

SOVEREIGN 3771

Chapter 3771 Distinguished Guests

“What’s the matter?” Xue Hai Shan was puzzled upon seeing the shock on his brother’s face.

“Elder brother,” Xue Hai Chuan said with a wry smile, “The man you mentioned, Duan Ling Tian, is no longer a disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect.”

“He’s no longer a disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect?” Xue Hai Shan frowned. “What happened?”

Xue Hai Shan could still vividly remember the young man whom he had met in the Heavenly Stairs. At that time, the young man had shown mercy and did not kill him. After that, he had been determined to repay the young man once he was released from the Heavenly Stairs. After all, he was someone who always repaid favors.

“It’s because...” Xue Hai Chuan began to recount what had happened to his brother, Xue Hai Shan. Although he was now a White Dragon Elder in the Flying Dragon Sect, he was just a patient younger brother in front of Xue Hai Shan. He told Xue Hai Shan everything he had heard about Duan Ling Tian. Naturally, he also told Xue Hai Shan about Supreme Elder Feng setting up various Killing Formations in his Little World before detonating it, destroying Linghu City and killing many people just to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Xue Hai Shan grew more and more confused as he listened to Xue Hai Chuan. He was rather certain that when he met Duan Ling Tian in the Heavenly Stairs, Duan Ling Tian was just an advanced god. Only about ten years had passed since then, but not only did Duan Ling Tian become a rudimentary King of Gods, but he had also achieved so many incredible feats.

“I already knew he was talented when I met him, but I didn’t expect him to cause such a huge commotion,” Xue Hai Shan said with a sigh. Then, as though he recalled something, he said with a slight frown, “However, it has to be said that Supreme Elder Feng had truly crossed the line. For his selfish desires, he disregarded the sect. Fortunately, the sect has severed all ties with him now. Otherwise, the sect will definitely continue to be troubled...”

After a brief pause, Xue Hai Shan looked at his younger brother with a complex gaze as he said, “Hai Chuan, when I was in the Heavenly Stairs, I thought you’d definitely become one of the top advanced Kings of Gods after 10,000 years. However, it seems like I’ve underestimated you.”

Earlier, while talking about Duan Ling Tian, Xue Hai Chuan had briefly spoken about himself and what he had been up to after returning to the Hidden Fog Sect. Needless to say, he had told his brother about his current cultivation base and position in the Flying Dragon Sect.

“Elder brother, it’s a pity you were imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs. Otherwise, your achievements wouldn’t be any lower than mine. After all, you’d comprehended the law of time, one of the Four Supreme Laws. When you were first imprisoned, my comprehension of the law was not any better than yours,” Xue Hai Chuan said with a sigh. After a moment, he continued to say with a smile, “In any case, it’s not too late. With your talent and comprehension skills, it won’t take you more than 10,000 years to catch up to me.”

Upon hearing Xue Hai Chuan's words, Xue Hai Shan said with a sigh, "Fortunately, when I was first imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs, I wasn't a King of Gods. Otherwise, with no way to cultivate and comprehend the law, even if I could survive the first Heavenly Tribulation, I wouldn't have been able to survive the subsequent one."

Kings of Gods had to face the Heavenly Tribulation every 1,000 years. It was a rule from the heavens and could not be avoided. Hence, even if Xue Hai Shan was imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs, he still would not be able to avoid the Heavenly Tribulation if he was a King of Gods.

The Heavenly Tribulation would get stronger and stronger each time. It would not consider if one had grown stronger or not, and it would not consider the reason why one did not get stronger.

Since Xue Hai Shan was only an advanced god, he, thankfully, did not need to worry about the Heavenly Tribulation. Now that he was released from the Heavenly Stairs, he could cultivate with ease to break through and become a King of Gods. He could face his first Heavenly Tribulation without fearing for his life. Although he had wasted 10,000 years, with his talent and comprehension skills that were not inferior to Xue Hai Chuan, he would still be able to catch up. They were biological brothers, after all. Their talent and comprehension skills were about the same.

Finally, Xue Hai Shan looked at Xue Hai Chuan and said, "Hai Chuan, let's go to the Linghu clan to look for that young man to drink with us. After that, I'll return to the Flying Dragon Sect with you."

Xue Hai Chuan nodded and said with a smile, "Very well. Coincidentally, I've been wanting to meet that Duan Ling Tian who caused such a huge commotion in the Hidden Fog Sect. I also want to thank him for his kindness to you. Elder brother, before we leave, I want to visit Junior Uncle Wu. Do you want to come with me?"

"Alright. I haven't seen Junior Uncle Wu for 10,000 years now," Xue Hai Shan said.

Same

In the past, the two brothers, Xue Hai Shan and Xue Hai Chuan, shared the same master. During the 10,000 years Xue Hai Shan was imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs, he would always ask for news outside when he encountered disciples who participated in the Heavenly Stairs Battle. For this reason, he was aware that his younger brother had joined the Flying Dragon Sect and his master was killed by a Heavenly Tribulation. However, over the past few thousand years, he did not meet any disciples from the sect, so he was unaware of what had happened in the past few thousand years.

In the Linghu clan's estate in Linghu City.

Since Duan Ling Tian encountered a bottleneck in his cultivation that he had difficulty breaking through, he decided to focus on alchemy for the time being.

With time, he grew more and more skilled in refining lord-grade Divine Pills. However, to reach perfection, he still needed more experience.

Just like that six months had passed since Duan Ling Tian first decided to put his cultivation aside to focus on alchemy. He would busy himself with refining lord-grade Divine Pills every day, honing his skills. Once he could perfectly refine ordinary lord-grade Divine Pills, he would be able to refine them into lord-grade Limit Divine Pills.

In the Realms of Gods, one would be considered a top lord-rank divine alchemist if one could refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills. After all, even experts had difficulty refining lord-grade Limit Divine Pills.

As usual, Duan Ling Tian was refining lord-grade Divine Pills in his courtyard today when he suddenly received a message from Linghu Ren Jie, the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan.

“Duan Ling Tian.”

“What’s the matter, Clan Leader?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

“You have two guests. Moreover, one of them has a rather high status. They’re waiting for you in the main hall,” Linghu Ren Jie said through Voice Transmission.

“Who are they?” Duan Ling Tian asked, growing even more curious.

“One of them said that you’ll recognize him once you see him,” Linghu Ren Jie said. Clearly, he was helping the guest to keep his identity a secret.

Duan Ling Tian wondered who the guests were and why they wanted to see him. Due to his curiosity, he stopped what he was doing immediately and left his courtyard for the main hall.

In the main hall of the Linghu clan’s estate.

Apart from Linghu Ren Jie, there were another two men. One of them was a handsome young man dressed in white robes with an extraordinary temperament. The other one was a tall man whose expression was determine and whose eyes were piercing. The two men resembled each other to a certain extent; they shared the same face shape and the same eyes. Their heights were almost the same as well.

When Duan Ling Tian walked into the hall, his eyes fell on the tall man first. Although the man looked familiar, he struggled to remember when he had met the man.

At this time, Linghu Ren Jie began to make the introductions. “Elder Xue Hai Chuan, this is Revered Elder Duan Ling Tian of our Linghu clan.”

Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze to the handsome white-clad young man.

‘He’s Xue Hai Chuan?’

Duan Ling Tian naturally knew who Xue Hai Chuan was; he had heard Xue Hai Chuan’s name countless times before. When he had first joined the Hidden Fog Sect, many had called him ‘the second Xue Hai Chuan’. There were also many who compared him to Xue Hai Chuan. After he killed Shangguan Xiong Feng and Long Xiao, he remembered some elders and disciples of the Hidden Fog Sect had said that Xue Hai Chuan’s achievements at his age were inferior to his. In a way, he had already grown numb to hearing Xue Hai Chuan’s name before he even met Xue Hai Chuan.

If Xue Hai Chuan were privy to Duan Ling Tian’s thoughts, he would have agreed with Duan Ling Tian. Similarly, he had grown sick of hearing Duan Ling Tian’s name before he even met Duan Ling Tian.

At this time, Linghu Ren Jie turned to Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, this is Elder Xue Hai Chuan. He's one of the three youngest White Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect. He used to be a disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect. I'm sure you must have heard about him when you were in the Hidden Fog Sect."

"Revered Elder Duan, I've heard a lot about you," Xue Hai Chuan said with an amicable smile on his face.

However, Duan Ling Tian found Xue Hai Chuan's friendliness slightly strange. After all, Xue Hai Chuan was from the Hidden Fog Sect and now belonged to the Hidden Fog faction in the Flying Dragon Sect. Considering the trouble he had caused, even if Xue Hai Chuan did not like him, Xue Hai Chuan should not be so friendly.

"Elder Xue Hai Chuan, I've been looking forward to meeting you," Duan Ling Tian said. Despite his words, he was wary of Xue Hai Chuan. In his mind, Xue Hai Chuan must be pretending to be friendly. After all, those who were friendly for no reason must be harboring ulterior motives.

After Duan Ling Tian and Xue Hai Chuan greeted each other, a burst of laughter rang in the air.

Following that, Xue Hai Shan, who was standing next to Xue Hai Chuan said, "My friend, it's only been ten years, but it seems like you've forgotten all about me!"

Chapter 3772 Sun Quenching Divine Pill

Duan Ling Tian had already found the tall middle-aged man familiar, but after listening to the other party, he found the other party's voice familiar as well. It did not take long before the figure of someone he had met in the Heavenly Stairs appeared in his mind. At this time, he finally realized the tall middle-aged man in front of him was the person dressed in red robes on the eighth step of the Heavenly Stairs in the Hidden Fog Sect.

Duan Ling Tian remembered that the red-clad middle-aged man on the eighth step of the Heavenly Stairs was an advanced god who had comprehended the law of time. Although the red-clad middle-aged man was strong and had a profound comprehension of the law of time, he managed to defeat the red-clad middle-aged man at that time because his comprehension of the law of space was superior. At that time, he could tell the middle-aged had no intention of killing him so he had spared the middle-aged man's life after defeating the middle-aged man.

After scenes from the past flashed in Duan Ling Tian's mind, the tall middle-aged man's name surfaced in his mind as well. He said, "You're... Xue Hai Shan from the Hidden Fog Sect's Heavenly Stairs!"

With this, Duan Ling Tian also remembered that Xue Hai Shan said that after he was released from the Heavenly Stairs, he would look for him so they could drink together.

"That's right!" Xue Hai Shan laughed.

