quietness in the surroundings.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi Yu for a moment before he said with a faint smile, "Indeed, I'm lucky. However, even if you're as lucky as me, you still won't be able to beat me."

Qi Yu's expression soured immediately. After a moment, he said contemptuously, "Duan Ling Tian, did you finally decide to stop being cowardly? Since you're here now, why don't you accept my challenge? Don't tell me you're afraid and plan to hide like a tortoise?"

"Challenge?" Duan Ling Tian did not respond for a while, confused as to why the stranger in front of him was so hostile.

At this time, Tang Wu Yan stepped forward and said, "Duan Ling Tian, he's Qi Yu, the one who has been challenging you over the past three months."

"Qi Yu?" Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian immediately. "So he's the mad dog that Tu Feng sent to attack me."

Tang Wu Yan, who was standing in front of Duan Ling Tian, was stunned. She did not expect Duan Ling Tian to openly call Qi Yu a mad dog. When she regained her senses, she asked through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, you have a conflict with Senior Brother Tu Feng?"

Although Tu Feng was also an inner disciple, his status was higher than that of ordinary inner disciples. After all, not only was he a King of God, but he was also the disciple of the second elder of the Hidden Fog Sect.

Duan Ling Tian was highly talented and had good comprehension skills, but it was still not wise of him to provoke Tu Feng. Hence, Tang Wu Yan was slightly concerned.

"Personally, I don't care about him at all. He's the one who's holding a grudge," Duan Ling Tian said with a shrug.

Before Tang Wu Yan could respond, Qi Yu said icily, "Duan Ling Tian, do you have a death wish?"

Chapter 3675: The Extreme Martial Arena

As soon as Qi Yu's voice fell, everyone fell silent. The tense atmosphere made them nervous as they looked at Duan Ling Tian and Qi Yu.

"I have a death wish?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi Yu with a deep gaze as he asked, "What? Do you think you can kill me?"

Qi Yu scoffed. He said derisively, "Duan Ling Tian, just because you climbed to the ninth step due to luck, don't tell me you really think you're that great? Our rankings aren't an accurate representation of our strength. Oh, right, you're just a newcomer so you're unaware of this."

In Qi Yu's opinion, since Duan Ling Tian spent such a long time on the seventh step of the Heavenly Stairs, it was definitely impossible for Duan Ling Tian to pass the eighth step. He was convinced Duan Ling Tian had only managed to do so because his opponent had gone easy on him. Although it was rare, it was not unprecedented. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had also just said he was defeated with just a move after advancing to the ninth step. Duan Ling Tian was only on the ninth step for a long time because he was chatting with his opponent. For all these reasons, despite Duan Ling Tian's superior ranking, he did not think Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him. He attributed Duan Ling Tian's ranking to his luck.

“Luck?” Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. “Alright, let’s fight then.”

“Do you think I’m afraid of you?” Qi Yu sneered. “Very well. Do you dare to fight me at the Extreme Martial Arena?”

The Extreme Martial Arena was where members of the Hidden Fog Sect carried out challenges. During a fight in the arena, one could choose to admit defeat. However, if one did not admit defeat or could admit defeat in time, there would be no consequences if one was killed.

For sparring sessions, members of the Hidden Fog Sect would go to the Martial Square that was located below the Extreme Martial Arena.

“Extreme Martial Arena? Senior Brother Qi Yu wants to fight Duan Ling Tian in the Extreme Martial Arena?”

“Heavens! If one can’t surrender in time, one’s opponent can kill one without any repercussions!”

“Is their enmity that deep? It seems like Senior Qi Yu plans to kill Duan Ling Tian in the arena before Duan Ling Tian can surrender!”

The inner disciples were shocked. Some of them who loved to watch a show were filled with excitement and anticipation.

At this moment, Tang Wu Yan said through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, don’t be impulsive. If you fight in the Extreme Martial Arena, you’ll die if you can’t surrender in time. Qi Yu won’t be punished for killing you as well!”

“I know. I’ve already learned about the Extreme Martial Arena from the Inner Disciple Manual,” Duan Ling Tian calmly said with a smile on his face.

Qi Yu was even more jealous when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words to Tang Wu Yan. He could naturally guess Tang Wu Yan had sent Duan Ling Tian a Voice Transmission to dissuade Duan Ling Tian from fighting in the Extreme Martial Arena. With this, he said sarcastically, “Duan Ling Tian, the genius from Skywind City, do you dare to accept my challenge?”

At this moment, an aged voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears.

“Duan Ling Tian, don’t be rash. Don’t agree to it if you’re not confident about winning.”

Duan Ling Tian looked up in surprise. The Voice Transmission was from the inner elder guarding the Heavenly Stairs.

“Elder, don’t worry. I never do things I have no confidence in,” Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission. Then, he looked at Qi Yu and said, “Lead the way.”

Qi Yu was briefly stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s response. When he regained his senses, he sneered and proceeded to lead Duan Ling Tian to the Extreme Martial Arena.

The crowd erupted in an uproar immediately.

“Duan Ling Tian actually accepted the challenge!”

“I really don’t understand why he accepted the challenge. Since Senior Brother Qi Yu proposed fighting in the Extreme Martial Arena, clearly, he’s very confident about winning.”

“An intermediate god actually dared to accept the challenge from an advanced god?”

Tang Wu Yan frowned when she saw Duan Ling Tian disregarding her advice. Then, she hurried over to catch up with Duan Ling Tian. When she caught up with him, she said through Voice Transmission again, “Duan Ling Tian, remember to surrender if you feel like you can’t hold on anymore. As long as you surrender, Qi Yu won’t be able to kill you without facing punishment! The elders on duty at the arena will also protect you.”

Duan Ling Tian was already aware of these things. Nevertheless, he still thanked Tang Wu Yan.

Except for those who were still in the Heavenly Stairs and the inner elder guarding it, everyone went to the Extreme Martial Arena excitedly as well.

In fact, the inner elder guarding the Heavenly Stairs would have gone to the Extreme Martial Arena as well if he did not have to guard the Heavenly Stairs.

At this time, an inner disciple who had just come out from the Heavenly Stairs looked around in confusion. “Where’s everyone?”

No one was around except for the inner elder on duty.

After learning about what had happened, the inner disciple hurried to the Extreme Martial Arena as well.

