

SOVEREIGN 3791

Chapter 3791 The Fire Dragon Mountain

In the mirror abyss.

Duan Ling Tian looked majestic as he stood on the spatial barrier.

Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue were already outside the abyss, successfully passing the qualifying test. More than half of the participants from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan had also left the abyss safely. It did not take long before all of the participants from the two clans successfully left the mirror abyss.

However, Duan Ling Tian seemed like he had no intention of withdrawing the barrier at all.

“We won’t be able to pass the qualifying test if Duan Ling Tian helps the others from the lord-rank forces as well! I suggest all of us join forces to attack him and the barrier. I don’t believe he’d be a match for our combined strength!”

Someone stepped forward to raise the morale of those who were not from lord-rank forces at this moment, and it worked. After all, there were limited spots left. Now that the participants from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan had claimed almost 40 spots, there were even fewer spots left. If Duan Ling Tian helped the others from lord-rank forces as well, they would have no spots left for themselves at all.

“He’s right! I don’t believe he can block all of our attacks if we attack at the same time!”

“Let’s attack simultaneously!”

“Let’s go!”

Those who were not from lord-rank forces became even more united at this time. All of them mobilized their Divine Energies. They now had the courage to retaliate since they were not united, and they knew Duan Ling Tian could not kill them due to the Flying Dragon Sect’s rules.

At the same time, the members of the lord-rank forces, except for those from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan, exchanged a look, wondering which side they should choose. After all, Duan Ling Tian did agree to help them.

‘I didn’t even say if I’d help or not...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, feeling speechless, as he watched those who were not from lord-rank forces charge at him in unison. When he looked up and saw that the last of the members from the Murong clan had left the mirror abyss, he suddenly teleported away. With his departure, the spatial barrier shattered almost immediately.

“Duan Ling Tian didn’t intend to help them?!”

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With this, a fierce battle broke out between those who remained in the mirror abyss. Those from the other lord-rank forces were under huge pressure as they were attacked by those who were not from the lord-rank forces. Clearly, those who were not from the lord-rank forces were venting their anger at Duan

Ling Tian on them. As a result, it caused the remaining participants from the lord-rank forces to resent Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, after Duan Ling Tian left the mirror abyss, the people from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan, including Murong Yin Yue, thanked Duan Ling Tian profusely.

After that, Hou Qing Ning shook his head as he watched the fierce battle in the abyss and said, "Duan Ling Tian, those participants from the lord-rank forces whom you left behind are definitely going to hold a grudge against you."

As time passed, more and more people left the mirror abyss; this included those from the lord-rank forces as well. Although they were outnumbered, it was not difficult for the strong ones to leave. However, most of the participants who left the mirror abyss successfully were not from the lord-rank forces. After all, with the departure of those from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan, they were even more outnumbered.

Some of the participants from the other lord-rank forces looked at the participants from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan resentfully. One of them said, "Don't celebrate just yet. Although Duan Ling Tian is strong, do you think he'd be able to help you with the upcoming tests as well?"

Since they did not have the courage to confront Duan Ling Tian, they could only direct their anger and frustrations at those from the Linghu clan and the Murong clan. Even those who managed to leave the abyss were filled with anger and resentment. Despite that, none of them dared to say anything to Duan Ling Tian and could only insult the others.

"Why don't you spend your time healing your injuries instead of bickering?" Duan Ling Tian asked tonelessly as he looked at the group of participants from the lord-rank forces.

Duan Ling Tian's words brought them to their senses, and they began to consume Divine Pills to heal their injuries.

After a moment, all of the people who passed the qualifying test finally came out of the mirror abyss.
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With this, Duan Ling Tian and the others were led to another place to register their names.

At this time, an inner deacon of the Flying Dragon Sect, who had heard of Duan Ling Tian, gave Duan Ling Tian a thumbs-up as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, you're truly worthy of your reputation. I thought the rumors were exaggerated, but you have proven me wrong today."

"I'm sure many of our Black Dragon Elders will be fighting among themselves to accept you as their disciple after you join the Flying Dragon Sect. Based on your talent and the strength you displayed, you're not far off from our three youngest White Dragon Elders."

After praising Duan Ling Tian, the inner deacon gave his Soul Pearl to Duan Ling Tian and continued to say, "My name is Zhou Hao. I'm an inner deacon of the Flying Dragon Sect. Please don't hesitate to contact me after you join the Flying Dragon Sect. I can answer the questions you have regarding the

sect.” “Thank you, Deacon Zhou,” Duan Ling Tian said after exchanging Soul Pearl with Zhou Hao. Since the other party was rather enthusiastic, he found it difficult to act coldly toward the other party.

At this time, an old man, an inner elder of the Flying Dragon Sect, walked over to Duan Ling Tian and the others and said, “I’ll bring all of you into the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate. The inner disciples’ examination will begin soon.”

As the old man led everyone into the Flying Dragon Sect, he would glance at Duan Ling Tian occasionally with his eyes that shone with admiration. As they headed toward one of the nine mountain ranges, he said, “My name is Xiao Zhen. I’m an inner elder of the sect.”

Xiao Zhen continued to introduce the places in the Flying Dragon’s estate as they moved. “I’ll be bringing you to our sect’s Fire Dragon Mountain. There are many volcanoes there. You can’t really see them now. They’re isolated by a Formation. The Formation will contain the lava when there’s an eruption so the estate won’t be affected.”

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he looked ahead. Indeed, after a moment, he saw a few volcanoes. However, since they were sandwiched by many lush mountains, they were quite inconspicuous. He saw one of the volcanoes was in the midst of spewing lava, and just like Xiao Zhen had said, the lava was contained and neutralized by the Formation.

“Previously, I saw glimpses of bright light; I thought it was the sunlight. As it turns out, it’s from the lava,” Hou Qing Ning, who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, said, “This must be how Fire Dragon Mountain got its name.”

Soon enough, Xiao Zhen and the others arrived at the side of one of the mountains near the Fire Dragon Mountain.

There was a huge stone platform with many people standing on it. After taking a closer look, Duan Ling Tian discovered they were the participants from the two age groups. Du Po Jun, Du Qian Jun, and Hu Tian Du were naturally among these people. The two age groups stood apart from each other. With this, Duan Ling Tian and the others stood together as well.

Duan Ling Tian knew they were still separated into different age groups because the Flying Dragon Sect’s examinations had different levels of difficulty for the different age groups. Unlike the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, it was so that those who were older would not have an advantage over the young.