"Xue Hai Shan, Xue Hai Chuan... You're both..." Duan Ling Tian trailed off as he looked at Xue Hai Chuan and Xue Hai Shan with a hint of surprise in his eyes. He could naturally guess the duo's relationship. No wonder Xue Hai Shan was able to comprehend triple Fused Profundities from the law of time despite being only an advanced god. It seemed like talent ran in the family.

Xue Hai Shan said with a grin, "Hai Chuan is my biological brother." He paused briefly before he continued to say, "During the 10,000 years I was imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs, my younger brother joined the Flying Dragon Sect and became a White Dragon Elder. I was only released from the Heavenly Stairs a few days ago. Hai Chuan returned to the Hidden Fog Sect to bring me back to the Flying Dragon Sect."

A hint of pride could be heard in Xue Hai Shan's voice when he spoke. He was like a father who was proud of his son's achievements.

Duan Ling Tian laughed before he said, "Congratulations on being released from the Heavenly Stairs!"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally realized the reason for Xue Hai Chuan's friendliness. He had thought Xue Hai Chuan was being hypocritical, but as it turned out, he had been too narrow-minded and too quick to judge.

Duan Ling Tian knew now that Xue Hai Chuan was likely grateful that he had spared Xue Hai Shan's life back then. After all, even if he killed Xue Hai Shan at that time, no one would be the wiser since they were in the Heavenly Stairs. People would only discover Xue Hai Shan's death when he did not show up at the time of his release from the Heavenly Stairs. However, they would not be able to find out when he died and who had killed him.

"Brother Duan, back then, I said I'd have a drink with you after leaving the Heavenly Stairs. I've not gone to the Flying Dragon Sect yet, and instead, I brought my brother here just to have a drink with you," Xue Hai Shan said enthusiastically with a smile on his face, "If it's convenient for you, we can drink in your courtyard. Otherwise, we can drink in one of the restaurants in Linghu City. If I'm not mistaken, the Linghu clan owns quite a few restaurants in the city. Perhaps, if it suits you, we can ask the clan to arrange a private room for us."

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, Xue Hai Chuan, who was standing next to Xue Hai Shan, said, "Brother Duan, I'm very grateful that you spared my brother's life in the past. Although you have conflicts with the Hidden Fog Sect, I hope you know that I don't harbor any ill intentions toward you." After a brief pause, he said decisively, "I, Xue Hai Chuan, swear on the Devil Heart's Blood Oath that as long as you, Duan Ling Tian, don't take the initiative to harm me, I will never harm you as well. Otherwise, I'm willing to be killed by a supreme powerhouse."

With this, it was guaranteed that as long as Duan Ling Tian did not provoke Xue Hai Chuan, Xue Hai Chuan would not be able to act against him.

Although Duan Ling Tian was rather certain Xue Hai Chuan would not harm him because he had spared Xue Hai Shan's life, he felt more at ease after Xue Hai Chuan had sworn on the Devil Heart's Blood Oath.

Now that the atmosphere had improved even more, Duan Ling Tian laughed and said, "Let's go out for a drink. The ambiance at the restaurant is much better!"

After Linghu Ren Jie made the arrangement, it did not take long for the manager of a high-end restaurant in Linghu City to come to the Linghu clan's estate to lead Duan Ling Tian, Xue Hai Chuan, and Xue Hai Shan there.

The manager led the trio directly to the best private room in the restaurant as soon as they arrived.

The name of the private room was 'Dragon Soaring Over the Four Seas'. This room was unavailable to most people. It was only reserved for those with positions higher than core elders in the Linghu clan to receive guests.

After a few rounds of drinks, Duan Ling Tian and the Xue brothers grew more comfortable with each other.

At this moment, Xue Hai Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of admiration as he said, "Brother Duan, generally, I'm not easily impressed. I'm not even impressed by my brother. However, I have to say I'm thoroughly impressed by you."

Xue Hai Chuan could only smile awkwardly as he listened to his brother listing out Duan Ling Tian's achievements one after another.

Xue Hai Shan did not stop talking for a long time. He only fell silent when he finally got drunk. In fact, with his cultivation base, it was impossible for him to get drunk since he could easily use his Divine Energy to metabolize the alcohol in his body and sober up. However, he had clearly chosen not to do so.

When Duan Ling Tian and Xue Hai Chuan, who were only slightly drunk, saw the passed-out Xue Hai Shan, the duo sobered up using their Divine Energies.

Xue Hai Chuan said apologetically, "Brother Duan, my brother is very straightforward. If he offended you, I hope you won't take it to heart."

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian shook his head and said with a smile, "There's nothing to apologize for. Brother Hai Shan is just honest."

Following that, Xue Hai Chuan brought a pill bottle before he handed it to Duan Ling Tian and said, "Brother Duan, this is the Sun Quenching Divine Pill. It should be able to help you break through the bottleneck you're facing."

Based on Xue Hai Chuan's words, it was clear he had probed Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base with his Divine Consciousness. Since he was an intermediate Lord of Gods, as long as he did not probe Duan Ling Tian's soul, it would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to discover that his cultivation base had been probed.

"The Sun Quenching Divine Pill?!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened upon hearing Xue Hai Chuan's words. He knew that the Sun Quenching Divine Pill was one of few lord-grade Divine Pills that could help him break through the bottleneck of his cultivation. Although he had the formula for the Sun Quenching Divine Pill, he was not able to refine it yet. He would need to study alchemy for a few more years before he could refine it. Apart from that, the ingredients needed to refine it were rare as well.

Although Duan Ling Tian wanted the Sun Quenching Divine Pill, he still resisted the urge to accept it immediately. Instead, he looked at Xue Hai Chuan and solemnly said, "Brother Hai Chuan, I'll be honest with you. I desperately need the Sun Quenching Divine Pill so I won't refuse it. However, I won't accept them for nothing. I promise to repay you with a higher-grade Divine Pill in the future in exchange for this Sun Quenching Divine Pill."

As long as Duan Ling Tian could not break through the bottleneck, it would be useless even if he continued to cultivate. The Divine Pills he possessed now could not help him at all until he had become an intermediate King of Gods. Hence, the Sun Quenching Divine Pill was very important to him.

“Brother Duan, there’s no need for that,” Xue Hai Chuan said as he shook his head upon seeing how courteous Duan Ling Tian was, “You’ve done me a great favor by sparing my brother’s life. A mere Sun Quenching Divine Pill is nothing compared to that life-saving grace.”

Duan Ling Tian shook his head as well as he said truthfully, “It’s not like that. I only spared Brother Hai Shan because I could tell he had no intention of killing me. Otherwise, I would’ve killed him. The reason Brother Hai Shan is alive is due to his actions; it has nothing to do with me.”

Xue Hai Chuan was very impressed by Duan Ling Tian’s honesty. After listening to Duan Ling Tian, he knew Duan Ling Tian would not accept the Sun Quenching Divine Pill for nothing so he said, “Alright, I’ll wait for you to give me a higher-grade Divine Pill. After all, I heard that you’re already comparable to top lord-rank divine alchemists.”

After saying that Xue Hai Chuan handed the Sun Quenching Divine Pill to Duan Ling Tian.

After accepting the Sun Quenching Divine Pill, Duan Ling Tian said resolutely, “I won’t keep you waiting for long, Brother Hai Chuan! After I join the Flying Dragon Sect, within three years, I’ll give you a Divine Pill that’ll be of great use to you.”

“Join the Flying Dragon Sect?” Xue Hai Chuan was slightly surprised. Then, he said confidently with a smile on his face, “Duan Ling Tian, if you’re willing, I can recommend you, and you can join the Flying Dragon Sect immediately. Put your talent and comprehension skills aside, just your achievements in alchemy alone are enough for you to join the Flying Dragon Sect now.”

After carefully putting away the Sun Quenching Divine Pill, Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile, “Brother Hai Chuan, I plan to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest in ten years.”

“I see.” With this, Xue Hai Chuan naturally understood why Duan Ling Tian did not want to join the Flying Dragon Sect now. He said, “I forgot that you’ll be rewarded with a Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill if you rank in the top ten of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. This is indeed the best course of action for you. It seems like it won’t be too long before we meet again. I’ll see you again in ten years.”

“Very well! After ten years, I’ll look for you and Brother Hai Shan to have a drink with me! Let’s get drunk at that time!” Duan Ling Tian said with a laugh.

They continued chatting for a while more before Duan Ling Tian bade farewell to the Xue Hai Chuan.

“Brother Hai Chuan, please apologize to Brother Hai Shan on my behalf for not being able to send both of you off.”

At this time, Duan Ling Tian could no longer wait to consume the Sun Quenching Divine Pill so he could break through. “Don’t worry. Your cultivation is very important after all,” Xue Hai Chuan said with a kind smile on his face.

Chapter 3773 At Full Steam

Duan Ling Tian did not expect to be acquainted with Xue Hai Chuan. He did not think his casual act of kindness in the Heavenly Stairs to Xue Hai Shan would help him gain Xue Hai Chuan's favor. Moreover, Xue Hai Chuan had felt indebted to him, and as a result, Xue Hai Chuan even gave him the Sun Quenching Divine Pill that he desperately needed.

'If I were a bloodthirsty person, I wouldn't have spared Xue Hai Shan's life when I defeated him even if he didn't have any intention to kill me. At that time, I wouldn't be able to meet Xue Hai Chuan today nor would I be able to obtain the Sun Quenching Divine Pill,' Duan Ling Tian, who had left the restaurant and arrived at the Linghu clan's estate, thought to himself with a sigh as he looked at the pill bottle in his hand. His past self had unknowingly helped him.

'With this Sun Quenching Divine Pill, I'll surely be able to break through and become an intermediate King of Gods in a short time.'

Duan Ling Tian could hardly suppress his restlessness when he returned to his courtyard. He did not waste time and began to cultivate immediately after consuming the Sun Quenching Divine Pill.

The Sun Quenching Divine Pill was used by Kings of Gods to help them break through bottlenecks they faced in their cultivation. Although it was not as valuable as the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill, the Sun Quenching Pill was still an excellent Divine Pill. As long as one was talented, one had an almost 100% chance to successfully break through. However, the pill was more useful for rudimentary Kings of Gods. Its efficacy would not be as potent if intermediate Kings of Gods consumed it.

The difficulty of refining the Sun Quenching Divine Pill was similar to that of the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill. However, the ingredients for the former were more easily found compared to the latter. It was not surprising since the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill was a top lord-grade Divine Pill. It was only natural that the ingredients needed to refine it were rare. It was already difficult for the Linghu clan to gather ingredients for the Sun Quenching Divine Pill, let alone the ingredients for the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill.