‘I can’t believe Senior Brother Qi Yu and Duan Ling Tian are going to fight in the Extreme Martial Arena! I can’t miss this exciting show!’

Along the way, the inner disciple would recount what happened to others he encountered. With this, even more people made their way to the Extreme Martial Arena.

At the same time, the inner elder guarding the Heavenly Stairs sent a message to an elder whom he had a good relationship with.

“Elder Peng, if I’m not mistaken, you’re on duty at the Extreme Martial Arena now, right?”

The other party’s reply came quickly. “Yes. What’s the matter?”

The elder said, “Please update me about the outcome of Qi Yu and Duan Ling Tian’s fight at the Extreme Martial Arena. Duan Ling Tian is the disciple that Vice Sect Leader Murong recommended to join the sect. If he’s in danger, I hope you’ll help me remind him to surrender through Voice Transmission. He’s actually very polite. Moreover, he’s highly talented. He’ll definitely be of great help to the sect in the future.”

“What? Qi Yu and Duan Ling Tian are coming to fight in the Extreme Martial Arena? Never mind, they just arrived. Alright, don’t worry. I don’t such a genius to die so pointlessly as well.”

...

Elder Peng, who was on duty at the Extreme Martial Arena, saw Qi Yu and a group of people making their way over to the Extreme Martial Arena. Although he had never seen Duan Ling Tian before, he could guess the handsome purple-clad young man behind Qi Yu was Duan Ling Tian.

Above the Martial Square, there were 19 Extreme Martial Arenas. They were located between the inner and outer sect, and both inner and outer disciples could use them. Usually, the Martial Square would be lively while the arenas would be empty.

When Duan Ling Tian, Qi Yu, and the others arrived, there was already a crowd in the Martial Square. Needless to say, everyone was attracted by their sudden arrival.

“Why did so many people come?”

“How lively!”

“Hey, that’s Senior Brother Qi Yu, one of the ten strongest inner disciples who are gods!”

“He’s going to the Extreme Martial Arena!”

“Who’s he fighting?”

“Who’s that purple-clad young man behind him?”

The inner and outer disciples on the Martial Square were curious so they followed the others to the Extreme Martial Arena as well. Since they were unaware of what was going on, they began to ask the people who had come with Qi Yu and Duan Ling Tian.

“Senior, what happened? Who’s Senior Brother Qi Yu fighting in the Extreme Martial Arena?”

Everyone was shocked when they learned about what happened.

“He’s going to fight that newcomer, Duan Ling Tian? Isn’t Duan Ling Tian an intermediate god? How dare he agree to fight with Senior Qi Yu who’s an advanced god in the Extreme Martial Arena?”

“I’ve heard about him. Similar to Senior Brother Qi Yu, he had also managed to comprehend a triple Fused Profundity. However, Senior Brother Qi Yu’s cultivation base is one level higher than his. How can he be a match for Senior Brother Qi Yu?”

“I really don’t understand why he would accept the challenge when the odds are clearly against him.”

“Well, there’s no lack of geniuses who died due to a moment of rashness.”

Although everyone did not understand Duan Ling Tian’s decision, they were still excited to watch the battle. They looked at the purple figure pitifully as they shook their heads.

Qi Yu led Duan Ling Tian to the arena in the center. It was also the biggest one. It was like the moon while the 18 smaller arenas that surrounded it were like the stars.

After landing in the arena, Qi Yu turned to face Duan Ling Tian. He could not help but feel slightly worried when he saw how calm Duan Ling Tian was. Duan Ling Tian could have pretended to be calm when they were outside the Heavenly Stairs, but it would be impossible to pretend to be calm now that they were in the arena, right?

Qi Yu's uneasiness continued to grow.. When he could no longer bear it, he extended his Divine Consciousness to probe Duan Ling Tian. In the next moment, his eyes widened as he exclaimed in shock, "H-he broke through and became an advanced god?!"

Chapter 3676: I've Already Given You a Chance

Earlier, it did not cross Qin Yu's mind to probe Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base at all. After all, he was convinced Duan Ling Tian was not as strong as him and that Duan Ling Tian's feat of advancing to the ninth step was just a fluke. Moreover, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would have a breakthrough in the Heavenly Stairs. The only reason he had decided to probe Duan Ling Tian was due to the sense of unease he felt when he saw how calm Duan Ling Tian was even after they had arrived in the Extreme Martial Arena.

Now that Qi Yu discovered Duan Ling Tian was an advanced god, he was frightened out of his wits. Duan Ling Tian's breakthrough made a whole world of a difference in their fight. He was confident about defeating Duan Ling Tian when Duan Ling Tian was an intermediate god, but now that Duan Ling Tian was an advanced god, he was not confident he would be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian at all. Although they had both comprehended triple Fused Profundities, and their cultivation bases were both the same now, the fact that Duan Ling Tian comprehended one of the Four Supreme Law gave him an edge. After all, he had only comprehended one of the elemental laws.

Qi Yu said grimly, "I didn't expect to break through and become an advanced god."

Qi Yu intentionally raised his voice when he spoke. He wanted everyone present, including the two elders on duty, to hear him.

Upon hearing Qi Yu's words, Elder Peng, one of the elders on duty, confirmed Qi Yu's words by probing Duan Ling Tian with his Divine Consciousness as well. Then, he sent a message to the elder guarding the Heavenly Stairs.

"Elder Chen, your worries are unfounded."

Elder Chen, the elder who guarded the Heavenly Stairs, was confused. "What do you mean?"

"Duan Ling Tian is an advanced god. This means he has a high chance of winning the challenge. Don't you think you're worrying too much? There's no need for me to remind him to surrender," Elder Peng said.

"What? Duan Ling Tian is an advanced god?" Elder Chen was shocked. "Before he entered the Heavenly Stairs, I'm sure he was just an intermediate god. I used my Divine Consciousness to probe him after all. Don't tell me he broke through while he fought one of his opponents in the Heavenly Stairs?"

After thinking about it for a while, Elder Chen said, "That should be it. He likely broke through while he was on the seventh step. That must be why he stayed on the seventh floor for such a long time, and that's also probably why he passed the eighth step so quickly. The prisoner on the eighth step didn't go easy on him at all. Then, he likely encountered a King of God on the ninth step and was thus eliminated."