After they arrived, Duan Ling Tian was once again bombarded with messages of gratitude from the members of the Linghu clan and the Murong clan.

Soon enough, Xiao Zhen said, “The inner disciples’ entrance examinations will commence once the other elders arrive.”

Chapter 3793 Xue Hai Chuan’s Warning

“Brother Duan,” Xue Hai Chuan called out. He was brimming with smiles now that he met Duan Ling Tian again after 10 years. “We’ve not met in over 10 years, but you seem to be in a better condition now!”

When Xue Hai Chuan met Duan Ling Tian previously, Duan Ling Tian was just a rudimentary King of Gods. Now that Duan Ling Tian had become an intermediate King of Gods, Duan Ling Tian's aura had naturally changed as well. Although the change was slight, he had a keen perception so it was not difficult for him to notice the difference.

"Junior Brother Hai Chuan, I'll take my leave first. I need to supervise the inner disciples' entrance examinations," Dongfang Yan Nian said to Xue Hai Chuan with a smile.

Since Dongfang Yan Nian had sent a message to Xue Hai Chuan before they arrived, Xue Hai Chuan was already standing outside to receive them.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Dongfang," Xue Hai Chuan said.

"Thank you, Elder Dongfang," Duan Ling Tian echoed.

"I'll join the both of you later," Dongfang Yan Nian said with a nod before he left.

Following that, Xue Hai Chuan led Duan Ling Tian to a pavilion in his courtyard and gestured for Duan Ling Tian to take a seat in front of a wooden table.

After Xue Hai Chuan was seated, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Brother Hai Chuan, where's Brother Hai Shan?"

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had met Xue Hai Chuan and Xue Hai Shan in Linghu City. The trio had drinks in a restaurant, and Xue Hai Shan even got drunk.

"My brother has been in closed-cultivation for more than 10 years now," Xue Hai Chuan said as he shook his head.

"It seems like Brother Hai Shan is highly motivated to improve his strength after seeing how much you've improved," Duan Ling Tian said. He could understand Xue Hai Shan's thoughts. If he were in Xue Hai Shan's shoes, he would also be motivated to work harder if his younger brother, who used to be on par with him, had now surpassed him and became an intermediate Lord of Gods and a White Dragon Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect.

Xue Hai Chuan sighed. "My brother wasted 10,000 years in the Heavenly Stairs. Now that he's out, he'll definitely catch up to me in 10,000 years. If I had joined the Flying Dragon Sect earlier, my brother might not have to suffer in the Heavenly Stairs."

Xue Hai Chuan shook his head after he finished speaking. Clearly, the past still greatly affected him.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian asked, "I heard that Brother Hai Shan was imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs for killing the former Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect's only son to avenge you?"

"Yes." Xue Hai Chuan nodded. His expression turned solemn as he said, "The former sect leader wanted to kill my brother. My brother's killing was justified since the former leader's son was at fault. Moreover, our masters had a good relationship with our senior uncles and junior uncles so most of them voted for my brother to be imprisoned in the Heavenly Stairs for 10,000 years instead."

"I heard that the former sect leader joined the 10,000 Devils Sect for that reason, and he's now in the Flying Dragon Sect?" Duan Ling Tian asked as his eyes flashed.

“That’s right.” Xue Hai Chuan nodded. He said confidently as he narrowed his eyes, “He’s also a White Dragon Elder in the Flying Dragon Sect. However, there’s nothing he can do to me now.”

“The former sect leader must have tried to avenge his son’s death after Brother Hai Shan came to the Flying Dragon Sect, right?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Xue Hai Chuan nodded. “Of course. Since I brought my brother here, he has been waiting for a chance to exact his revenge. However, as long as my brother doesn’t leave my cultivation ground, he’ll be safe.”

“However, it’s better to be more cautious,” Duan Ling Tian said solemnly, “People will resort to drastic measures when they’re desperate. Since he’s so obsessed about his son’s death, he’ll likely look for a way around the Flying Dragon Sect’s rules.”

Regardless of the reason, Xue Hai Shan had killed the son of the former Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect, after all. A father could do anything to avenge the death of his son.

“I know.” Xue Hai Chuan nodded. His eyes glinted coldly as he said, “I won’t let my brother leave my sight. As long as I keep an eye on my brother, that person won’t be able to do anything to my brother!”

In the past, it had not been easy for Xue Hai Chuan in the Flying Dragon Sect since the former Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect kept targeting him. Perhaps, if he was the one who killed the former sect leader’s son, he would not have survived. After a moment, Xue Hai Chuan inhaled deeply before he said with a smile, “Alright, let’s not talk about this anymore. Let’s see which participants are strong. They’ll be your opponents during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, after all.”

With that, a mirror image was projected in the air with just a wave of Xue Hai Chuan’s hand.

Soon, Duan Ling Tian saw Hou Qing Ning and the others facing three tests respectively according to their age groups in different independent realms. The tests for the age groups were the same; only the level of difficulty was different.

For example, the test for the 10,000 Devil Sect’s Du Po Jun, who was in the 8,000-10,000-year-old age group, was the most difficult.

As for Du Qian Jun and the Eastern Oriental Sect’s Hu Tian Du, who were in the 5,000-8,000-year-old age group, their level of difficulty was intermediate.

Meanwhile, the test for Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue, who was in the youngest age group, had the lowest level of difficulty. However, based on the duo’s strength, it would be challenging for them to survive until the end.

When Xue Hai Chuan saw Duan Ling Tian was mostly staring at Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yi Yue, he could not help but ask, “Brother Duan, are that young man and young woman your friends?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “Yes. His name is Hou Qing Ning. That young woman is Murong Yin Yue, the daughter of the Clan Leader of the Murong clan.”

Upon hearing these words, Xue Hai Chuan smiled and said, "If that's the case, I'll tell Senior Brother Dongfang to pay attention to them. As long as they're not too weak, they should be able to pass the entrance examination."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened upon hearing Xue Hai Chuan's words. After all, since Dongfang Yan Nian and Xue Hai Chuan were good friends, if Xue Hai Chuan put in a word for Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue, perhaps, Dongfang Yan Nian would be more lenient toward the duo.

In just a moment, Duan Ling Tian noticed that the challenges Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue faced had changed slightly; it was now slightly easier. One would not have noticed if one did not pay attention.