This was also the reason why Duan Ling Tian had been surprised when he learned that the Flying Dragon Sect was giving away so many Lord Breakthrough Divine Pills as rewards for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Moreover, they had done so during the previous Latent Dragon Grand Contest as well.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that the Flying Dragon Sect was only able to obtain so many ingredients to refine the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pills in the past few hundred years due to luck. Apart from that, the former Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect had also obtained some of the ingredients as a reward for helping others to refine the pills. The Sun Quenching Divine Pill's efficacy was truly potent. When it entered Duan Ling Tian's body, it merged with his Divine Energy before it crashed against the bottleneck. With that, the bottleneck that Duan Ling Tian failed to break before began to tremble. Every time it was hit, the tremors would grow more violent.

Duan Ling Tian had to circulate his Divine Energy, which had merged with the pill's efficacy, before it could smash against the bottleneck. For this reason, there was a long interval between each hit.

In just a blink of an eye, half a month had passed. At this time, Duan Ling Tian had been hitting the bottleneck hundreds of times.

“I’ll finish this once and for all,” Duan Ling Tian said to himself, looking determined. He circulated his Divine Energy again and hit the bottleneck one more time. With this, he finally broke through the bottleneck and became an intermediate King of Gods.

“So this is the Divine Energy of an intermediate King of Gods!”

Duan Ling Tian could clearly sense the change in his Divine Energy after his breakthrough. Although the change was not as exaggerated as when he broke through from an advanced god to a rudimentary King of Gods, the change was still quite significant.

“If I were an intermediate King of Gods when I killed Shangguan Xiong Feng and Long Xia, I could’ve killed them with a mediocre divine artifact and the same technique I used at that time. I wouldn’t have needed to borrow a prominent divine artifact from the clan leader.”

When Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes, he could vaguely see his Divine Energy flowing around his body. He waved his hand casually, trying to test his strength.

A gust of wind stirred in the room, causing the closed door and windows to tremble.

Due to the commotion, Wang Fu hurried over and asked, “Young Master Duan, are you okay?”

“I’m fine,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

Since no one disturbed Duan Ling Tian in the Linghu clan, there was no Formation that protected his room.

“With my current cultivation base, I might be able to fight for the first place in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest in ten years.”

Given an opportunity, Duan Ling Tian naturally would naturally strive for the first place. As the saying went, ‘He who has no interest in becoming a general isn’t a good soldier’.

In addition to the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill, there were many rewards for ranking first in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, and their value was not inferior to that of the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill. After all, even the person who ranked tenth would be given a Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill; one could imagine how lucrative the reward for the first place would be.

“I’ll continue to cultivate to raise my strength even if it’s impossible for me to break through and become an advanced King of Gods in a short time. I can only try to get as close as possible to breaking the bottleneck...” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. He was rather realistic and did not expect to become an advanced King of Gods so soon after becoming an intermediate King of Gods. Moreover, he already consumed most of the Divine Pills that would help with his cultivation, and it was unrealistic to rely completely on Divine Pills to raise his cultivation base. Currently, he only had enough Divine Pills to last him for another three years.

“Over the next ten years, I should continue studying alchemy and try to refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills before going to the Flying Dragon Sect.”

In a vast city in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

A beautiful girl sat and rested her hands on a stone table in a spacious front yard. She rested her face in her hands as she stared blankly into the air.

Two female attendants stood quietly behind the beautiful girl.

At this moment....

“Young Miss.”

Following that, a slender figure appeared in the front yard.

If Duan Ling Tian were here, he would have recognized the beautiful young girl as Duan Qiao Yu, and the slender figure that had just appeared as Yu Qiu Xuan, both of whom he had met at the Zhou clan’s auction house in Skywind City

Upon hearing Yu Qiu Xuan’s voice, Duan Qiao Yu frowned and said, “What’s the matter, Aunt Xuan? Didn’t I already say that I don’t want to know about anything unless it concerns my brother?”

Yu Qiu Xuan laughed before she said, “Young Miss, I came this time because of your brother.” Upon hearing these words, Duan Qiao Yu’s eyes lit up. She hurriedly rose to her feet and ran toward Yu Qiu Xuan before she asked excitedly, “Aunt Xuan, did you receive news about Brother Ling Tian?”

“Yes.” Yu Qiu Xuan nodded with a smile.

Duan Qiao Yu said impatiently, “What is it? Hurry up and tell me, Aunt Xuan!”

Upon seeing how anxious Duan Qiao Yu was, Yu Qiu Xuan no longer kept her waiting. She said, “I received news that Young Master Duan had left the Hidden Fog Academy and joined the Linghu clan. He’s now a Revered Elder in the Linghu clan. The Linghu clan treats him very well.”

“Linghu clan?” Duan Qiao Yu frowned slightly. She asked in confusion, “Isn’t that the lord-grade clan that’s on par with the Hidden Fog Sect? What’s he doing there? Since he was in the Hidden Fog Academy, shouldn’t he have joined the Hidden Fog

Sect?”

“Young Master Duan did join the Hidden Fog Sect after leaving the Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Academy. However, some things happened, so he left the Hidden Fog Sect for the Linghu clan...” Yu Qiu Xuan said before she told Duan Qiao Yu about what had happened in detail.

Yu Qiu Xuan began with Duan Ling Tian’s outstanding performance in the Hidden Fog Academy, and how as a result, he was recommended to join the Hidden Fog Sect ahead of time by the dean of the Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Academy. Then, she spoke about how he made a name for himself after joining the Hidden Fog Sect. She told Duan Qiao Yu about how two core disciples of the Hidden Fog Sect had tried to kill Duan Ling Tian and how Duan Ling Tian killed the two core disciples after he returned to the Hidden Fog Sect after a period of absence. For this reason, he had joined the Linghu clan to avoid the consequences. Her tone turned grim when she spoke about Supreme Elder Feng detonating his Little World in Linghu City in an attempt to kill Duan Ling Tian. Fortunately, Duan Ling Tian was unharmed. Naturally, she did not forget to tell Duan Qian Yu about Duan Ling Tian’s current strength as well.

“So he’s now an intermediate King of Gods?!” Duan Qiao Yu’s eyes lit up immediately. “I didn’t expect him to be able to raise his cultivation base so quickly! At this rate, it won’t be long before I get to meet him again!”

Upon seeing the excitement on Duan Qiao Yu’s face, Yu Qiu Xuan held back the urge to tease Duan Qiao Yu. Instead, she only sighed inwardly when she thought about how Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation would only become more difficult now that he had become a King of Gods.

“Aunt Xuan, when my brother goes to the Flying Dragon Sect, let’s sneak out to see him, okay?” Duan Qiao Yu looked at Yu Qiu Xuan eagerly as she said, “I promise I won’t let him see me! I’ll just hide and watch him like when he was in the Hidden Fog Academy!”

“Alright. You have to remember your promise,” Yu Qiu Xuan said as she looked at Duan Qiao Yu with a dotting gaze, “However, before I bring you to the Flying Dragon Sect, you have to break through first.”

“Okay! I’m going into closed-door cultivation now so I can break through as soon as possible!” Duan Qiao Yu said excitedly before she ran into her room.

The Latent Dragon Grand Contest was held once every 100 years.

Usually, the Flying Dragon Sect would recruit members before the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Those who passed the examinations would be able to join the Flying Dragon Sect. This was also the way that most people chose to join the Flying Dragon Sect. Only those with outstanding talent and comprehension skills would get a chance to enter the Flying Dragon Sect through the once-in-100-years Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

Since the Flying Dragon Sect’s entrance examinations were fast approaching, many disciples of king-rank forces and lord-rank forces near the Flying Dragon Sect had already begun to make preparations. All of them were cultivating at full steam.

Many of the Divine Pills that could assist with one’s cultivation were sold out. Even ingredients to refine such Divine Pills had sold out. The shortage was so bad that there were some sectless cultivators who would hold prodigies from king-rank forces hostage so they could demand Divine Pills or ingredients to refine them. It did not matter how many divine rocks they were offered, they would only accept Divine Pills and medicinal herbs to refine them.

Chapter 3774 Yang Qian Ye and Du Po Jun

Half a year before the entrance examinations for the Flying Dragon Sect began, people who stayed far away from the Flying Dragon Sect had already begun to travel to the Flying Dragon Sect. Most of these people were sectless cultivators or disciples of powerful sectless cultivators.

Sectless cultivators enjoyed freedom, but they lacked cultivation resources unlike those in a sect or a clan. Hence, their cultivation path was much more difficult. For this reason, they would seize the chance and find various ways to obtain cultivation resources when the Flying Dragon Sect was recruiting new members.

The emperor-rank Flying Dragon Sect was the ruling force in the eastern region of the Eastern Ridge Mansion. The king-rank forces in that area were like stars while the emperor-rank Flying Dragon Sect was like the moon.

The Flying Dragon Sect's estate was built where nine mountain ranges met. The name of the place was called Nine Dragons Intersection. There were many divine crystal veins in the area that produced divine crystals similar to the one that Huan'er had given Duan Ling Tian when they were in the Devata Realm.

Divine crystals were very precious in the Realms of Gods. A divine crystal was equivalent to 100 divine rocks. Needless to say, divine crystal veins were rare and were only owned by emperor-rank or supreme-rank forces since those that were weaker would not be able to keep their ownership of the divine crystal veins.

At this moment, an old man and a young man hovered in the sky near the Flying Dragon Sect's estate. The old man pointed up ahead at the nine mountain ranges that resembled nine crouching dragons before he said, "The Flying Dragon Sect's estate occupies a vast land. The nine mountain ranges and the point they meet are all protected by the Flying Dragon Sect's Sect Guarding Formation."

"So this is the place I'll be cultivating in the future," the young man said confidently. His appearance was rather average.

"Qiang'er, with your innate talent and your comprehension skills, it won't be difficult for you to join the Flying Dragon Sect as an outer disciple. Remember to cultivate diligently so you can become an inner disciple as soon as possible," the old man said kindly, "The Flying Dragon Sect isn't only recruiting disciples under the age of 5,000, but they're also recruiting elders and deacons with no age limit. With my strength, I should be able to join as an outer elder."

Upon hearing this, the young man said with a sigh, "Grandpa, if you were a little younger, you would've been able to join the Flying Dragon Sect as an inner elder."