After his analysis, Elder Chen felt like he had been worried for nothing. Duan Ling Tian was not any weaker than Qin Yu; in fact, he was likely stronger than Qi Yu.

“Well, you’d know better. Anyway, I’m going to watch their fight now. I’ll let you know the outcome once the battle ends. However, I think Qi Yu’s going to end up surrendering. I can already see the fear in his eyes. Moreover, being frightened before a fight is going to be disadvantageous to him as well.”

After that, Elder Peng stopped communicating with Elder Chen and focused his attention on the two people standing in the Extreme Martial Arena. At the same time, he could hear the conversations in his surroundings.

“I didn’t expect Duan Ling Tian to break through and become an advanced god!”

“No wonder he accepted Senior Brother Qi Yu’s challenge. As it turns out, he had a breakthrough!”

“Hey, I get it now! I think Duan Ling Tian broke through on the seventh step of the Heavenly Stairs! That was why he took such a long time defeating his opponent on the seventh step but quickly defeated his opponent on the eighth step! Then, he likely encountered a King of Gods on the ninth step and was eliminated!”

“I agree!”

At the same time, Tang Wu Yan stood among the inner disciples and looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complex gaze as she muttered softly, “So he really did have a breakthrough in the Heavenly Stairs? I just casually said those words to Qi Yu. Who knew that’s really the case?”

Earlier, Tang Wu Yan had told Qi Yu that Duan Ling Tian might have had a breakthrough, allowing him to easily defeat his opponent on the eighth step and advance to the ninth step. Nonetheless, she only said those words to defend Duan Ling Tian. In fact, she did not think Duan Ling Tian could have a breakthrough in the Heavenly Stairs as well. She really did not expect she would be right.

...

Back in the arena.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi Yu coldly as he said in a voice dripping with mockery, “What’s the matter? Do you want to admit defeat? Oh, wait, based on what I know, once you enter the Extreme Martial Arena, you’re not allowed to admit defeat immediately. You can only admit defeat after one minute into the fight.”

“Who said I’m going to admit defeat?” Qi Yi said. Outwardly, he looked calm, hiding all fears in his heart. He continued to say, “Duan Ling Tian, although you’re an advanced god, you’ve just broken through so your foundation still isn’t stable. With that, do you really think I’ll admit defeat? You must be joking.”

As soon as Qi Yu’s voice fell, a gust of wind surged from his body along with his Divine Energy. The wind grew more and more violent until it grew into a small tornado. After that, the tornado continued to increase in size.

Duan Ling Tian remained expressionless as he looked at Qi Yu. The middle-aged scholar he had met on the ninth step of the Heavenly Stairs had also comprehended the law of wind, but the middle-aged scholar was much stronger than Qi Yu. After all, the middle-aged scholar had comprehended two triple

Fused Profundities from the law of wind while Qi Yu had only comprehended one triple Fused Profundity from the law of wind. With that said, how could he be afraid of Qi Yu when he had easily defeated the middle-aged scholar?

“I’m going to give you a chance now,” Duan Ling Tian said tonelessly, “Kneel down and kowtow ten times, and I’ll spare your life.”

Duan Ling Tian’s words stunned everyone. They did not expect him to say such words as though he was completely assured of his victory.

“You’re too arrogant!” Qi Yu was naturally infuriated by Duan Ling Tian’s words. He charged out immediately like a gust of wind toward Duan Ling Tian. Following that, a scimitar appeared in his hand, and he hurriedly imbued it with his Divine Energy and the law of wind, causing it to glow green. Although the scimitar was a primitive divine artifact, after being imbued with his energy, it was rather powerful. It seemed as though it could tear a hole in the sky.

Swoosh!

The wind whistled as Qi Yu brought his scimitar down at Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian remained indifferent as he teleported and dodged Qi Yu’s attack.

When he reappeared behind Qi Yu, Qi Yu spun around, guided by his instinct. Then, he brandished his scimitar, releasing energy rays toward Duan Ling Tian.

The energy rays that missed Duan Ling Tian immediately circled back to him.

“I’ve already given you a chance earlier,” Duan Ling Tian said before he stepped forward. Then, the outline of a piece of armor appeared on his body. Along with the spatial energy, he easily destroyed Qi Yu’s attacks. Then, he casually waved his hand.

Swoosh!

A short sound of wind whistling reverberated in the arena.

Following that, at the same time everyone saw the sword that suddenly appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s hand, they also saw Qi Yu’s head that had already been severed from his body at some point. Following that, they watched as the spatial energy crushed Qi Yu as though he had been through a meat grinder.

With Qi Yu’s death, the remaining energy rays vanished. Those that managed to land on Duan Ling Tian were easily neutralized by his armor. His armor was a defensive divine artifact, after all. It was given to him by the Zhong clan. Its value was not inferior to that of an offensive divine artifact. The sword he had used was also a primitive divine artifact given by the Zhong clan.

Blood splattered all over the arena.

Everyone was silent. No one expected the battle to end so quickly. From the time Qi Yu attacked to the time he died, less than 18 seconds had passed. Duan Ling Tian only took 6 seconds to kill Qi Yu.

The two inner elders on duty inhaled sharply. Although they were surprised, due to their experience, they quickly recovered. Although they were certain Duan Ling Tian would win, they did not expect him to win so quickly. After all, Qi Yu was among the top ten strongest inner disciples who were gods.

Qi Yu was the face of the inner disciples with the cultivation bases of a god to the outside world. However, the elders were not saddened by his death. After all, a stronger disciple had appeared, and he was more than qualified to become the new face of the inner disciples with cultivation bases of a god.

“This...” Tang Wu Yan was in shock for a long time. When she regained her senses, she muttered to herself in disbelief, “He has just broken through, but he’s already so strong? He actually killed Qi Yu with just one move!”

Chapter 3677: Wu Feng Yin, the Second Elder of the Hidden Fog Sect

The purple-clad young man stood in the Extreme Martial Arena with a calm expression as though everything that had just transpired was insignificant. It was as though he had long predicted this outcome.

“I already gave you a chance.”

The purple-clad young man’s words reverberated in everyone’s ears. None of them expected him to kill Qi Yu so effortlessly. Since Qi Yu did not cherish the chance given to him, he could only die.