"Senior Brother Dongfang oversees the entrance examinations for the inner disciples, and there's another person who oversees the entrance examinations for the outer disciples. Above them is a Black Dragon Elder who oversees everything," Xue Hai Chuan explained.

Although Dongfang Yan Nian was in charge of overseeing the inner disciples' entrance examination, he still had to report to the Black Dragon Elder. As long as the Black Dragon Elder did not raise a question, there would be no problem with Dongfang Yan Nian giving Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue a little help.

As for Duan Ling Tian completely bypassing the entrance examinations to become an inner disciple, no one would question this decision. After all, his strength was clear. In fact, the Black Dragon Elder might even praise Dongfang Yan Nian for being flexible.

"Thank you, Brother Hai Chuan." Duan Ling Tian hurriedly expressed his gratitude.

Xue Hai Chuan waved his hand and said, "After what you've done for my brother, this is just a relatively small matter." Then, as though he recalled something, his expression turned slightly grim as he said, "Brother Duan, you have to be wary of the inner elder, Kuang Tian Zheng, and the 10,000 Devils faction. His status now is different from the time he went to look for you at the Linghu clan. After all, his second disciple is now married to the daughter of Vice Sect Leader Xue. Over the past 20 years, the 10,000 Devils faction has grown stronger than the Hidden Fog faction in the Flying Dragon Sect. Nonetheless, despite his good relationship with Sect Leader Xue, he won't be able to do anything to you in the sect. At most, he can only make your life difficult. If he wants to openly kill you, he'll have to challenge you to a life-or-death duel. Naturally, you can choose to accept or refuse the challenge. As long as you don't leave the sect, you should be relatively safe. If you really need to leave the sect, let me know. I'll have someone accompany you. I'd accompany you, but I can leave this place since I need to look after my brother."

"Brother Hai Chuan, thank you for the reminder. I'll remember your words," Duan Ling Tian said with a nod.

Xue Hai Chuan smiled and said, "I forgot that you're not a member of the Hidden Fog Sect anymore. Based on your status in the Linghu clan, the Linghu faction will definitely protect you since they look upon you so highly. I'm sure they're more than willing to protect you." Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly upon hearing Xue Hai Chuan's words. He was reminded of Linghu Ren Jie, who had lost his position as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan because of him. If possible, he did not want to owe the Linghu clan

anymore. He was indebted to them as it was. To redeem Linghu Ren Jie, he had to fulfill his promise to the Linghu clan so that Linghu Ren Jie would be reinstated as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan.

Chapter 3794: Kuang Tian Zheng's Second Disciple, Zhong Can

Duan Ling Tian was not omniscient, after all. He had no idea that staying in the Linghu clan's chamber of laws for three months would cost the Linghu clan so much. It even cost Linghu Ren Jie his position as the Clan Leader of the Linghu clan. If he had been aware of that, he would not have stayed in the chamber of law for so long.

If Linghu Ren Jie had mentioned it to him, he would have understood. He would not have thought badly of Linghu Ren Jie at all. Alas, Linghu Ren Jie did not say anything to him.

Perhaps, most people would not care about such things. However, Duan Ling Tian was determined to repay the favor. This was the reason he had made a 100-year promise with the Linghu clan.

'I'll make sure to do everything I can within these 100 years to reinstate Clan Leader Linghu back to his position!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself determinedly.

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he discovered Xue Hai Chuan was looking at him contemplatively.

Clearly, Xue Hai Chuan knew that Duan Ling Tian was thinking about something important, but he did not pry into Duan Ling Tian's affairs. He simply spoke about the participants of the entrance examinations. Since he felt much closer to Duan Ling Tian now, the way he addressed Duan Ling Tian had also changed as he said, "Little Tian, those people should be your opponents."

Xue Hai Chuan pointed at the 10,000 Devils Sect's Du Po Jun, the Eastern Oriental Sect's Hua Tian Du, and the Ouyang clan's Ouyang Jian Chen. After looking at Duan Ling Tian's potential opponents, his gaze finally stopped on a woman before he said, "That woman is quite amazing."

Duan Ling Tian turned to look. Then, he said, "She's known as Lady Seventh. She's the seventh disciple of the Valley Master of 10,000 Flowers Valley."

"10,000 Flowers Valley?"

Xue Hai Chuan seemed shocked by these words.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, "What's wrong, Brother Hai Chuan? Do you have connections with the 10,000 Flowers Valley?"

When Xue Hai Chuan regained his senses, he shook his head and said, "I had a friend in the 10,000 Flowers Valley, but I've not seen her in a long time now." Then, when he turned back to look at Lady Seventh, his gaze seemed to soften as he murmured, "They're too similar..."

Although Xue Hai Chuan's voice was not loud, Duan Ling Tian heard them clearly. It seemed like Xue Hai Chuan's connection to the 10,000 Flowers Valley was not a shallow one.

Xue Hai Chun's mood seemed to have turned somewhat gloomy at this moment.

Hence, Duan Ling Tian did not ask any more questions and silently watched the inner disciples' entrance examinations.

As time passed, many participants were eliminated.

However, Xue Hai Chuan's attention was completely focused on the 10,000 Flowers Valley's Lady Seven. His eyes carried a hint of nostalgia, making Duan Ling Tian wonder if he had an affair with someone related to Lady Seven. After all, Xue Hai Chuan had said something about how Lady Seven looked similar to someone.

After some time, the inner disciples' entrance examinations finally came to an end.

Whether it was due to Dongfang Yan Nian's deliberate care or not, both Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue successfully passed the examination and became inner disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect.

"It's over."

When the mirror image finally disappeared, Xue Hai Chuan finally regained his senses.

Duan Ling Tian glanced over and saw that Xue Hai Chuan's eyelashes were wet with tears. However, they quickly evaporated due to Xue Hai Chuan's Divine Energy. If it were not for his keen perception, he would not have noticed it at all.

With this, Duan Ling Tian was even more certain that Xue Hai Chuan had something to do with Lady Seven's relative. That person was likely a female since Xue Hai Chuan had said Lady Seven resembled that person.

'However, Lady Seven is wearing a veil. He must have meant that her eyes, forehead, and figure are similar to the person in his mind...'

"Little Tian," Xue Hai Chuan, who was unaware of Duan Ling Tian's thoughts, called out. He said with a faint smile, "I have to watch over my older brother so I won't be able to accompany you during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Don't worry. I'll be watching it through a mirror image. Remember to rank first! The rewards for the first place are things that even make my heart move!"

Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened when he heard Xue Hai Chuan's words. He knew Xue Hai Chuan was not one to exaggerate. This meant that the rewards must be truly precious; even more so than the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill.

"I'll try my best," Duan Ling Tian replied modestly with a smile.

At this time, Xue Hai Chuan's expression suddenly turned solemn before he said, "There's one more thing. If you encounter Lady Seven from the 10,000 Flowers Valley, please try to go easy on her if she refuses to admit defeat." Then, he explained, "If I'm not mistaken, she's the descendant... of an old friend of mine."

'An old friend...'

Duan Ling Tian was certain of his speculation now. He naturally agreed to help Xue Hai Chuan. After all, this was not a difficult task.

“Please wait here for a moment. Senior Brother Dongfang should be here soon. He’ll bring you to the Fire Dragon Mountain again. That’s where all the new inner disciples will be staying.”

Xue Hai Chuan’s cultivation ground was located on another mountain range adjacent to the Fire Dragon Mountain. The two places were rather close. In fact, the intersection between the two mountain ranges was not far from his cultivation ground.

About an hour later, Dongfang Yan Nian finally arrived. He did not leave immediately and sat down to chat. As time passed, he grew closer to Duan Ling Tian as well and began to address Duan Ling Tian as Little Tian, and Duan Ling Tian also addressed him as Brother Yan Nian.

Initially, Duan Ling Tian had addressed Dongfang Yan Nian as Brother Dongfang, but Dongfang Yan Nian refused, saying it sounded too formal.

Duan Ling Tian was inwardly surprised that a White Dragon Elder was so easygoing.

As they continued to chat, Duan Ling Tian could see that Dongfang Yan Nian was a straightforward person. With this, his impression of Dongfang Yan Nian grew better.

When night finally fell, Dongfang Nian finally led Duan Ling Tian away from Xue Hai Chuan’s cultivation ground to the temporary residence for new inner disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect.

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The temporary residence for the new inner disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect was in the valley of the Fire Dragon Mountain. Buildings were scattered around the valley. There were also buildings that were built higher above the rest on the slopes of the valley that belonged to some elders.

Duan Ling Tian would be staying here while he waited for the Latent Grand Contest to start after three days.

The duo hovered in the air for a moment before Dongfang Yan Nian said with a smile before leaving, “Little Tian, I’ll see you in three days.”

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

After Dongfang Yan Nian left, Duan Ling Tian could sense many pairs of eyes looking at him from below. Most of them were disciples and a few elders.

“Duan Ling Tian!”

Duan Ling Tian looked down and saw Hou Qing Ning flying toward him. When he arrived next to Duan Ling Tian, he asked curiously, “Duan Ling Tian, you’re acquainted with Elder Dongfang? Moreover, both of you seemed very familiar with each other.”

“Brother Yan Nian is good friends with Brother Hai Chuan. I was with Brother Hai Chuan earlier when you were taking the examinations.”

“I see.” Hou Qing Ning nodded. Through their previous exchanges, he knew that Duan Ling Tian had a good relationship with Xue Hai Chuan. After a moment, he sighed and said, “Today’s examination was a

little too hard. I almost couldn't pass it. Fortunately, my luck was pretty good and somehow managed to pass."

Hou Qing Ning's tone was slightly grave, but it held a hint of happiness.

Duan Ling Tian merely smiled and did not say anything about Xue Hai Chuan asking for Dongfang Yan Nian to go easy on Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue. To him, this trivial matter was not worth mentioning between friends.

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At the same time.

In another part of the Flying Dragon Sect's estate.

Kuang Tian Zheng, an inner elder of the Flying Dragon Sect, finally heard about what had happened today.

"That little bast*rd actually broke through and became an intermediate King of Gods?"

Kuang Tian Zheng's expression was very unsightly at this moment. If it were not for his second disciple being in the same room as him, he would not have been able to resist smashing the table in front of him into pieces.

A young man dressed in a cyan long robe sat across from Kuang Tian Zheng at this moment. He was tall and had a sturdy figure. He had a stern countenance, and his dark eyebrows made him look even more stern. He was none other than Zhong Can, Kuang Tian Zheng's second disciple and the son-in-law of Vice Sect Leader Xue of the Flying Dragon Sect.

"At that time, if he had died instead of Han'er, the one in the spotlight now would've been Han'er, not him!" Kuang Tian Zheng's eyes were brimming with fury and hatred as he spoke.

"Can'er, you've not forgotten how Han'er treated you like a brother back then, right?" Kuang Tian Zheng asked in a low voice. His gaze softened as he looked at his second disciple.

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"Master, rest assured. I won't let junior brother die in vain," Zhong Chan said in a lowered voice, "If there's anything I can do to avenge his death, please instruct me. I'll do anything as long as it's within my capabilities."

A smile bloomed on Kuang Tian Zheng's face as soon as he heard these words. These were the words he had been waiting for.

"Master, do you have a plan in mind?" Zhong Can asked.

"I don't have a plan yet," Kuang Tian Zheng said as he shook his head, "However, I won't let that brat have an easy time after he joins the sect. It's best if we can disturb his cultivation. After all, he's not even 3,000 years old, but he has already achieved so much. I'm afraid we'd be at a disadvantage if he continues to grow. At that time, the tables might turn, and we might be in trouble."

A hint of fear could be heard in Kuang Tian Zheng's voice nearing the end of his words. "It's true that we can't allow him to grow to his full potential," Zhong Can said with a nod, "We should try to lure him out of the sect and hire an assassin to kill him. If he refuses to leave the sect, we can try provoking him until he accepts a life-or-death challenge out of anger." "It's still better to lure him out of the sect," Kuang Tian Zheng said, "It's unlikely he'll be provoked into accepting a life-or-death duel, especially if the opponent is much stronger than him. I believe he's not an impulsive person since he's able to come this far. In fact, he's rather meticulous and cunning. You can see this based on how he bide his time and only return to the Hidden Fog Sect when he was strong enough to kill Supreme Elder Feng and Supreme Elder Lei's disciples."

"Lure him out of the sect..." Zhong Can frowned slightly. "How can we lure him out of the sect? After all, he's aware that we're waiting for a chance to kill him."