"Alas, there's no way to change the past even if I regret it," the old man said as he shook his head, "I hope you won't make the same mistakes I made. In any case, it's not all bad for me. At least, I had years of freedom, free from the rules and restrictions of a sect or clan."

The old man did not tell his grandson about the secret he had been keeping. He was not confident about surviving his Heavenly Tribulation that would arrive in 300 years. His only wish now was for his grandson to join a strong force like the Flying Dragon Sect before he died.

A king-grade flying ship sailed in the air.

A young man dressed in fine robes looked at a middle-aged man, who was sitting cross-legged, with a frown on his face and asked, "Father, why are you in such a hurry? There's still half a year left before the entrance examinations for the Flying Dragon Sect begin, right?"

The middle-aged man replied with a smile, "Chong'er, it's best to arrive earlier. Who knows if there are benefits to showing up early? Moreover, it's not like we have anything better to do at home."

"Benefits? What kind of benefits?" the young man asked.

"The first few exams are group exams. If you arrive earlier, you'll have the time to get to know the other participants. With that, you'll be able to select the best groupmates. Although the first few exams are easy for you, with competent groupmates, you'll be able to conserve your strength for the remaining exams."

Upon hearing this, the young man's eyes lit up. "Father, you're truly wise!"

"So you won't complain anymore?" the middle-aged man asked teasingly with a smile on his face.

The young man said sheepishly, "I'm not as wise as you are."

"I only hope you'll pass the entrance examinations of the Flying Dragon Sect. As for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, I don't have any expectations," the middle-aged man said.

"Father, you underestimate me too much!" the young man said as he furrowed his brows, "I'm the strongest among the younger generation in our clan. Although I might not be able to rank in the top ten of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, it shouldn't be a problem for me to rank in the top 100!"

The middle-aged man shook his head and said, "Rank in the top 100? My child, I'd be happy if you can rank in the top 500."

The middle-aged man was rendered speechless by his son's ignorance. However, he did not think it was surprising. After all, his son was unaware of the kind of people who would be participating in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Many young talents from lord-rank forces would be participating in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, but he and his son were only from a king-rank force. Not only that, but the king-rank force they belonged to was ranked bottom among the king-rank forces under the Flying Dragon Sect.

The young man said confidently, "Just wait and see, father! I'll definitely rank in the top

100!"

The middle-aged man remained silent. In his eyes, his son was like a frog living at the bottom of a well. Perhaps, the Latent Dragon Grand Contest would be a wake-up call for his son. It would make his son realize how insignificant he was among his peers after leaving the clan.

Near the 10,000 Devils Sect.

Three young men stood at the peak of a mountain. Two of them, who resembled each other greatly, stood facing a black-clad young man.

The black-clad young man was tall and burly; he looked cold and unapproachable. His hair fluttered in the air as he stood at the peak of the mountain. He was none other than Yang Qian Ye, the strongest among the young generation in the 10,000 Devils Sect. He was also the son of Lan Qing, the Sect Leader of the 10,000 Devils Sect. Yang Qian Ye did not share the same surname as Lan Qing because Lan Qing had let his son take his late wife's surname in remembrance of her sacrifice for him.

At this time, the younger one of the duo looked at Yang Qian Ye and asked, feeling heavy-hearted, "Brother Qian Ye, why are you in such a hurry?"

Yang Qian Ye smiled and looked at the young man who had spoken. He was none other than Du Qian Jun, the second grandson of Supreme Elder Du Zhan. He said, "Qian Jun, you and your brother will be joining the Flying Dragon Sect half a year later. The Flying Dragon Sect isn't like the 10,000 Devils Sect. You must behave yourself and listen to your brother when you're there."

Yang Qian Ye's gaze was gentle when he looked at Du Qian Jun. After all, he had watched Du Qian Jun grow up; he treated Du Qian Jun like his brother. Based on how he had given his only king-grade flying ship to Du Qian Jun as a birthday present, it was clear that he doted on Du Qian Jun a lot.

"I understand, Brother Qian Ye," Du Qian Jun said. Unlike how arrogant he was when faced with Duan Ling Tian and the others in the Divine Sanctuary, he was very obedient when faced with Yang Qian Ye.

After a moment, Du Qian Jun's eyes shone with excitement as he said, 'Brother Qian Ye, why don't you tell that envoy that you'll only leave after half a year? That way, you'll be able to watch my performance during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest! I'll certainly rank in the top 100!'

Before Yang Qian Ye could respond, the young man next to Du Qian Jun said reproachfully, "Qian Jun, don't be ridiculous! Do you know what kind of status the envoy has? Do you think he'll entertain your request? You should wish Brother Qian Ye well instead. Hopefully, he'll be able to make a name for himself in one of the top five emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Region Mansion. With that, our 10,000 Devils Sect will also become famous!"

The young man who had just spoken was Du Po Jun, Du Qian Jun's biological brother. He was only second to Yang Qian Ye among the prodigies in the 10,000 Devils Sect. Nonetheless, he was not jealous. After all, they had grown up together and were like brothers.

Yang Qian Ye said with a smile, "When everything has stabilized, I'll visit you in the Flying Dragon Sect. At that time, I'll prepare a gift for you that's even better than the king-grade flying ship."

Unlike Du Po Jun and Du Qian Jun who were joining the Flying Dragon Sect, Yang Qian Ye was about to join one of the strongest emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. In fact, he had been recruited by several top emperor-rank forces. It took him a while before he finally chose a sect to join.

Chapter 3775 Mastering the Nine Laws

"Brother Qian Ye, I wish you a safe journey ahead," Du Qian Jun said with a wry smile.

Yang Qian Ye recalled something at this moment so he looked at Du Qian Jun and said, "Qian Jun, my father told me there's news from our spy in the Linghu clan. Duan Ling Tian, who's suspected to have killed Elder Kuang Tian Zheng's disciple, Chu Han, will be joining the Flying Dragon Sect and participating in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest as well."

Du Qian Jun's expression darkened as soon as Yang Qian Ye mentioned Duan Ling Tian. He had met Duan Ling Tian whom Wu Feng, who used the pseudonym Wu Yi Shang, brought when they went to the Divine Sanctuary left behind by Qin Wu, the Emperor of Gods. At that time, Duan Ling Tian was only an advanced god so he had underestimated Duan Ling Tian. He did not expect that Duan Ling Tian would be the strongest among them all and was able to kill Chu Han. Perhaps, others only suspected Duan Ling Tian, but he had no doubts that Duan Ling Tian killed Chu Han. He knew about what happened in the Divine Sanctuary, but due to the Devil Heart's Blood Oath, there were many things he could not say.

'Duan Ling Tian must have inherited Emperor of Gods Qin Wu's legacy. That's likely how he managed to break through, become a rudimentary King of Gods, and killed Shangguang Xiong Feng and Long Xiao!' Du Qian Jun already had these thoughts when he first received news that Duan Ling Tian had killed

Shangguan Xiong Feng and Long Xiao. He was still furious that he and Chu Han expended so much effort, but Duan Ling Tian ended up reaping the benefits.

“Don’t offend or provoke Duan Ling Tian when you’re in the Flying Dragon Sect. You’re no match for him,” Yang Qian Ye said, “Elder Kuang Tian Zheng will take care of it.” Then, he turned to Du Po Jun and said, “Po Jun, when Duan Ling Tian killed Shangguan Xiong Feng and Long Xiao, he was only slightly weaker than you. With his innate talent and comprehension, he must have gotten much stronger now that 20 years have passed. Even if you fight him, you might not win. That’s why I advise you to leave him alone, and let Elder Kuang Tian Zheng deal with him.”

Yang Qian Ye had heard about what happened from Du Qian Jun so he was worried the Du brothers would provoke Duan Ling Tian when they were at the Flying Dragon Sect. Although he had not met Duan Ling Tian before, based on Duan Ling Tian’s achievements, he knew beyond a doubt that Duan Ling Tian was not a pushover. Hence, it was best to not provoke Duan Ling Tian unless they were confident they could kill him.

“I understand.” Du Po Jun nodded. “Rest assured, Brother Qian Ye. I’ll take good care of Qian Jun as well.”

“Very well.” Yang Qian Ye nodded. “I have to leave now. I’ll send you a message when I’m leaving the sect tomorrow. If you encounter any problem in the Flying Dragon Sect, don’t hesitate to tell me. I’ll try my best to help you.”

With that, Yan Qian Ye left like a gust of dark wind, leaving the two brothers behind.

“Elder brother,” Du Qian Jun said to Du Po Jun with a hint of discontent, “Duan Ling Tian only has such strength because of a fortuitous encounter that was supposed to be mine! I’m really pissed that I can’t kill him!”

“What’s the problem? If you really want to kill him, you can speak to Senior Granduncle Tian Zheng,” Du Po Jun said with a smile, “Senior Granduncle Tian Zheng doesn’t even need to personally make a move to kill his enemies. He has many people to help him with that. As long as his enemy is dead, he won’t care who kills them.”

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“Alright.” Du Qian Jun nodded. His eyes shone with killing intent as he said, “I’ll speak to Senior Granduncle when we’re at the Flying Dragon Sect.”

Du Qian Jun was clearly still very resentful about what had happened in the Divine Sanctuary.

In the Linghu clan.

“I’ve finally comprehended the profundities of the laws I want to and am able to cast double Fused Profundities now.”

Duan Ling Tian had a wide grin on his face as he left the chamber of laws in the Linghu clan. This was his second time in the chamber of laws in the Linghu clan. During his first visit, he had entered the chambers of laws of the law of life and the law of wood to become a divine alchemist. Now, he had

comprehended double Fused Profundities of those two laws. Apart from that, he had also comprehended the law of death that he had not comprehended before. With this, not only did Duan Ling Tian master the four Supreme Laws, but he also mastered nine derivative laws from the five elements.

'I wish Sister Water had told me about this earlier so I could've focused on the other laws,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he shook his head, 'Perhaps, she thought my master would tell me about it. I always thought that using a doppelganger would negatively affect my strength after arriving at the Profound Energy Land since I've yet to see anyone use a doppelganger. Hence, I didn't think about using doppelgangers at all. It seems like I've never met anyone who uses doppelgangers because the people I met are all natives of the Realms of Gods.'

Duan Ling Tian recalled a casual conversation he had with Linghu Ren Jie three years ago that prompted him to focus on comprehending other laws apart from the law of space.