Under everyone’s horrified gazes, Duan Ling Tian looked at Tang Wu Yan and asked, “When will the results for the Heavenly Stairs Battle come out?”

“What?” Tang Wu Yan was still in shock. When she finally regained her senses, she hastily told Duan Ling Tian about the day the results would be released.

“Alright, I’m leaving first then,” Duan Ling Tian said with a nod. Then, he teleported away under everyone’s eyes, leaving a bloody mess behind.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian left, a commotion broke out immediately.

“Heavens! That Duan Ling Tian from Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Academy is so strong?”

“He killed Qi Yu so quickly. Did you see how he did it?”

“His sword attack seemed so simple, and yet, Qi Yu couldn’t defend against it.”

“I didn’t see it clearly so I don’t know what happened exactly.”

Most people could not see how Duan Ling Tian had killed Qi Yu with his law of space’s triple Fused Profundity.

“Is this the difference between the Four Supreme Laws and ordinary laws?”

Some people thought Duan Ling Tian’s strength came from the law of space, and some people thought otherwise.

“Although the Four Supreme Laws are stronger than ordinary laws, the difference in strength isn’t so wide. Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian’s overwhelming strength is due to his bloodline power?”

Even Tang Wu Yan was confused. Hence, she sent Duan Ling Tian a message, asking, “Duan Ling Tian, how did you kill Qi Yu earlier? The law of space shouldn’t give you such overwhelming strength, right?”

Duan Ling Tian replied, “I used the rudimentary stage of the Sword Dao I’d comprehended.”

At the same time, Elder Peng and another inner elder who were on duty at the Extreme Martial Arena had also figured out that Duan Ling Tian had killed Qi Yu using the Sword Dao. Since the others were quite a distance away, they did not hear the two inner elders’ surprised gasps.

...

“Compared to using two triple Fused Profundities, the Sword Dao is more low-key,” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself when he returned to his room.

Then, he brought out the five Auspicious Pills that the Zhang clan had given him and consumed them all at once. With his talent, he would have been able to break through and become a King of Gods if he had nine Auspicious Pills. In fact, any gods would have been able to become a King of Gods with nine Auspicious Pills. There were many advanced gods in the Realms of Gods who directly became Kings of Gods after consuming nine Auspicious Pills.

It did not matter to Duan Ling Tian that he did not have nine Auspicious Pills. After all, five Auspicious Pills were enough to boost his cultivation base, bringing him closer to a breakthrough.

He had rushed back because he wanted to consume the nine Auspicious Pills and cultivate.

Duan Ling Tian had only decided to use the Sword Dao, the Weapon Dao of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, when he was making his way to the Extreme Martial Arena earlier. He, naturally, did not reveal his full comprehension of the Sword Dao and only showcased the rudimentary stage of the Sword Dao. After all, being able to comprehend the rudimentary stage of a Weapon Dao could also be attributed to luck and not just talent alone. Since his comprehension of the Sword Dao was rather profound now, he could easily conceal his strength.

Since he wanted to keep a low profile, he thought it was better to use the Sword Dao. It was more low-key compared to using two triple Fused Profundities. He would only attract jealousy, hate, and trouble if he were to show his true strength, after all. The prodigies were easily jealous, and he had no support in the Hidden Fog Sect since he did not plan to acknowledge a master, hence, it was better to keep a low profile.

Nonetheless, he would not keep a low profile regarding some matters. For example, even if it would attract attention, he had been determined to kill Qi Yu. He killed Qi Yu not only because Qi Yu wanted to kill him, but also to send a message to others like Qi Yu who harbored ill intentions. He wanted everyone to know that he was not a pushover.

‘After becoming a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect, I’ll gain the protection of the sect. At that time, even most core elders won’t dare to simply make a move against me,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

At this time, he thought of the second elder of the Hidden Fog Sect who was also Tu Feng’s master. Since he had enmity with Tu Feng, Tu Feng’s master definitely disliked him as well. It was likely that Tu Feng’s master would help Tu Feng seek revenge. Even if Tu Feng’s master did not personally make a

move, Tu Feng's master might pull some dirty tricks to drive him away from the sect. Since Duan Ling Tian was just an inner disciple now, it would be easy for an elder to expel him from the sect.

However, it would be different if he was a core disciple. The second elder of the Hidden Fog Sect was not qualified to expel a core disciple, after all.

"The five Auspicious Pills will help me make huge progress. Next, I'll focus on breaking through and becoming a King of Gods. Barring any unusual circumstances, I should rank first in the Heavenly Stairs Battle. With that, I'll gain another Auspicious Pill. Once I become a King of Gods, I'll be able to protect myself better in the unfamiliar Profound Energy Land."

With that, Duan Ling Tian focused on cultivating to break through as soon as possible.

...

Meanwhile, after the crowd left the Extreme Martial Arena, news of Duan Ling Tian and Qi Yu's battle spread like a wildfire. In just a short time, the entire Hidden Fog Sect had already heard of Duan Ling Tian's extraordinary feat.

Even some high-ranking officials of the Hidden Fog Sect were stunned when they heard the news.

"Qi Yu died?"

"Qi Yu is dead? I had planned to ask him to become my third disciple. What a shame."

"We lost Qi Yu, but we have Duan Ling Tian now. The Hidden Fog Sect didn't suffer a loss."

...

At the same time, Tu Feng, who was cultivating, was woken up by a message from his master, the second elder of the Hidden Fog Sect.

"Tu Feng, didn't you go to Hidden Fog Academy previously to express my intention to accept Duan Ling Tian as a disciple?"

The second elder of the Hidden Fog Sect was Wu Feng Yin. He was a middle-aged man with a purple diamond-shaped mark on his forehead. His expression was stern, and his loose green robe could not hide his tall and muscular body.

"Go and invite Duan Ling Tian over. I'll personally express my intention to him," Wu Feng Yin said to Tu Feng.

After receiving his master's message, Tu Feng asked in confusion, "Master, didn't you previously say that he doesn't know what's good for him for refusing you? You even said you no longer wish to accept him as a disciple."

"Did I?" Wu Feng Yin's tone was casual as he said, "Even if I did, I wasn't serious. Go and invite him over. He's not even 3,000 years old, but he managed to kill Qi Yu with a move. If he becomes my disciple, my status in the sect will definitely rise. I'm certain someone like him will have even greater achievements than me in the future."