"It's difficult, but it's not impossible to lure him out of the sect," Kuang Tian Zheng said nonchalantly, "If he hears about a Divine Sanctuary left behind by a Supreme God, do you think he'd be able to resist the temptation to leave the sect's estate?"

Zhong Can's eyes lit up immediately upon hearing these words. "Master, you're brilliant!"

Three days passed in just a blink of an eye.

The Flying Dragon Sect's Latent Dragon Grand Contest that was held once every 100 years was finally about to begin.

Since the entrance examinations for inner disciples and outer disciples had ended, those who passed the entrance examinations were qualified to join the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

Duan Ling Tian met Hou Qing Ning as soon as they left.

As Hou Qing Ning looked at the throng of people around them, he said, "Only 268 people passed the inner disciples' entrance examination and joined the Flying Dragon Sect. On the other hand, I heard the sect managed to recruit more than 500 outer disciples this time."

Duan Ling Tian nodded. At this time, his eyes lit up when he saw a beautiful woman whose face was hidden by a veil. She had changed into a different outfit and was dressed in a long blue robe now.

In addition to her beauty, her ethereal aura made it hard not to turn heads.

Duan Ling Tian saw a few young men trying to strike up a conversation with her but was given the cold shoulder instead.

The woman seemed indifferent to everything and everyone around her. However, she did not seem out of place; instead, she blended rather harmoniously with her surroundings.

Hou Qing Ning followed Duan Ling Tian's gaze, and when he saw the woman, he said with a smile, "After the inner disciples' entrance examination ended, many men tried to approach her. However, all of them were ruthlessly rejected. No matter what they did, she was completely unmoved. There were even two men who attacked her out of anger and humiliation, but they were defeated by her instead. I don't think those two would be able to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest."

Duan Ling Tian smiled upon hearing Hou Qing Ning's words. It seemed like the prodigy from the 10,000 Flowers Valley who was known as Lady Seven was not a simple person. He could not help but be reminded of Huan'er's aloofness when he looked at Lady Seven. Huan'er was cold and unapproachable to most people, and she would only warm up to Duan Ling Tian and his family and friends.

'Huan'er...' Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly when he thought about Huan'er. In just a blink of an eye, he had been separated from his wife and Huan'er for almost 30 years. Then, this thought led to his other wife, Keler. 'In another 300 years, the spatial passages between the Realms of Gods and Devata Realms will open...'

Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts at this moment. It was as though his soul had left the Realm of Gods and returned to the time he was with his wives and Huan'er. He only regained his senses when he heard Hou Qing Ning's voice.

"Duan Ling Tian, she's coming over," Hou Qing Ning said. Before Duan Ling Tian could respond, the woman was already standing in front of Duan Ling Tian. Her crystal clear eyes were calm as she looked at him.

The crowd watched enviously as the duo stood together.

Hou Qing Ning took a few steps back and said tactfully, "I'll leave you both to talk."

After stepping to the side, Hou Qing Ning asked through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, do you know her?"

Hou Qing Ning was naturally curious. After all, the woman had refused everyone who approached her, but she was now taking the initiative to approach Duan Ling Tian. He heard that during the qualifying test, she had gone with the flow and quietly joined those who were not from lord-rank forces. From the beginning until the end, she did not say a word at all. Some people even suspected she was mute even if that was impossible once one became an advanced god.

"I don't know her," Duan Ling Tian replied to Hou Qing Ning through Voice Transmission as he looked at the woman in confusion. Finally, he asked, "How may I help you?"

"I heard people say that you're acquainted with Xue Hai Chuan?" the woman asked. Her voice was melodious.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised by her question. He asked in return, "Who told you about that?"

To his knowledge, apart from those from the Linghu clan, no one knew he was acquainted with Xue Hai Chuan. After listening to the woman's reply, he found that when he, Xue Hai Chuan, and Xue Hai Shan went for drinks at a restaurant in Linghu City, the manager had recognized Xue Hai Chuan. With that, news began to spread among the staff members. It did not take long before word began to spread about Duan Ling Tian's relationship with Xue Hai Chuan.

The woman asked bluntly, "Can you contact him?"

“Yes,” Duan Ling Tian said with a nod after a brief moment of hesitation. After all, he recalled Xue Hai Chuan had told him to go easy on the woman during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. With this, he deduced Xue Hai Chuan would not mind this.

“Please tell me that I want to meet him after the end of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Tell him that I’m Fu Qing Liu’s daughter,” she said.

Duan Ling Tian did not waste time and quickly convey her message to Xue Hai Chuan.

Xue Hai Chuan’s reply came swiftly. “Little Tian, tell her that you’ll lead her to me once the Latent Dragon Grand Contest ends. Please show her the way.”

Duan Ling Tian could sense Xue Hai Chuan’s surging emotions despite Xue Hai Chuan’s effort to remain calm. Then, he said, “I’ve already spoken to him. He has asked me to lead you to him after the end of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.”

“Thank you,” she said before she flew off to the venue of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

The venue was held at the peak of Fire Dragon Mountain. The peak had been flattened. Half of the area at the peak was occupied by a stone platform that was called the Flaming Dragon Arena. It was where the fights would take place.

During ordinary days, disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect would also come to spar at this place. At this moment, the stone platform was empty. However, countless people had gathered around at this moment to watch the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re here!”

Duan Ling Tian looked in the direction of the voice and saw a finely-dressed young man walking toward him with a smile on his face.

A black-clad young man and a blue-clad middle-aged man followed closely behind the finely dressed young man.

Before Duan Ling Tian had a chance to speak, the finely-dressed young man had already arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian. He was none other than Hua Tian Du, the Young Master of the Eastern Oriental Sect.

Chapter 3796: A Surprising Message

“Young Master Hua, you’re here early.” Duan Ling Tian smiled and nodded at Hua Tian Du.

Hua Tian Du chuckled as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Duan Ling Tian, if we meet during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, please have mercy on me.”

“Young Master Hua, you’re too humble,” Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head, “I might need you to have mercy on me instead.”

Hua Tian Du laughed. “In that case, let’s just do this. Whoever falls into a disadvantage first should surrender.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “Alright.”

Hua Tian Du looked to the side from the corners of his eyes at this moment before he said, “Duan Ling Tian, please excuse me. I just saw a friend of mine.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He instinctively turned to look in the direction Hua Tian Du was looking and saw a finely dressed young man. Compared to Hua Tian Du, the young man looked quite reserved. Upon sensing his gaze, the young man nodded with a faint smile at him by way of greeting. After he nodded in response, he received a Voice Transmission from Hou Qing Ning.