At that time, Linghu Ren Jie had asked, confused, "Duan Ling Tian, since you're from the Devata Realms and not a native of a Realm of Gods, why didn't you leave your doppelganger in the estate before you left?" Duan Ling Tian told Linghu Ren Jie that he did not know how to create doppelgangers. He also told Linghu Ren Jie that he did not think doppelgangers were useful in the Realms of Gods.

Upon hearing this, Linghu Ren Jie had chuckled before he explained that being able to create doppelgangers was unique to those from Devata Realms. Natives from the Realms of Gods could not create doppelgangers even if they had attained godhood. This was a law of heaven and earth. Only those who did not share the bloodline of supreme powerhouses could create doppelgangers after attaining godhood. In a way, this was a way for heaven and earth to keep the balance.

Creating a doppelganger by merging one's Divine Energy and a law was a time-consuming process. If one's doppelganger was destroyed, one would suffer minor injuries that could be easily healed with Divine Pills. However, during a battle, it might be troublesome since it would take some time to heal the injuries.

"In any case, having a doppelganger is beneficial to you during a battle. Moreover, your comprehension skills give you an advantage. The more laws you comprehend to a higher stage, the more beneficial it would be for your doppelganger. After all, it's not smart to use your doppelganger if it's weak. For example, if you and your opponent are evenly matched, but you send a weak doppelganger out, it'd be disadvantageous for you. If your opponent destroys your doppelganger, you'll suffer a minor backlash. However, during a battle, do you think your opponent will give you time to recover? Your opponent will most definitely seize the chance to strike while you're down. However, it'd be a different story if you have a strong doppelganger. That aside, in terms of just running errands, it doesn't matter if a doppelganger is weak. Even if it's destroyed, you can easily recover."

At that time, after Duan Ling Tian listened to Linghu Ren Jie's words, he immediately requested to enter the chamber of laws. With that, he stayed in the chamber of law for three years.

Unbeknownst to Duan Ling Tian, during his time there, he had used up one-third of the Linghu clan's divine rocks. When he walked out of the chamber of laws, he was unaware of the bitter smile on the core elder's face.

‘I’m afraid he’ll soon find out that he used up one-third of our clan’s divine rocks. If the clan’s elders find out about this, I’m afraid they’ll speak up and even strip the clan leader of his position. Clan leader forbade me from telling Revered Elder Duan about this, but I don’t think we can hide this any longer. After all, he’ll be leaving for the Flying Dragon Sect in a few months. At that time, even the ancestors won’t be able to help the clan leader retain his position. After all, even high-ranking officials of the clan have to adhere to the rules set by our clan’s founding fathers.’”

Chapter 3776 Murong Yin Yue

As a lord-rank force with a long history, the Linghu clan naturally had strict rules that even the clan leader had to adhere to. After all, the future of the clan would be affected if they had an incompetent leader. Hence, supreme elders and core elders could request the removal of the clan leader under certain circumstances. As long as half of the number was in agreement, a new clan leader would then be selected through a round of voting.

In a relatively remote and quiet courtyard.

“Elder Zheng Xing.” Ling Hu Ren Jie stood in the courtyard as he looked at a middle-aged man who was in the midst of carving something on one of the pillars of the pavilion.

The middle-aged man was tall and burly, and he was dressed in a long green robe. He had pair of thick eyebrows that made him look valiant, and he had a dignified air about him. He was none other than the strongest powerhouse in the Linghu clan.

As a lord-rank force with a long history, the Linghu clan naturally had strict rules and regulations that even their clan leader was not exempted from. The future of the clan would be jeopardized if their clan leader was incompetent as a leader. Hence, the core elders and supreme elders could issue a request to remove the clan leader during a critical moment as long as more than half of them concurred and a new clan leader would be selected by them through a voting session. “Elder Zheng Xing.”

In a relatively remote and quiet mansion, the Linghu clan’s leader, Linghu Ren Jie was standing in the front courtyard looking at a middle-aged man who was carving on one of the pillars on a gazebo. The tall and burly middle-aged man wore a long green robe. He carried a dignified air with a pair of sword-shaped brows. He was none other than Linghu Zheng Xing, the strongest elder in the Linghu clan.

After a dozen breaths, Linghu Zheng Xing stopped carving and looked at Linghu Ren Jie with a profound gaze before he asked, “Is it worth it?”

“Yes, it is,” Linghu Ren Jie replied solemnly.

Linghu Zheng Xing nodded. “Since Linghu Huan and Linghu Heng decided to help you as well, there’s no reason for me not to say anything. Moreover, I think Duan Ling Tian’s not an ungrateful person. He’s someone worth investing in.”

“The position of clan leader isn’t important to me,” Linghu Ren Jie said as he shook his head, “I’m just eager to see how high he can soar. I have no doubt he won’t forget our Linghu clan no matter how high he soars in the future, considering what we’ve done for him. I need you and the others to help me keep this a secret for now. I don’t want the other elders to cause a commotion about the divine rocks before Duan Ling Tian leaves for the Flying Dragon Sect. It’ll affect his cultivation, after all. In my opinion, his

future is limitless, and it's an honor for me to be a part of his journey. My efforts won't be in vain when he becomes famous in the future."

Linghu Ren Jie spoke very confidently with a smile on his face.

"Alright. It seems like you've made up your mind." Linghu Zheng Xing nodded. "Rest assured, I'll help you with this matter."

"Thank you, Elder Zheng Xing," Linghu Ren Jie said with a bow before he took his leave.

After Linghu Ren Jie left, Linghu Zheng Xing shook his head and muttered to himself, "Duan Ling Tian is really charismatic. Ren Jie worked and struggled so hard to become the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan, but Ren Jie is willing to give up his position as the clan leader."

At this time, Linghu Zheng Xing remembered the decisive, spirited, and determined lad who fought for the position of the Clan Leader in the past. Who knew that lad would not willingly give up his position because of an outsider?

After returning to his courtyard from the chamber of laws, Duan Ling Tian sent a message to Linghu Ren Jie to thank him. Subsequently, he spent the rest of his time creating his doppelganger. The process was not complex, but it took a lot of time. Apart from that, a large amount of Divine Energy was needed to be imbued into the law before creating a doppelganger. The process would be considered complete once the doppelganger was created and could be controlled at will.

The difficulty of the process would increase accordingly with one's comprehension of the law. To create a doppelganger from the law of space, it would take longer than to create a doppelganger from the other laws he comprehended.

One's law would not be affected by the existence of the doppelganger. In a fight, even if one used a doppelganger, one would still be able to exert the full strength of the law.

"The strongest doppelganger I can create now is definitely one using the law of space. It's the only one that can help me during a battle. Hopefully, I can create it before leaving for the Flying Dragon Sect. With it, I won't have to use my other trump cards during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest and still get a good ranking."

Duan Ling Tian's goal was, naturally, to rank first in the Latent Dragon Contest if possible. However, he still needed to assess the situation first and to weigh the pros and cons before he decided if it was worth it to show more of his capabilities just to rank first in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. The Realms of Gods were fraught with danger. It was still best for him to hide his strength as much as he could. With the doppelganger, he would be able to hide much of his strength.

"Let's start now..."

For the rest of the time, Duan Ling Tian entered closed-door cultivation to create a doppelganger from the law of space before the entrance examination of the Flying Dragon Sect.

In the Murong clan.

The younger generation had been busy discussing the Flying Dragon Sect's Latent Dragon Grand Contest recently since the Flying Dragon Sect's entrance examination was drawing closer.

“I hope I can pass the test and join the Flying Dragon Sect. Even if I can only join as an outer disciple, I’ll still be rewarded if I join our clan’s faction in the sect,” a disciple of the Murong clan said excitedly.

Another one lamented, “Based on my strength, it’d be challenging for me to join the Flying Dragon Sect even as an outer disciple. I’ve already failed once 100 years ago, but I’ll give it another try again.”

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“Hey, in your opinion, how many of us will be able to pass the test and become an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect?”

“I think fewer than five people are capable of that. We have two direct descendants in the clan who missed the Flying Dragon Sect’s recruitment previously because they were in closed-door cultivation. I think they stand a good chance of becoming inner disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect.”

At this time, a young man stood in the square, listening to the disciples’ conversations. His eyes were filled with anticipation. He was none other than Hou Qing Ning, the Young Master of the Ten Thousand Leaves Sect.

‘I’ll be leaving for the Flying Dragon Sect in a month for the recruitment. At that time, I’ll be able to meet Duan Ling Tian again. I’ve not seen him for 20 years.’

After Hou Qing Ning left the Linghu clan and dropped out of the Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Academy, he had returned to the Ten Thousand Leaves Sect before joining the Murong clan.

When a slender figure approached Hou Qing Ning, everyone’s attention turned to the duo immediately.

“Hou Qing Ning.”

Hou Qing Ning smiled wryly when he saw the slender woman who was walking toward him. “Third Miss.”

The woman was tall, slender, and beautiful. She was Murong Yin Yue, the only daughter of Murong Yun Liu, the Clan Leader of the Murong clan.

Murong Yun had three children, and he doted on his only daughter, who was also the youngest, the most.

Hou Qing Ning had been feeling exasperated because Murong Yin Yue, the Murong clan’s Third Young Miss, had been looking for him frequently ever since he joined the Murong clan. Not only did she affect his cultivation, but because of her, he was hated by the male disciples in the Murong clan. After all, Murong Yin Yue was the girl of their dreams. Not only was she beautiful, but she was also the clan leader’s daughter. Whoever was able to marry her would surely be able to rise swiftly in ranks.

“Hou Qing Ning, are you planning to participate in the test for outer disciples or inner disciples?” Murong Yin Yue asked with a smile on her face.

The male disciples in the surroundings stared at Murong Yin Yue's dimples, completely mesmerized. However, their gazes were as sharp as knives when they turned to look at Hou Qing Ning. It was as though they could not wait to rip him into pieces.

"I'll be participating in the inner disciple's test. If I fail, then I'll participate in the outer disciple's test," Hou Qing Ning replied truthfully despite not wanting any further interactions with Murong Yin Yue.

"So you're really determined to join the Flying Dragon Sect?" Murong Yin Yue asked with a slight frown on her face, "If that's the case, I won't be able to see you any more if I don't pass the inner disciple's test."

In the Murong clan, direct descendants could only stay and cultivate in the clan unless they managed to become inner disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect. This was because as direct descendants of the Murong clan, they had their status to uphold. They would become a laughingstock if they were only outer disciples in the Flying Dragon Sect. Apart from that, as direct descendants, the resources they would receive would be better in the Murong clan compared to the resources they would receive as outer disciples in the Flying Dragon Sect.