Toward the end of his words, Wu Feng Yin's tone showed signs of urgency.

"What?" Tu Feng was shocked when he heard his master's words. "Duan Ling Tian killed Qi Yu with just a move? Master, are you mistaken? Are you sure he killed Qi Yu, one of the ten strongest gods among the inner disciples? The person who was ranked third during the last Heavenly Stairs Battle?"

Tu Feng found it hard to believe that Duan Ling Tian had killed Qi Yu.

Wu Feng Yin said, "Apart from him, who else could it be?" Wu Feng Yin said indifferently, "I know what you're thinking. You don't think Duan Ling Tian is a match for Qi Yu since Duan Ling Tian is just an intermediate god and has just recently joined the sect. However, you're unaware that due to the pressure on the seventh step of the Heavenly Stairs, Duan Ling Tian broke through and became an advanced god. He successfully passed the eighth step and advanced to the ninth step before he was eliminated. He's likely to rank first among the inner disciples in this time's Heavenly Stairs Battle. Moreover, not only did he comprehend the law of space's triple Fused Profundity, but he has also comprehended the Sword Dao, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, to the rudimentary stage. It's with this that he killed Qi Yu. Perhaps, it was due to his luck that he managed to form and comprehend the Sword Dao to the rudimentary stage, but with his talent, he'll definitely be able to comprehend it to the mastery stage. Alright now. Stop wasting and invite him over now."

"Yes, master," Tu Feng said as his eyes glinted coldly. Naturally, he did not express his displeasure to his master. After he was done talking to his master, he broke his bed in a fit of anger.

"Damn it! Why is Duan Ling Tian so strong? The rudimentary stage of the Sword Dao? How can he be so lucky?"

Tu Feng was aware that if Duan Ling Tian became his master's disciple, his master would definitely value Duan Ling Tian more than him even if Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was not as high as his for now..

Chapter 3678: If We Can't Have Duan Ling Tian, Kill Him!

Tu Feng was naturally reluctant to invite Duan Ling Tian over to see his master. However, he did not dare to disobey his master even though it had crossed his mind more than once to lie to his master, saying that Duan Ling Tian refused the invitation.

Although Tu Feng and his master, Wu Feng Yin, were both Kings of Gods, Tu Feng was just a rudimentary King of Gods while his master was one of the stronger advanced Kings of Gods in the Hidden Fog Sect. Let alone a rudimentary King of Gods like him, his master could even kill an ordinary advanced King of Gods.

Apart from that, Tu Feng was very familiar with Wu Feng Yin's temper. His master hated those who defied his orders the most. Hence, despite his reluctance, he could only obey his master.

However, when Tu Feng went to look for Duan Ling Tian, he discovered that Duan Ling Tian was in closed-door cultivation. Duan Ling Tian had also activated the Formations to block out disturbances using the Formation compass that was given by the Hidden Fog Sect, which would block out messages and Voice Transmissions as well.

When Tu Feng arrived, there were quite a number of people gathered near Duan Ling Tian's residence. All of them had come with the same purpose as Tu Feng: they were there to invite Duan Ling Tian on behalf of their elders or masters who were keen on accepting Duan Ling Tian as a disciple.

At this time, a young man who had seen Tu Feng smiled mockingly as he said, "Tu Feng, didn't Duan Ling Tian refuse you when you went to Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy previously? Why did you come again?"

The young man was one of the disciples of a high-ranking official of the Hidden Fog Sect. He was also an inner disciple who was a rudimentary King of Gods like Tu Feng. This was why he was not afraid of mocking Tu Feng.

"Xie Shao Feng, mind your own business!" Tu Feng, who was already in a bad mood, said as he glared at the young man.

Xie Shao Feng was amused by Tu Feng's reaction and only chuckled in response.

At the same time, another young man said with a smile, "Tu Feng, it's best if you leave. From what I heard, when Junior Brother Duan fought Qi Yu, he mentioned something about Qi Yu being your dog. It's clear he knows that you sent Qi Yu to look for trouble with him. Do you really think he'll accept your invitation with that?"

"That's right!"

"Tu Feng, you better leave. Junior Brother Duan definitely won't acknowledge the second elder as his master after what you did."

Since the group of disciples were all rudimentary Kings of Gods, they naturally did not fear Tu Feng. Moreover, their masters or elders' status was comparable to Tu Feng's master.

Tu Feng's expression changed drastically upon hearing these words. Did Qi Yu expose him to Duan Ling Tian? He shuddered. He could already imagine the outcome if his master found out about this matter.

After a moment, Tu Feng decided to leave. He knew it would only be a matter of time before his master summoned him to punish him.

Indeed, not long after Tu Feng left, he was summoned by his master, Wu Feng Yin.

...

In the backyard of a courtyard, Wu Feng Yin stood with his back facing Tu Feng. He placed his hands on his back as he looked at the illusory landscape of a pond in front of him. Then, he asked lightly, "Tu Feng, is it true that you sent Qi Yu to look for trouble with Duan Ling Tian?"

As soon as Wu Feng Yin finished speaking, Tu Feng fell to his knees immediately and said in a hoarse and indignant voice, "Master, I was only displeased that he refused to become your disciple. After all, he should feel honored. I was just angered that he refused you, master!"

"So, you're saying it's my fault then?" Wu Feng Yin asked as he turned around to look at Tu Feng with a faint smile on his face.

“That’s not what I meant!” Tu Feng lowered his head even more. “It’s all my fault offending Duan Ling Tian.

“Enough. Rise to your feet,” Wu Feng Yin said with a wave of his hand. At the same time, his expression eased as well.

“Thank you, master!” Tu Feng had been prepared to be punished by his master so he did not expect this at all.

After Tu Feng rose to his feet, Wu Feng Yin glanced at him and said, “Based on the current situation, it’s unlikely that Duan Ling Tian will agree to become my disciple, right?”

Tu Feng’s heart skipped a beat upon hearing these words. However, he nodded and said, “Yes, master.”

Tu Feng felt incredibly anxious at this time. Relief flooded his heart when he heard Wu Feng Yin’s next words.