“That’s Ji Wu Chang. It’s said that his strength is on par with Hua Tian Du. However, during the qualifying test, he did not show his strength so he did not really stand out among the 5,000-to-8,000-years-old age group. He was clearly holding back his strength.”

Duan Ling Tian smiled. “Isn’t that normal? Although there are many who displayed their strength unreservedly, there are also many who kept their strength hidden during the qualifying test. If they were able to pass it, there’s no need for them to use their full strength, after all.”

Duan Ling Tian knew his opponents were not just famous prodigies like Du Po Jun and Hua Tian Du who openly displayed their strength as advanced Kings of Gods. There were many who had yet to reveal their strength. Moreover, it was highly likely that Du Po Jun and Hua Tian Du still did not reveal their full strength. Apart from that, one had to consider external means such as divine artifacts and other methods as well.

“Revered Elder Duan.”

A woman’s voice rang out as a faint fragrance lingered in the air. Soon enough, a beautiful woman appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning. It was none other than Murong Yin Yue.

Murong Yin Yue was thrilled that she had passed the inner disciples’ entrance examinations, but she was even more thrilled that Hou Qing Ning had passed the examination as well. After all, she had been worried he would fail. If that happened, it would be difficult for them to meet in the future even if he became an outer disciple. Previously, she had also been worried that if both of them failed the test, he would join the Flying Dragon Sect as an outer disciple. After all, if she failed to become an inner disciple, it was not an option for her to become an outer disciple; she would have to return to the sect. It might not be easy for him to become an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect, but it would definitely be easy for him to become an outer disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect.

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“Third Miss Murong.” Duan Ling Tian smiled at Murong Yin Yue. Then, he said to Hou Qing Ning meaningfully, “Since Third Miss Murong is here, I’ll excuse myself.”

With that, Duan Ling Tian teleported and appeared next to Linghu Heng and Linghu Huan.

As soon as Linghu Huan saw Duan Ling Tian, he said in a slightly grave tone, “Ling Tian, Initially, I thought that even if you fail to rank first, you’ll still be able to rank in the top three. However, now, I’m not sure you’ll even be able to rank in the top three.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Linghu Huan in confusion upon hearing these words.

Linghu Huan explained with a solemn expression, "I spoke to a friend of mine yesterday. He told me that he suspected Hua Tian Du and Ji Wu Chang had discovered a Divine Sanctuary left behind by a Supreme God. After that, Hua Tian Du's strength had increased greatly. It's said that no one below Lords of Gods was a match for him in the Eastern Oriental Sect."

Linghu Huan continued to say, "The Eastern Oriental Sect prevented news of that from spreading. However, my friend found out about it because his good friend is a core elder in the Eastern Oriental Sect. He accidentally came across Hua Tian Du when Hua Tian Du was displaying his strength. From what he saw, he said Hua Tian Du was definitely among the top advanced Kings of Gods in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. He's not inferior to the advanced Kings of Gods in the top emperor-rank forces."

"As for Ji Wu Chang, he's from the First Winter Sect. His strength was on par with Hua Tian Du's previously. However, since they both entered the Divine Sanctuary left behind by a Supreme God, it goes without saying that his strength has also risen tremendously," Linghu Huan said as his tone grew heavier and heavier.

Duan Ling Tian was rather surprised by Linghu Huan's words. He instinctively turned to look at Hua Tian Du and Ji Wu Chang who were chatting happily. When the duo sensed his gaze, they smiled and nodded at him.

Duan Ling Tian smiled. 'Both of them are really lucky.'

Duan Ling Tian had entered a Divine Sanctuary left behind by an Emperor of Gods. Although he obtained many things, most of them could only be used once he became a Lord of Gods. Due to his experience, he knew that Divine Sanctuary left behind by a Lord of Gods would be more useful to Kings of Gods.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian received a Voice Transmission.

"Duan Ling Tian, are you at the Flaming Dragon Arena?"

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard the Voice Transmission.

"Ding Yan?"

Ding Yan was one of his friends in the Hidden Fog Academy. Ding Yan had left the academy without saying anything, and he had only found out about it from Hou Qing Ning. Moreover, he and Hou Qing Ning had tried to contact Ding Yan multiple times, but they did not receive any reply. They would have thought Ding Yan had died if it was not for his intact Soul Pearl.

Duan Ling Tian asked in confusion, "How do you know I'm at the Flaming Dragon Arena? Are you in the Flying Dragon Sect?"

Ding Yan did not reply to Duan Ling Tian's question. Instead, he said, "I'll come and meet you."

At this time...

"Ling Tian, are you listening to what I said?" Linghu Hun asked with a hint of impatience, frowning, when he saw Duan Ling Tian was distracted.

Duan Ling Tian said sheepishly, "Supreme Elder Huan, something urgent came up. I need to leave for a moment. I'll speak to you when I return."

Without waiting for Linghu Huan's response, Duan Ling Tian flashed away and reappeared behind Hou Qing Ning who was chatting with Murong Yin Yue.

Hou Qing Ning and Murong Yin Yue were both startled by Duan Ling Tian's sudden appearance. Murong Yin Yue instinctively grabbed Hou Qing Ning's arm, and when she regained her senses, she hurriedly withdrew her hands, feeling embarrassed.

"Duan Ling Tian, you nearly scared me to death!" Hou Qing Ning said before he asked, "What's the matter? Why did you teleport when we're so close to each other? You could've just flown over."

Despite his words, Hou Qing Ning rather enjoyed it when Murong Yin Yue grabbed his arm earlier. In fact, he had wished Duan Ling Tian would scare them a few more times.

Duan Ling Tian said without beating around the bush, "I just received a message from Ding Yan."

"What?!" Hou Qing Ning was shocked. "He sent you a message? What did he say? That brat reached out to you first instead of me? He's going to get an earful from me!"

After saying that, Hou Qing Ning sent a message to Ding Yan as well, complaining that Ding Yan did not send him a message.

"I sent Duan Ling Tian a message because he's in the Flying Dragon Sect. I'm on my way to meet him now," Ding Yan replied.

"Are you in the Flying Dragon Sect now? Did you participate in the Flying Dragon Sect's entrance examinations? How come I didn't see you? Even then, you should've seen us during the qualifying test, right?" Hou Qing Ning unleashed a barrage of questions at Ding Yan.