'It'll be better if we don't ever meet again,' Hou Qing Ning thought to himself inwardly upon hearing Murong Yin Yue's words. Naturally, he did not dare to say those words out loud. In fact, he did not know what Murong Yin Yue liked about him since he had nothing to offer. Moreover, status-wise, he was inferior to her since he was only the Young Master of a king-rank force, unlike the lord-rank Murong clan.

Chapter 3777 Linghu Ren Jie Pleads Guilty in the Ancentral Hall

Time flew by. In just a blink of an eye, a few months had passed.

At Duan Ling Tian's courtyard in the Linghu clan.

"Young Master, Supreme Elder Heng and Supreme Elder Huan are waiting for you at the entrance. It's time to leave for the Flying Dragon Sect."

Duan Ling Tian who was focused on forming his doppelganger was pulled back to his senses immediately by Wang Fu's voice.

'Time passed so quickly. Fortunately, I'm almost done. I'll continue forming the doppelganger in the flying ship...' Duan Ling Tian left his room and followed Wang Fu to the front of the courtyard where Linghu Heng and Linghu Huan were waiting. Then, he greeted them with a smile, "Greetings, Supreme Elder Heng and Supreme Elder Huan. Sorry to trouble you."

Just like usual, Elder Heng nodded slightly, as taciturn as ever.

On the contrary, Linghu Huan smiled and walked toward Duan Ling Tian before he said, "Duan Ling Tian, I heard from the clan leader that you've broken through and became an intermediate Kings of Gods. It seems like you have a high chance of ranking in the top three."

"I hope so, Supreme Elder Huan."

When they were about to leave, Duan Ling Tian realized that Linghu Ren Jie was absent, which was unlike Linghu Ren Jie. Hence, he asked, confused, "Is the clan leader not joining us?"

“The clan leader led the others and departed early,” Linghu Huan said. A hint of uneasiness, which went unnoticed by Duan Ling Tian, flashed in the depths of his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. Since it made sense, he did not suspect anything was wrong. After all, he was not the only one from the Linghu clan who was participating in the Flying Dragon Sect’s entrance examination. There were disciples of the Linghu clan who wanted to be inner disciples and outer disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect as well.

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“Let’s go.” Linghu Huan gestured to Duan Ling Tian before they boarded the lord-grade flying ship.

The flying ship left the Linghu clan’s estate and flew toward the Flying Dragon Sect. Since they were not in a hurry, the flying ship only flew at the speed of a rudimentary Lord of Gods. It would take some time before they reached the Flying Dragon Sect at such a speed.

After excusing himself, Duan Ling Tian continued to form the doppelganger from the law of space in the flying ship. Since there were no outward signs during the process, it did not matter that Linghu Heng and Linghu Huan could see him.

Upon seeing this, Linghu Huan said to Linghu Heng through Voice Transmission, “He’s trying to form a doppelganger from the law of space. Elder brother, do you think he has a chance to rank first in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest? It’d be unprecedented in the Linghu clan if that happens. The best ranking we’ve gotten was in the top three.”

The Flying Dragon Sect’s Latent Dragon Grand Contest was held every 100 years. Although the Linghu clan had a long history, none of their members had ranked first before. With this, one could imagine how tough the competition was.

“It’ll be difficult.” Linghu Heng shook his head. “If he’s an advanced King of Gods, with his methods, I believe ranking first won’t be a problem for him. Alas, he’s just an intermediate King of Gods now. Don’t forget that there’ll be many outstanding advanced Kings of Gods under the age of 10,000 who are comparable to rudimentary Lords of Gods participating in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.”

Linghu Heng was not taciturn when communicating with his younger twin brother through Voice Transmission. “You’re right.” Linghu Huan nodded in agreement. His gaze was complex as he turned to look at the purple figure sitting cross-legged in the corner of the flying ship. “He’s not even 3,000 years old. His only disadvantage is that he’s too young. Although we have 3 disciples among the younger generation whose strength was comparable to Duan Ling Tian’s when he killed Shangguan Xiong Feng and Long Xiao, I’m sure Duan Ling Tian has long surpassed those three brats after more than 20 years,” Linghu Huan murmured in a low voice.

Since Duan Ling Tian was immersed in forming his doppelganger, he did not hear Linghu Huan’s words. He wanted to form the doppelganger before the start of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

As Linghu Huan had said earlier, the disciples of the Linghu clan had indeed left earlier for the Flying Dragon Sect. However, they were led by Elder Linghu Zheng Xing instead as requested by Linghu Ren Jie himself.

A few days after Duan Ling Tian left with Linghu Heng and Linghu Huan, Linghu Ren Jie gathered a group of elders, including Linghu Qing Ze and another Lord of Gods who had protected Duan Ling Tian from Supreme Elder Feng in the past.

The supreme elders, the core elders, and the inner elders in the Linghu clan had the same status as their counterparts in the Hidden Fog Sect and the 10,000 Devils Sect.

The elders were all confused that they had been summoned to the ancestral hall. After all, they would usually gather in the main hall when discussing the affairs of the clan.

At this moment, the usually quiet and empty ancestral hall was lively and filled with people.

“Why did the clan leader summon us here?” one of the core elders asked.

“I don’t know. Even if something happened, shouldn’t we be discussing it in the main hall?” another core elder said with a frown on his face.

“Elder Qing Ze is here as well!”

The elders who arrived early quickly greeted the old woman who had just arrived. She was the one who had guarded Linghu Chu Yin while they were in King Descending City.

“Elder Tang Ping is here as well!”

Soon after, an old man with hair as white as snow entered the ancestral hall as well. He was a Supreme Elder as well, and his name was Linghu Tang Ping. He was the Lord of Gods that had protected Duan Ling Tian from Supreme Elder Feng in the past.

It did not take long before a dozen elders who were also supreme elders entered the ancestral hall. They were not as strong as Linghu Zheng Xing, Linghu Heng, and Linghu Huan, whose strength was comparable, if not superior, to the three Supreme Elders of the Hidden Fog Sect. As for Supreme Elder Feng, he was no longer mentioned after his demise. About half an hour later, almost everyone had arrived. No one knew why Linghu Ren Jie had summoned them here.

“Where’s the clan leader?” someone asked patiently.

As soon as his voice fell, a figure entered the ancestral hall.

“Clan Leader!”

The elders bowed and greeted Linghu Ren Jie. A few of them looked at him in confusion, wondering why he had summoned them to the ancestral hall.

However, before any of them could speak, Linghu Ren Jie walked toward the table that housed the memorial tablets of the Linghu clan’s fallen ancestors and knelt in front of them, kowtowing thrice.

Upon seeing this, everyone grew uneasy. Although they did not know what happened, they knew something was wrong.

“Ancestors of the Linghu clan, I, Linghu Ren Jie, have failed you. I’ll now resign from my position as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan. I’ll now let the elders here select a new clan leader.”

Everyone was shocked when they heard these words that echoed loudly in the hall.

“Clan Leader, what happened?” Linghu Qing Ze asked with a frown.

Similarly, the other elders frowned and looked at Linghu Ren Jie in confusion.

Finally, Linghu Ren Jie said, “As the clan leader, I abused my power and allowed Duan Ling Tian to stay in the chamber of laws for three years, exhausting one-third of our divine stones. I even deliberately hid the truth from the clan. For this reason, I’ll resign from my position as clan leader, and I’m willing to accept any punishment deemed fit by the elders.”

Chapter 3778 Duan Ling Tian’s Doppelgänger from the Law of Space

Not only was Duan Ling Tian’s talent and comprehension skills far superior to the younger generation in the Linghu clan, but he was also a Revered Elder. Moreover, he was also a divine alchemist who could refine god-grade Limit Divine Pills.

For such a person, even if Linghu Ren Jie, the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan, allowed Duan Ling Tian to spend a few months or even a year in the chamber of laws, the members would not have minded or taken offense. After all, it was only right that an outstanding figure be given special treatment.

However, to spend three years in the chamber of laws and exhausting one-third of the clan’s divine rocks were something the members of the Linghu clan found difficult to accept. The cost was too high, after all. Moreover, currently, Duan Ling Tian was not that outstanding to the extent that he was worth one-third of the Linghu clan’s divine rocks.

Hence, upon hearing Linghu Ren Jie’s words, the expression of the majority of elders in the Linghu clan turned cold immediately.

One of them chuckled before saying mockingly, “So this is how it is. You’re quite smart, huh? You knew we would strip you of your position as soon as we found out about it.”

“Linghu Ren Jie, you’ve gone too far this time. The clan’s resources can’t be wasted like this.”

“Linghu Ren Jie, we don’t doubt that Revered Elder Duan is very talented in both cultivation and alchemy. However, it’s not necessary for us to dedicate all of our clan’s resources to him, right?”

At this moment, apart from those who had a good relationship with Linghu Ren Jie, the others were glaring at Linghu Ren Jie indignantly. Some of them even reprimanded him.

Linghu Ren Jie looked at everyone calmly. This was all within his expectation. He said solemnly, “Respected elders, my actions are for the sake of the clan. I believe our investment in Revered Elder Duan won’t be in vain. In fact, the returns would be several folds of what we invested in the future.”

Linghu Ren Jie had unswerving trust in Duan Ling Tian, but that was not the case for the others.

The elders only scoffed with disdainful expressions on their faces when they heard his words.

“Linghu Ren Jie, if Duan Ling Tian promised to stay in our clan permanently, perhaps, we could’ve overlooked this. However, he’s already going to join the Flying Dragon Sect.”

“That’s right! Although we’re subordinates of the Flying Dragon Sect, we don’t need to be so excessive in nurturing talent for them. I’m afraid I can’t accept your actions.”

“Indeed, if Duan Ling Tian doesn’t meet with any mishaps, he’ll soar very high. However, even then, how can you be sure he won’t forget your help in the future?”

The elders’ words grew harsher and harsher. Even those who were on Linghu Ren Jie’s side were unable to interject. This was also because Linghu Ren Jie had told them through Voice Transmissions not to interfere. He had said to them, “I’m responsible for this alone. This is a result of my willfulness. There’s no need for any of you to intervene. It’s my fault so just let them vent.”