“Since it’s impossible for him to become my disciple, and he’s already an enemy of yours, find a chance to get rid of him for good,” Wu Feng Yin said tonelessly, “It’s better for someone like him to die now. Otherwise, it’d be a walk in the park for him to kill you once he grows stronger. As your master, how can I not do anything? Moreover, since he’s your enemy, he naturally won’t have a good impression of me as well. This means that he’s also a threat to me. Make sure you kill him before he becomes a King of Gods to avoid future troubles.”

Tu Feng’s eyes brightened as soon as he heard his master’s words. “Yes, master!”

This was a dream come true for Tu Feng. Not only was he not punished, but his master had even told him to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Wu Feng Yin asked, “Are you confident about executing this task alone? If not, I’ll find another person to help you.”

“Master, that brat isn’t even a King of God. I can’t get rid of him without any help,” Tu Feng said as he shook his head. He knew his master would think less of him if he had agreed to let someone help him. After all, he was a rudimentary King of Gods. It should be easy for him to kill an advanced god.

“Very well. You may leave now,” Wu Feng Yin said with a nod.

“Yes, master.” Tu Feng bade farewell to Wu Feng Yin and left. He was already thinking of ways to get rid of Duan Ling Tian.

‘Since Duan Ling Tian hurried back to enter closed-door cultivation after the Heavenly Stairs Battle, it’s likely he’s preparing for the core disciples’ test. In any case, he’s doomed to fail the test. Even Elder Xue Hai Chuan barely passed the test 10,000 years ago despite comprehending two triple Fused Profundities from the law of death and possessing a bloodline power. Duan Ling Tian has only comprehended one triple Fused Profundity from the law of space, and the power of his rudimentary comprehension of the Sword Dao isn’t a match for the power of another triple Fused Profundity. Although I’m not sure if he possesses a bloodline power or not, it shouldn’t matter anyway. It’s not enough to make a difference.’

With this thought in mind, Tu Feng calmed down.

‘There isn’t any chance for me to make a move before the core disciples’ test. I’ll have to find a way to lure him out of the sect after the test.’

Tu Feng naturally did not dare to make a move on Duan Ling Tian in the Hidden Fog Sect. Apart from the Heavenly Stairs, most places in the sect were under surveillance that would be recorded. Even if he managed to kill Duan Ling Tian, he would definitely be found out and executed by the sect.

...

Duan Ling Tian finally emerged from his closed-door cultivation half a month later.

‘The effects of the five Auspicious Pills are truly shocking. Their efficacy is truly shocking and lasts for a long time. It only took me a day to absorb them and raise my cultivation base. Even my cultivation speed increased tremendously. I’m so close to breaking through and becoming a King of Gods that I think I only need three instead of four Auspicious Pills to break through.’

Due to his 99 Heavenly Veins, Duan Ling Tian had been surprised when he discovered that the efficacy of the Auspicious Pills was prolonged. After all, most of the inhabitants of Realms of Gods possessed more than 90 Heavenly Veins so he no longer had much of an advantage over his opponents in that regard. His speed when mobilizing his Divine Energy was not much faster than his opponents. For example, during his battle with Qi Yu, he discovered he was only slightly faster than Qi Yu in mobilizing Divine Energy. He did not expect his 99 Heavenly Veins to surprise him again after consuming five Auspicious Pills.

‘Now that half a month has passed, the rankings for the Heavenly Stairs Battle should’ve been released. I should rank first and receive the Auspicious Pill, barring any unforeseen circumstances.’

With that, Duan Ling Tian removed the Formations with just a thought. In just an instant, countless voices flooded into his ears immediately.

“I wonder when Duan Ling Tian is going to come out? My master told me to wait here until Duan Ling Tian comes out. I can’t leave until I see Duan Ling Tian.”

“He should be coming out soon. By the way, who do you think Duan Ling Tian would choose to become his master?”

“I don’t know. Since he refused the second elder, I don’t think he’ll accept anyone with the same status as the second elder.”

“It’s only normal for a prodigy like him to be picky..”

Chapter 3679: I’ll Try My Best

Duan Ling Tian was surprised that a crowd had gathered outside of his residence. Based on their conversations, he knew they had been waiting outside for half a month just to invite him to meet their masters or elders who intended to accept him as a disciple.

'I shouldn't have deactivated the Formations so quickly,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Alas, the crowd had already noticed the deactivated Formations and broke into a commotion immediately.

Swoosh!

In the end, Duan Ling Tian appeared before the crowd.

"Duan Ling Tian has deactivated the Formation. He's out!"

"Duan Ling Tian! I'm Xu He, Supreme Elder Huang Ping Yi's second disciple. My master wants to invite you to his cultivation ground."

"Duan Ling Tian, I'm Guardian Liu Gang Xuan's eldest disciple, Li Chong Yu. My master wants to invite you over for a visit."

Duan Ling Tian was surprised when he heard that a Supreme Elder and a guardian wanted to meet him.

There were only a few Supreme Elders in the Hidden Fog Sect. Moreover, Supreme Elders and guardians had higher status compared to the 19 core elders. Their status was comparable to the few Vice Sect Leaders of the Hidden Fog Sect. In fact, some of the Supreme Elders had even higher status than the Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect due to their superior strength.

Duan Ling Tian was surprised the Supreme Elders and guardians wanted to accept him as their disciple since he had held his strength back to avoid being too eye-catching. He did not expect he would still attract attention from so many people even after downplaying his strength.

"Duan Ling Tian, I'm Supreme Elder Wu He's son. My father wants to accept you as his disciple. If you're willing to become his disciple, he promised that your treatment would be even better than mine!"

"I'm Supreme Elder Liu Hu Gui's second disciple, He Chai. My master wants to accept you as his disciple as well. He has prepared three Auspicious Pills as a meeting gift for you."

"Duan Ling Tian, I'm Guardian Zhao Bu Yi's fourth disciple, Ouyang Quan. My master has said that as long as you become his disciple, he'll find nine Auspicious Pills for you to help you become a King of Gods within a year!"

There were young men, middle-aged men, and a few young women inviting Duan Ling Tian to meet their masters and elders. Upon seeing the competition, some of them even began to increase their offer.