A few moments later, Ding Yan replied, sounding surprised, "Hou Qing Ning, you participated in the Flying Dragon Sect's entrance examination as well? So you're an outer disciple now?"

"Hey, I'll have you know that I'm now an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect!" Hou Qing Ning said with a hint of pride.

Chapter 3797: A Reunion After 30 Years

"What?! You managed to become an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect?!" Ding Yan was so shocked that he stopped moving immediately. Hints of disbelief could be seen in his eyes.

Over the past 30 years, Ding Yan had been in closed-door cultivation and comprehending the law of fire in a chamber of laws. He had only emerged from his closed-door cultivation yesterday to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. When he was registering as an inner disciple, he had heard about Duan Ling Tian's amazing display of strength during the qualifying test three days ago. Initially, he thought it was just someone with the same name. After all, although the Duan Ling Tian he knew was outstanding, he did not think it was possible for Duan Ling Tian to improve so much in just 30 years. However, as he continued to listen to the discussion about Duan Ling Tian, he was convinced that the Duan Ling Tian those people discussed was indeed his friend.

Ding Yan heard about how Duan Ling Tian had left the Hidden Fog Sect and joined the Linghu clan as a Revered Elder. Most shockingly, not only did Duan Ling Tian become an intermediate King of Gods, but since 20 years ago, Duan Ling Tian was already capable of refining god-grade Limit Divine Pills and was comparable to a lord-rank divine alchemist. He was understandably shocked.

After Ding Yan left Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy, his spatial ring had been given to another person for safekeeping before he entered closed-door cultivation to prepare for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. As soon as he emerged from his closed-door cultivation, he had planned to reach out to Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning after the Latent Dragon Grand Contest ended. Who knew he would find out that Duan Ling Tian was in the Flying Dragon Sect as well. Hence, he quickly sent a message to Duan Ling Tian. However, he really did not expect to receive a message from Hou Qing Ning as well. More shockingly, Hou Qing Ning was now an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect. He could tell Hou Qing Ning was not lying.

Ding Yan was not surprised about Duan Ling Tian due to Duan Ling Tian's innate talent and comprehension skills. However, it was surprising to him that Hou Qing Ning managed to become an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect since Hou Qing Ning's innate talent and comprehension skills were weaker than his in the past.

In the past, Hou Qing Ning was only slightly stronger than Ding Yan due to the resources he received as the Young Master of the king-rank Ten Thousand Leaves Sect. Ding Yan, who was alone, naturally did not have the best resources. Even then, Ding Yan's innate talent and comprehension skills were higher than Ding Yan.

In fact, Ding Yan had been given a chance to enter the Flying Dragon Sect previously, but he had refused to do so. Then, his elder came to look for him in Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy and forcibly took him away. With his return, he enjoyed the cultivation resources that he lacked while he was alone in the Hidden Fog Academy.

At that time, Hou Qing Ning had intended to inform Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning about this, but his spatial ring had been taken away by the elder before he could do so.

Back in the present, Hou Qing Ning said, slightly displeased, "Hey, what do you mean by that? Where are you? Duan Ling Tian said you're in the Flying Dragon Sect. We're at the venue of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, the Flaming Dragon Arena. Hurry up and come over so I can show you my cultivation now. I'm now a King of Gods!"

Upon seeing how arrogant Hou Qing Ning was, Duan Ling Tian was filled with the urge to punch Hou Qing Ning.

Meanwhile, Ding Yan, who was still shocked, said, "Wait for me. I'll be there in fewer than a dozen breaths."

After that, Ding Yan turned into a ball of flames as he streaked across the sky like a meteor toward the Flaming Dragon Arena at the peak of Fire Dragon Mountain.

In fact, the Latent Dragon Grand Contest would not be held in the Flaming Dragon Arena since the bricks used to build it would not withstand the fights. To be precise, the Latent Dragon Grand Contest would be held in the sky above the Flaming Dragon Arena.

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“He said he’ll arrive in fewer than a dozen breaths,” Hou Qing Ning said to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian nodded with a smile. He was really curious about the reason Ding Yan was in the Flying Dragon Sect. If Ding Yan had participated in the qualifying test, he would have definitely seen Ding Yan. Moreover, even if he failed to see Ding Yan, with his eye-catching performance during the qualifying test, Ding Yan should have seen him.

‘Maybe he was nearby and heard I was in the Flying Dragon Sect. That’s also likely why he’s unaware that Hou Qing Ning is also here,’ Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly.

“Revered Elder Duan, what are both of you talking about?” Murong Yin Yue looked at the duo in confusion.

“A friend of ours is coming to see us,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

A dozen breaths later.

“There he is!” Hou Qing Ning cried out.

Duan Ling Tian looked over and saw the tall and burly Ding Yan. Ding Yan was about 2 meters tall so it was easy to find him in a sea of crowds.

Duan Ling Tian could tell Ding Yan had become more reserved now and had matured a lot.

Ding Yan’s eyes lit up as soon as he saw the duo and hurriedly flew toward them. In just a moment, he landed in front of Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning.

Finally, the trio was reunited after 30 years.

“Hou Qing Ning! You’re really an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect!” Ding Yan exclaimed when he saw the inner disciple’s identity token hanging at Hou Qing Ning’s waist. His expression was one of shock and disbelief.

Similarly, Hou Qing Ning’s eyes fell on the similar identity token hanging at Ding Yan’s waist. “Search n3wn0vel.Org on google”. He stammered, “Y-you, you’re also an inner disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect?! This doesn’t make sense. Your identity token seems to be from our batch as well...”

A frown could be seen on Hou Qing Ning’s face at the end of his words.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ding Yan’s identity token as well, and he discovered a special marking on it. The marking by the Flying Dragon Sect would last for a month to indicate their status as new inner disciples and it could not be faked. The markings were on the identity tokens of all participants of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

“Ding Yan, what happened?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

“I’ll explain everything to you later,” Ding Yan smiled. Then, he looked at Murong Yin Yue before he asked, “Who’s this?”

“This is Murong Yin Yue, the Third Young Miss of the Murong clan,” Duan Ling Tian said. Then, he continued saying through Voice Transmission, “They like each other. I’m sure we’ll be drinking at their wedding banquet soon.”

Ding Yan’s eyes brightened upon hearing this. Then, he smiled at Murong Yin Yue and said, “Nice to meet you, Third Miss Murong. I’m Ding Yan, a friend of Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning.”