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Linghu Ren Jie had long been prepared for the consequences. He listened to their reprimands calmly without showing any signs of dissatisfaction. Even if they wanted to punish him, he would not complain. Regardless, he did not doubt nor regret his actions. He believed that he had done the right thing. Apart from that, he also believed that Duan Ling Tian would not disappoint him.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of Linghu Ren Jie’s plight in the Linghu clan. After all, Linghu Ren Jie sounded normal in their Voice Transmissions.

While making his way to the Flying Dragon Sect, he continued working hard to form his doppelganger. Finally, when he was almost at the Flying Dragon Sect, he managed to successfully form his doppelganger from the law of space. The doppelganger also had full use of his law of space.

“I wonder if the doppelganger is able to utilize the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth as well?”

Duan Ling Tian manifested his doppelganger.

In just a moment, another Duan Ling Tian appeared in front of him. He was also dressed in a purple robe.

The duo looked exactly like identical twins. The only difference was the doppelganger’s eyes were lifeless, and his face was expressionless. Only when Duan Ling Tian controlled the doppelganger that his eyes began to flicker with life. As Duan Ling Tian continued to control the doppelganger, the doppelganger was even more like Duan Ling Tian. There were perhaps only slight differences that one would only notice if one was very observant. Only those very familiar with Duan Ling Tian would be able to notice the differences.

“Let’s test it out.”

Duan Ling Tian sat down cross-legged on the ground and closed his eyes.

With just a thought, the doppelganger began to perform a series of actions. In the beginning, the doppelganger was only using Divine Energy and the profundities from the law of space. Following that, the sound of sword whistling rang in the air when he tried to use the Sword Dao through the doppelganger and found that it was a success.

Naturally, in front of the two supreme elders, he only used his rudimentary Sword Dao. Only Linghu Ren Jie knew the true stage of Sword Dao in the entire Profound Energy Land. He had to keep his true abilities under wraps to avoid drawing envy and trouble to himself.

This was the reason Linghu Ren Jie had willingly given up on his position as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan just to help Duan Ling Tian. In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian had a high possibility of becoming a supreme powerhouse. Hence, he decided to take a risk. Naturally, he knew no one would believe him. Hence, he did not bother to explain himself even if they could not understand his actions. Even when he was reprimanded and was suspected by the others, he simply remained silent and accepted all the harsh words.

At this time, Linghu Huan looked at Duan Ling Tian in amazement as he asked, "Duan Ling Tian, you've successfully formed your doppelganger?" "Yes," Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger replied and nodded.

As though he just recalled something, Linghu Huan brought a sword that glowed with light and emitted a cold energy. Then, he said, "Duan Ling Tian, I obtained this sword when I was younger. It's a prominent divine artifact. If you don't have a prominent divine artifact during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, you'll definitely be at a disadvantage. I'll lend you this sword for now. However, if you rank in the top three, consider the sword yours."

Linghu Huan smiled before he waved his hand, and the sword flew over to Duan Ling Tian.

After putting away the doppelganger, Duan Ling Tian took the divine sword hovering in front of him and said, "Supreme Elder Huan, so you're going to give this prominent divine artifact to me?"

"Oh, you're so confident that'll you rank in the top three?" Linghu Huan's eyes brightened as he said, "You should know that many prodigies will be participating in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, As long as one's under the age of 10,000 years old and has never been a disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect before, one will be able to participate. There's no lack of prodigies from lord-rank forces participating in the contest. Moreover, most of these prodigies are advanced Kings of Gods. Their cultivation bases are one stage higher than yours."

Duan Ling Tian did not say anything in response to those words. He only smiled.

In Linghu Huan's eyes, however, Duan Ling Tian's smile was so confident that it was deeply imprinted in his mind.

Four hours later.

"We've arrived."

Linghu Huan flew out with the others and put away the lord-grade flying ship.

Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air and surveyed his surroundings. He could see throngs of people coming from all directions. Some of them flew in groups, and there were some who flew alone. There were so many people that they covered the sky.

"They're all here to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest?" Duan Ling Tian asked, amazed by the sheer number of people.

It was only natural, after all. Most people would be drawn to emperor-rank forces like the Flying Dragon Sect.

There were already so many people clamoring to join the emperor-rank Flying Dragon Sect that no longer had any Emperors of Gods currently. One could only imagine the number of people clamoring to join those emperor-rank forces with Emperors of Gods.

“That’s the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate.”

Duan Ling Tian looked in the direction Linghu Huan pointed and saw nine majestic mountain ranges. The nine mountain ranges were like dragons. One could see lights glinting off the sunlight on the mountain ranges. These lights were from the Sect Guarding Formation that protected the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate.

‘That should be the Sect Guarding Formation,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘Although the Linghu clan’s Guarding Formation is the top among the lord-rank forces thanks to the Formation master of the past, it is still far from being comparable to the Sect Guarding Formation of an emperor-rank force.’

“Duan Ling Tian!”

Duan Ling Tian turned around and saw that a familiar figure had appeared at some point. It was an exceptionally burly middle-aged man.

More than 100 figures, many of which were also quite familiar, stood behind the middle-aged man.

These were all inner disciples from the Linghu clan.

Chapter 3779 100 Million Divine Rocks Is a Small Goal

The middle-aged man was none other than Linghu Zheng Xing who was stronger than Linghu Heng and Linghu Huan. In fact, he was the strongest person in the Linghu clan.

“Supreme Elder Zheng Xing?” Duan Ling Tian looked at Linghu Zheng Xian before looking at his back. He raised an eyebrow and asked, “Why are you here? Where’s the clan leader?”

Before leaving the Linghu clan’s estate, Linghu Huan had told Duan Ling Tian that Linghu Ren Jie had left with the other disciples of the Linghu clan ahead of time. Hence, he had expected to meet Linghu Ren Jie here. How could he not be surprised to see Linghu Zheng Xing instead?

“The clan leader?” Linghu Zheng Xing shook his head. “If you’re talking about Ren Jie, I’m afraid it’s no longer appropriate to refer to him as the clan leader. After all, he’s no longer the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan.”

Duan Ling Tian was shocked by these words. When he regained his senses, he frowned and asked in confusion, “Supreme Elder Zheng Xing, what do you mean?”

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian could sense the hostile and envious gazes from the disciples of the Linghu clan standing behind Linghu Zheng Xing.

Linghu Zheng Xing looked at Duan Ling Tian with a piercing gaze as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, do you know that one-third of our clan's divine rocks were exhausted because you stayed in the chamber of law for three years? Do you know what the consequences are for something like this?"

Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned before his expression changed drastically. He did not expect staying in the chamber of laws for three years would use up such a high number of divine rocks. One-third of the Linghu clan's divine rocks had to be at least tens of millions of divine rocks from the divine rock vein. Although he had more than a million divine rocks, it was insignificant compared to one-third of the Linghu clan's divine rocks. After taking a deep breath to calm down, he said apologetically, "I'm sorry, Supreme Elder Zheng Xing. I was unaware that staying in the chamber of laws for three years would cost so many divine rocks. However, this has nothing to do with the clan leader. You can punish me, but there's no need to blame the clan leader."

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Linghu Ren Jie would lose his position as clan leader over his matter. When he recalled his casual conversation with Linghu Ren Jie after leaving the chamber of laws, he was overwhelmed with guilt, especially when he thought about how Linghu Ren Jie did not mention the matter at all.

"There's nothing you can do about it," Linghu Zheng Xing shook his head and said, "Ren Jie has been stripped of his position as the clan leader. He will be punished accordingly... If you really want to repay his kindness, perform well in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest and make a name for yourself in the Flying Dragon Sect." At this time, an idea appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind. He asked solemnly, "Supreme Elder Zheng Xing, how many divine rocks are one-third of the divine rocks in the Linghu clan's divine rock veins that I used?"

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Duan Ling Tian had guessed it had to be tens of millions, but he was not certain.

"Why do you ask?" Linghu Zheng Xing asked.

"Supreme Elder Zheng Xing, please tell the elders not to elect another clan leader for another 100 years. I promise to return the divine rocks I used within 100 years," Duan Ling Tian said determinedly as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Linghu Zheng Xing was taken aback by Duan Ling Tian's words. Then, he burst into a fit of laughter. "Duan Ling Tian, do you know how many divine rocks are one-third of the divine rocks in our clan's divine rock veins?"

"I don't know the exact figure, but I guess it should be tens of millions," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"That's right. So you know the number is insanely high, but you dare to make such a promise? You used roughly 40 million divine rocks," Linghu Zheng Xing said as he shook his head.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed with determination as he said, "Alright. I'll return the Linghu clan 100 million divine rocks within 100 years."

Duan Ling Tian did not think it was a big problem to accumulate 100 million divine stones in 100 years. If he could not even do something like this, how was he going to prove himself to the Xia clan that was a supreme-rank force 300 years later?

Before Linghu Zheng Xing could respond, a group of disciples standing at the back laughed. “100 million divine rocks? Revered Elder Duan, you’re really ignorant? Do you know how much is 100 million divine rocks?”

“Do you think the elders will agree to your request because of this unrealistic promise?”

“Of course not! What a joke!”

“Well, he might be able to accumulate 100 million divine rocks if he’s able to refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills and sell them over the next 100 years.”

Needless to say, the disciples from the Linghu clan thought Duan Ling Tian was spouting nonsense.

On the other hand, Linghu Zheng Xing asked, “Are you serious?”

“Of course,” Duan Ling Tian said without hesitation.

Linghu Huan, who had remained silent from the beginning, finally said, “Ling Tian, I believe you even if it’s unrealistic. You have my support in this matter. I’ll let the others know about my stance. This includes my elder brother as well.”

Duan Ling Tian was moved by Linghu Huan’s words. He looked at Linghu Heng gratefully as well without saying anything.

At this time, Linghu Zheng Xing said, “You have my support as well. I’ll send a message to the elders now. I don’t see them refusing since 100 years is nothing. Moreover, it won’t affect the elders much since they’re already managing the clan’s affairs anyway. There won’t be a problem if we hold off selecting a new clan leader for 100 years.”

Duan Ling Tian heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing Linghu Zheng Xing’s words before he thanked him.

The disciples from the Linghu clan who mocked Duan Ling Tian earlier naturally did not dare to speak at this moment. Since the supreme elders had spoken, how could they say anything? They could only wait for Duan Ling Tian to embarrass himself 100 years later.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian received a message from Linghu Ren Jie.

“Duan Ling Tian, there’s no need for you to do such a thing. In fact, I’ve grown tired of shouldering the burden of the Linghu clan. Now that I’m free, how can you place the burden on me again?”