Duan Ling Tian was rather tempted when he heard that someone was willing to find nine Auspicious Pills for him within a year. Nonetheless, in the end, Duan Ling Tian cupped his fists together at everyone and interjected, "My apologies. I, Duan Ling Tian, have no intention of acknowledging a master even though I've joined the Hidden Fog Sect. My goal is to join the Great Dragon Battle Sect in the future. I apologize for keeping all of you here for so long."

Upon hearing these words, some people left with a sigh, and some people were still determined to negotiate with Duan Ling Tian, in hopes of changing his mind. Alas, they were still rejected in the end. Among those who were rejected, there were a few who were unwilling to give up. They followed Duan Ling Tian who went to the Internal Affairs Pavilion to find out the ranking of the Heavenly Stairs Battle.

Even before the rankings were revealed, many people did not doubt that Duan Ling Tian would rank first among the inner disciples who were gods. After all, none of the gods who were inner disciples had ever climbed to the ninth step before.

Another commotion broke out among those at the Internal Affairs Pavilion as soon as Duan Ling Tian showed up.

“It’s Duan Ling Tian!”

“Duan Ling Tian? The advanced god who ranks first in the Heavenly Stairs Battle?”

“That’s right! It’s said that he’s not even 3,000 years old. Vice Sect Leader Murong is the one who recommended him to join the sect ahead of time.”

“A talent like him is truly rare. Vice Sect Leader Murong really has a discerning eye!”

“That’s right. Apart from a few Supreme Elders and our Sect Leader, I admire Vice Sect Leader Murong as well!”

After a while, Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile, “Hello, can you tell me where I can collect the rewards for the Heavenly Stairs Battle?”

After someone pointed the place out to him, Duan Ling Tian quickly obtained his reward, which was an Auspicious Pill.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to leave, a chubby inner disciple with an equally chubby face called out, “Duan Ling Tian! The core disciples’ test is just around the corner. Are you confident about passing the test? The last time an advanced god managed to pass the test was 10,000 years ago! Moreover, over the past 100 years, not even one King of Gods has managed to pass the test.”

Everyone shifted their attention to Duan Ling Tian curiously, eager to know his answer.

Duan Ling Tian turned to smile at the chubby inner disciple before he said, “I’ll try my best to be the first advanced god to pass the core disciples’ test in 10,000 years.”

Without waiting for a response from the chubby inner disciple, Duan Ling Tian left, leaving the noisy crowd behind.

“Based on Duan Ling Tian’s words, it seems like he’s very confident about passing the test!”

“I’m excited to see how it turns out! If he truly passes the test, he’ll be the first advanced god to pass the test in 10,000 years!”

“I really wish the core disciples’ test would come faster!”

...

It did not take long for what happened at the Internal Affairs Pavilion to spread through the Hidden Fog Sect.

Upon hearing the news, Tang Wu Yan, who was with her granduncle, Tang Chun, exclaimed in shock, "He's so confident?"

Tang Chun asked, "What happened?" After listening to Tang Wu Yan, he said with a smile, "I think he'll be able to pass the test."

"Granduncle, you're so confident about his strength as well?" Tang Wu Yan was surprised. "Based on the strength he had demonstrated, I don't think it's enough for him to pass the test unless... he's been hiding his true strength. Granduncle, don't tell me you know he's hiding his strength?"

Tang Chun shook his head. He naturally did not know if Duan Ling Tian was hiding his true strength, but he could not help but feel certain of Duan Ling Tian's victory.

"Then, why are you confident?" Tang Wu Yan asked, puzzled.

"Maybe it's his bearing and temperament. If it were someone else, I'd think they're arrogant. However, coming from Duan Ling Tian, it just seems like he's confident, not arrogant," Tang Chun replied. Then, he looked at Tang Wu Yan meaningfully as he said, "Wu Yan, I heard you went to Heavenly Stairs. You went there for Duan Ling Tian, right?"

Tang Wu Yan was rendered temporarily speechless by Tang Chun's words. Then, she said, "Granduncle, I only went there because I planned to participate as well. However, due to Duan Ling Tian's sudden battle with Qi Yu, I decided to follow them to the Extreme Martial Arena to have a look. After the battle ended, I returned and entered the Heavenly Stairs."

Tang Chun did not seem convinced. He continued to look at Tang Wu Yan meaningfully as he said, "It's okay. I understand. It's only normal for young women to feel shy."

Tang Wu Yan really did not know what else she could say so she only remained silent. Perhaps, due to Tang Chun's words, a purple-clad figure appeared and lingered in her mind.

She chastised herself inwardly, 'Why am I wasting time thinking about a married man with children?'

Tang Wu Yan tried to get rid of the purple-clad figure in her mind, but it was futile. Not only did the figure linger in her mind, but her heart began to race when she thought about him.

...

"Ridiculous!" Tu Feng said mockingly, "Who does he think he is? He thinks he'll be able to become the first inner disciple to pass the core disciples' test in 10,000 years? Although the test for inner gods is easier compared to that for the King of Gods, it's still nearly impossible for advanced gods to pass it. Does he plan to become the next Xue Hai Chuan? What a joke!"

Tu Feng was sure the person whom he planned to kill would fail the core disciples' test since he knew how difficult the test was.

Chapter 3680: The Phantom Clan Is in Crisis

Somewhere in the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms.

A blue-clad young man sat cross-legged in the air. His aura was gradually getting stronger as he absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings.

All of a sudden, the blue-clad young man opened his eyes. His eyes flashed as he muttered to himself, "I'm just a step away from becoming an intermediate King of Gods. My soul attacks are stronger as well. Based on the strength of my soul attacks, law of destruction, and the Destructive Sword Dao, I should be able to defend myself against Mi Xuan, the former Clan Leader of the Phantom Clan. In fact, I should be strong enough to heavily injure him now. Alas, it's still difficult for me to kill him."

The blue-clad young man shook his head as his gaze softened and he wondered out loud, "I wonder how Little Tian is doing? I hope he's safe. If anything happens to him, I'll annihilate the entire Phantom Clan even if they have no relations to Mi Xuan anymore."

The blue-clad young man was none other than Feng Qing Yang. Now that he was an intermediate King of Gods, with his comprehension of the law of destruction and the Destructive Sword Dao, he was confident he could kill ordinary intermediate Kings of Gods. However, that was not the case for Mi Xuan since Mi Xuan were soul-like entities who specialized in soul attacks. In the past, the speed of Mi Xuan's attacks was so fast that he had difficulty dealing with them and was forced to retreat to the Asura Hell to raise his cultivation base.

Although most people did not dare to come to the Asura Hell, Feng Qing Yang knew the Asura Hell like the back of his hand.

'Now that I'm an intermediate King of Gods, it won't be easy for Mi Xuan to destroy my soul no matter how skilled he is in soul attacks. If I cultivate a little more, I should be able to destroy him as well,' Feng Qing Yang thought to himself.

With this thought in mind, he closed his eyes and continued cultivating again.

Little did he know, his disciple, Duan Ling Tian, had left the Devata Realms and had gone to the Profound Energy Land, one of the Realms of Gods, through the Realm Battlefield.

Duan Ling Tian did not inform Feng Qing Yang about his decision because he did not want Feng Qing Yang to worry about him. Since Feng Qing Yang was much more knowledgeable, he knew Feng Qing Yang would not easily believe his lies like his family did. For that reason, he did not come to see Feng Qing Yang at all before he left.

...

Similar to the Asura Hell, the Land of the Dead was also one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms.

Since the Land of the Dead was not as treacherous as the Asura Hell, many Celestial Emperors would come to the Land of the Dead to hunt for soul entities to be made into their weapons' souls.

The Phantom Clan was one of the clans in the Land of Dead. Among their members, there were those who were gods and Kings of Gods. The clan had been in decline due to internal strife. Currently, it was on the brink of destruction.

“Mi Xuan, you won’t get away with this! How dare you harm your own clan members! You’ll pay for this one day!” an elderly man in the form of a soul cried out before he was devoured by a young man.

“Old man, you won’t live to see that day.”

The young man was none other than the former leader of the Phantom Clan, Mi Xuan.

After Feng Qing Yang visited the Phantom Clan in the Land of Dead to inform them about what Mi Xuan had done, Mi Xuan was stripped of his status as their leader and expelled from the clan. With that, Mi Xuan’s attitude changed completely.

In the beginning, he possessed Tang San Pao’s body, but the body was destroyed by Duan Ling Tian when they were in the Nine Serenities Battlefield. After he narrowly escaped death and recuperated, he found another body to possess and returned to the Phantom Clan to devour the members to raise his cultivation base. After devouring a few of the elders, he had a breakthrough and became an advanced King of Gods.

“I should leave now,” Mi Xuan muttered to himself before he disappeared in just a flash.

After Mi Xuan left, a terrifying wave of energy swept through the place where he was standing. Then, a few elders appeared, trembling and furious.

“That scumbag, Mi Xuan, got away again! Now that he’s an advanced King of Gods, the Formation that our ancestor left behind can no longer stop him. Moreover, it’s impossible for our members to hide in the clan estate forever,” one of the elders said angrily with a helpless expression on his face.

A disaster like this had once happened in the past. One of the members of the Phantom Clan had lost his mind after possessing a physical body and returned to the clan to devour its members. At that time, the clan was almost destroyed. To prevent history from repeating itself, the ancestor of the Phantom Clan had requested help from a Formation master to cast the Shocking Divine Killing Formation that could kill ordinary advanced Kings of Gods. Alas, none of them expected a Clan Leader of the Phantom Clan would turn into a traitor.

“It wouldn’t be a problem if he were an ordinary member of the clan. Since he used to be the clan leader, he knows how to deactivate the Formation and the Formation’s weaknesses.”

“Who could’ve known a clan leader would turn out this way?”

“Who was the one who supported him to become the clan leader? If he wasn’t the clan leader, we wouldn’t be in this predicament now.”

“This isn’t the time to point fingers. Who could’ve known what would happen in the future?”

“Elder Zhang Chai, I remember you were the one who strongly recommended Mi Xuan to be the clan leader in the past!”

Due to the crisis, a cloud of gloom hung over the Phantom Clan.

Although orders had been given to stop members from leaving the clan estate, there were a few who disobeyed the order and snuck out. As a result, none of those who snuck out had returned.

...

Mi Xuan continued to raise his cultivation base by devouring his former clan members to the point where he was about to break through and become a Lord of Gods.

“I should leave the Land of Gods for now and lay low. I remember one of the elders is acquainted with a Lord of Gods who owes him a favor. Who knows if the elder would call in the favor and ask that Lord of Gods to kill me?”

With that, after devouring another former clan member, Mi Xuan left the Land of the Dead.

...

Just as Mi Xuan had expected, one of the elders did request help from the Lord of Gods who owed him a favor. However, there was nothing the Lord of God could do since Mi Xuan had already left the Land of the Dead.

Although the crisis had yet to be resolved, the Lord of God had to leave the Phantom Clan’s estate. After all, he could not stay in the Phantom Clan forever to protect its members.

...

A few months after the Lord of Gods’ departure, Mi Xuan returned to devour his former clan members again.

When he found the Lord of Gods had appeared shortly after his departure, he was drenched in cold sweat.

‘Fortunately, I had the foresight to leave first at that time. However, nothing can stop me now! That old man should mind his own business. Once I become a Lord of God, I’ll visit his clan and kill his clan members. Even if I just become a Lord of Gods, he still wouldn’t be able to kill me!’ Mi Xuan thought to himself as his eyes shone with killing intent.

Mi Xuan stayed briefly in the Land of the Dead before he left again.

Meanwhile, the Lord of Gods stopped showing up to the Phantom Clan’s estate after a few times since he did not see Mi Xuan. Moreover, since Mi Xuan was showing signs of getting stronger, he no longer wanted to intervene in the matter. He was not afraid of Mi Xuan, but he had to consider his clan members who were weaker than Mi Xuan.

With this, the Phantom Clan fell into despair.

...

Feng Qing Yang and Duan Ling Tian were naturally unaware that Mi Xuan was close to becoming a Lord of Gods.

Feng Qing Yang was still cultivating in the Asura Hell, trying to grow stronger while Duan Ling Tian had gone to the Profound Energy Land and had joined a lord-rank Hidden Fog Sect in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

...

In just a blink of an eye, the day of the core disciples' test had arrived.

Duan Ling Tian was on the cusp of a breakthrough to become a King of God after devouring the Auspicious Pill he had obtained as a reward for ranking first in the Heavenly Stairs Battle..