Duan Ling Tian instantly replied, “Clan leader, you lost your position because of me. I promise to return the divine rocks in 100 years. At that time, when the position is given back to you, you can choose to refuse it.”

Linghu Ren Jie did not doubt Duan Ling Tian at all. In the end, he only sighed and said, “Thank you.”

“No, I should thank you instead. You took care of me at my lowest point. I won’t forget to repay your kindness when I achieve great things in the future!” Duan Ling Tian said.

Linghu Ren Jie did not know that Duan Ling Tian was dead serious about this promise that he made.

About an hour later, the elders finally reached an agreement and sent a message to Linghu Zheng Xing

“Duan Ling Tian, the elders have agreed to your request. However, the clan has no intention of taking advantage of you. Hence, as long as you return 50 million divine rocks, Ren Jie will be reinstated as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan. As for now, the clan won’t select a new clan leader, and the elders will be managing the clan for now,” Linghu Zheng Xing said.

Duan Ling Tian was relieved upon hearing these words. His gaze was resolute as he said, “I’ll return 50 million divine rocks to the clan, and I’ll give the clan leader another 50 million to do as he pleases.”

With that, the commotion in the Linghu clan temporarily subsided.

The Linghu clan’s members, including Duan Ling Tian, waited for three days outside of the Flying Dragon Sect before the entrance examination started. Some of them even began to sit cross-legged to cultivate while they waited. After all, with the three supreme elders around, they could safely focus on their cultivation.

The disciples set up a noise-canceling Formation using their Formation compass so they could concentrate.

Unlike the others, Duan Ling Tian was focused on the doppelganger he had successfully formed recently. Although it did not show itself, he could still sense it.

At this moment...

Someone called out, “Supreme Elder Zheng Xing.”

Duan Ling Tian looked in the direction of the voice and saw a tall and burly young man dressed in fine clothes flying toward them. An inconspicuous old man with an average build followed by his side while more than 100 people flew behind them.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian saw a familiar face among the group of people. With that, he realized the group of people was from the Murong clan. After all, the familiar face he saw belonged to Hou Qing Ning.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian saw Hou Qing Ning, he heard Hou Qing Ning’s voice. “Duan Ling Tian.”

Chapter 3780 Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue’s Feelings Are Mutual

“Supreme Elder Zheng Xing, why are you leading the Linghu clan personally this time?”

Duan Ling Tian found from Hou Qing Ning’s Voice Transmission that the person leading the Murong clan was Murong Yun Liu, the Clan Leader of the Murong clan.

Murong Yun Liu was a tall and muscular young man who looked like he was in his 30s even though he was almost 20,000 years old. He was one of the youngest Lords of Gods in the Murong clan.

“I came in place of Ren Jie because he’s temporarily stripped of his position as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan as a punishment,” Linghu Zheng Xing replied honestly after he greeted the old man, who was one of the strongest powerhouses in the Murong clan, standing next to Murong Yun Liu.

Linghu Zheng Xing knew Murong Yun Liu and Linghu Ren Jie were good friends so he did not bother to hide the truth from Murong Yun Liu.

Upon hearing Linghu Zheng Xing's words, Murong Yun Liu's expression changed slightly. "What? He's stripped of his position? He didn't tell me about it. Supreme Elder Zheng Xing, what happened?"

At the same time, Murong Yun Liu sent a message to Linghu Ren Jie who was in the Linghu clan's estate.

Even the old man standing next to Murong Yun Liu looked at Linghu Zheng Xing with a slightly surprised expression.

Linghu Zheng Xing truthfully told them about how Linghu Ren Jie made a sacrifice for Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing this, envy could be seen in the eyes of some of the disciples of the Murong clan when they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

After listening to Linghu Zheng Xing, Murong Yun Liu turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. Then, he asked in a low voice, "Revered Elder Duan, don't you think you should do something since Ren sie ended up in this predicament because of you?"

Duan Ling Tian replied lightly, "I've already promised the clan leader to help him reinstate his position in 100 years."

Murong Yun Liu furrowed his brows upon hearing these words. He only understood what Duan Ling Tian meant when Linghu Zheng Xing explained it to him.

"He'll return 50 million divine rocks to the Linghu clan? Moreover, he's going to give Ren Jie another 50 million rocks?"

Although Murong Yun Liu knew Duan Ling Tian was capable of refining a huge number of god-grade Limit Divine Pills, he thought Duan Ling Tian was being absurd. After all, it was not easy to earn 100 million divine rocks. Even the Murong clan had only 10 million divine rocks in reserve and another 100 million divine rocks in the divine rock vein. Unless it was absolutely necessary, he would never touch the divine rocks from the divine rock vein. After all, with more divine rocks in the vein, the quicker it would produce divine rocks. It would be unwise to deprive the divine rock vein of divine rocks. With the addition of the Heaven and Spirit Energy, the divine rock veins would produce divine rocks at an even quicker speed.

Apart from Hou Qing Ning, the other members of the Murong clan looked at Duan Ling Tian skeptically after hearing Linghu Zheng Xing's explanation. Similarly, they thought it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to fulfill his promise.

"He's the Linghu clan's Revered Elder Duan? The person who can refine as many god-grade Limit Divine Pills as he pleases?"

"Even an ordinary emperor-rank divine alchemist won't dare to say he'd be able to gather 100 million divine rocks in 100 years."

"I heard that he's younger than us. He's not even 3,000 years old. It's only natural that he's so naive and arrogant."

“Well, it’s natural for the young to be arrogant. After 100 years, he’ll realize how ridiculous his promise is.”

At this moment, a beautiful woman standing next to Hou Qing Ning shifted her skeptical gaze away from Duan Ling Tian to Hou Qing Ning before she asked, “Hou Qing Ning, I heard my father say that Duan Ling Tian is a friend of yours?”

“That’s right, Third Young Miss,” Hou Qing Ning replied with a nod.

The beautiful woman was none other than Murong Yin Yue, Murong Yun Liu’s youngest and only daughter.

Hou Qing Ning had been the subject of the deadly stares from the male disciples of the Murong clan during their journey here since Murong Yin Yue kept following him. However, after being in the Murong clan for so many years, he had gotten used to it and was no longer bothered.

Murong Yin Yue said with a frown, “Your friend dares to make such a ridiculous promise; it seems like he’s rather unreliable. I think he’s a bad influence so you should stay away from him.”

Hou Qing Ning wanted to retort and tell Murong Yin Yue to mind her own business. However, he held back in the end. He only said indifferently, “I believe Duan Ling Tian will fulfill his promise.”

Although Hou Qing Ning thought Duan Ling Tian’s promise sounded absurd as well, he believed Duan Ling Tian would be able to create a miracle. After all, it was not the first time Duan Ling Tian had created miracles. Moreover, after knowing Duan Ling Tian for so long, he knew Duan Ling Tian was not one to renege on his promise.

“You believe him?” Murong Yin Yue’s frown deepened. Then, she placed her hand on Hou Qing Ning’s forehead as she asked, “Hou Qing Ning, do you have a fever?”

“Third Young Miss, please mind your manners. It’s inappropriate for us to have physical contact,” Hou Qing Ning said as he stepped aside to dodge Murong Yin Yue’s hand.

Murong Yin Yue’s face scrunched up in anger immediately.

With this, the male disciples of the Murong clan’s eyes turned even more hostile when they glared at Hou Qing Ning. Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian asked teasingly through Voice Transmission, “Hou Qing Ning, who’s that beside you?”

Since Hou Qing Ning was the only one Duan Ling Tian knew from the Murong clan, he had been looking at Hou Qing Ning. Hence, Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue’s interactions did not escape his notice.

“She’s Murong Yin Yue, the Third Young Miss of the Murong clan. She’s the clan leader’s youngest and only daughter,” Hou Qing Ning replied. “It seems like you’ll become the clan leader’s son-in-law soon,” Duan Ling Tian said with a laugh.

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"I'm not interested in that," Hou Qing Ning said without any hesitation, "My only goal is to break through and become a Lord of Gods as soon as possible so I can lead the Ten Thousand Leaves Sect. I won't consider marriage until I become a Lord of Gods."

Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian noticed that Hou Qing Ning's gaze subconsciously softened when Hou Qing Ning glanced at Murong Yin Yue. It was clear to him that Hou Qing Ning was not unmoved by Murong Yin Yue and was just restraining himself.

On the other hand, the disciples of the Murong clan began to mock Hou Qing Ning when they heard him express his trust in Duan Ling Tian. However, they stopped talking immediately when Murong Yin Yue glared at them.

Duan Ling Tian smiled when he saw Murong Yin Yue defending Hou Qing Ning. Clearly, she was sincere toward Hou Qing Ning.

"Third Young Miss," Duan Ling Tian greeted Murong Yin Yue through Voice Transmission.

Murong Yin Yue was surprised by Duan Ling Tian's Voice Transmission. "What's the matter?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled meaningfully as he said, "If I'm not mistaken, you're fond of my friend, right?"

"Preposterous!" Murong Yue Yin's face flushed red immediately. She replied indignantly, "Duan Ling Tian, not only do you like to boast, but it seems like you like to spout nonsense as well."

"Third Young Miss, I won't help you if you refuse to admit your feelings," Duan Ling Tian said, "My friend is very passive. I'm afraid you'll have to wait a long time if you plan to wait for his confession. You'll likely have to wait for tens of thousands of years. He's determined to become a Lord of Gods to lead the Ten Thousand Leaves Sect. He's told me that before the Ten Thousand Leaves Sect becomes a lord-rank sect, he has no thoughts about getting married."

A hint of unease could be seen in Murong Yin Yue's eyes when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. She asked nervously, "Did, did he really say that?"

Indeed, Murong Yin Yue liked Hou Qing Ning. It was love at first sight. Her feelings only grew each time she saw him. Although she tried to restrain herself, it was useless.

"Why should I lie? Moreover, why do you think he's so cold to you?" Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

Murong Yin Yue sighed in relief inwardly. It seemed like Hou Qing Ning did not dislike her. He only wanted to focus on his ambitions for now.

"Do you want to marry him?"

Duan Ling Tian decided to help Hou Qing Ning when he discovered Hou Qing Ning had feelings for Murong Yin Yue as well. After speaking to Murong Yin Yue through Voice Transmission, he was rather certain he would be able to bring the duo together.

"Do you, do you have a plan?" Murong Yin Yue's eyes lit up. She could barely conceal her excitement.

With this, Duan Ling Tian knew that Murong Yin Yue had taken the bait.