“Nice to meet you,” Murong Yin Yue responded. She was embarrassed when she saw Ding Yan’s eyes darting back and forth between her and Hou Qing Ning. She knew Duan Ling Tian must have said something to Ding Yan. Otherwise, why would Ding Yan look at them in this manner? It was not like she was holding onto Hou Qing Ning’s arm now.

“Oh? So you still remember that we’re friends?” Hou Qing Ning said with feigned anger, “You left without a word. Not only that, no matter how many times we contacted you, you didn’t respond at all. If it weren’t for your intact Soul Pearl, we would’ve thought that you died. Don’t you think you owe us an explanation?”

Ding Yan smiled sheepishly as he said, “I had no choice. I wanted to bid farewell to both of you, but before I could send either of you a message, my spatial ring was confiscated. I only got it back yesterday.”

It seemed like one of Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning’s speculations was right.

“Who confiscated your spatial ring?” Hou Qing Ning asked.

Before Ding Yan could reply, Hou Qing Ning added, “Moreover, why are you in the Flying Dragon Sect, and why’s your identity token similar to ours?”

Chapter 3798: Ding Yan’s Story

“I’m certain I didn’t see you during the qualifying test. Moreover, you should’ve seen us as well. Even if it was inconvenient for you to greet us, you could’ve sent us a message,” Hou Qing Ning took the lead to say.

“I didn’t participate in the qualifying test,” Ding Yan shook his head and said, “I didn’t even participate in the entrance examinations for the inner disciples.”

Duan Ling Tian, Hou Qing Ning, and Murong Yin Yue were naturally shocked by these words. All of them had the same thoughts in mind. How did Ding Yan obtain the identity token if he did not take the entrance examinations? Did he have a connection to the Flying Dragon Sect?

Upon seeing the trio’s suspicious expressions, Ding Yan shrugged and said, “I received the identity token today so I can participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ding Yan intently and said, “During the Ten Stars students’ trial, you once asked me to follow you because the king-grade forces wouldn’t dare to act against me as long as you were around if they knew your identity. Do you have connections in the Flying Dragon Sect?”

The trio was certain that Ding Yan must have connections in the Flying Dragon Sect since he was able to become an inner disciple of the sect without having to take the qualifying test and the entrance examinations.

“That’s right.” Ding Yan nodded. Then, a complex expression appeared on his face as he let out a long sigh. He remained silent until Hou Qing Ning prompted him to explain himself.

After listening to Ding Yan, Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning finally understood what had happened.

As it turned out, Ding Yan’s father was a sectless cultivator who was a Lord of Gods. His father was also his only relative in this world. Alas, his father died. After his father passed away, a good friend of his father took him under his wings when he was still a child. His father had such a good relationship with that person that they even arranged a marriage for their children. His father’s good friend kept the promise even after his father passed away. As it turned out, his father’s good friend was a Black Dragon Elder in the Flying Dragon Sect.

Initially, Ding Yan had felt it was suffocating to stay with the Black Dragon Elder. This was because his daughter would look down on him and mock him behind his back. If it were not for the fact that the Black Dragon Elder had treated him really kindly, he would have left a long time ago. However, when the Black Dragon Elder entered closed-door cultivation, his daughter did something that crossed the line, which resulted in Ding Yan leaving the Flying Dragon Sect.

After leaving the Flying Dragon Sect, Ding Yan joined the Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Sect and slowly rose in ranks until he became a Ten Stars student. 30 years ago, the Black Dragon Elder emerged from his closed-door cultivation and brought him back to the sect. In order for him to focus on his cultivation, the Black Dragon Elder had confiscated his spatial ring.

Finally, Ding Yan said with a wry smile, “So that’s what happened. Uncle Sikong wants me to join the Flying Dragon Sect officially. Previously, I was just like his nephew with no official identity in the Flying Dragon Sect.”

“No wonder your bloodline power is extraordinary. As it turns out, your father is a Lord of Gods,” Hou Qing Ning said. He was rather envious of Ding Yan’s Berserkification Veins that could boost Ding Yan’s strength tremendously.

“It doesn’t matter since he’s passed,” Ding Yan said with a sigh, “I didn’t know how strong my father was when I was young. I only remember he would carry me everywhere when I was a child in search of Divine Pills that could help me. After he passed away, Uncle Sikong brought me to the Flying Dragon Sect.”

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A hint of nostalgia could be seen in Ding Yan’s eyes when he spoke.

Hou Qing Ning switched the topic and asked, “Ding Yan, what’s your cultivation base now?”

“I’m just a rudimentary King of Gods,” Ding Yan replied.

“Me too!” Hou Qing Ning said with a smile, “Are you ready for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest? If you’re participating, I hope to meet you so I can show you my progress after all these years! You weren’t my opponent in the past.”

Ding Yan looked at Hou Qing Ning in surprise and said, “I’m surprised you’re a rudimentary King of Gods now. I was only able to break through because Uncle Sikong took great care of me. He found me various Divine Pills and Divine Fruits. However, I doubt the Ten Thousands Leaves Sect and the Hidden Fog Academy would be able to provide you with such good cultivation resources.”

“I left the Hidden Fog Academy a long time ago,” Hou Qing Ning shook his head and said, “Before I came to the Flying Dragon Sect, Duan Ling Tian helped me to join the Murong clan. I only managed to become a rudimentary King of Gods in such a short time because of Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Pills.”

Hou Qing Ning was aware of his limit. With his innate talent and comprehension skills, he would not be able to become a rudimentary King of Gods in such a short time without Duan Ling Tian’s help.

Ding Yan’s eyes brightened when he heard Hou Qing Ning’s words. He instinctively looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Duan Ling Tian, I heard you’re able to refine god-grade Limit Divine Pills! I didn’t know you’re skilled in alchemy as well since you didn’t mention anything about it in the past.”

“I dabbled in alchemy when I was in the mundane realm and the Devata Realm. I decided to try my luck and refine pills in the Realm of Gods. As it turns out, it’s quite fruitful,” Duan Ling Tian replied casually.

Ding Yan looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously as he said, “Not all alchemists in the Devata Realms can become outstanding divine alchemists in the Realms of Gods. To be outstanding here, not only do you have to be skilled in refining, but you must also be skilled in detecting and extracting vitality energy from the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy.”

There was no doubt that Duan Ling Tian was highly skilled in alchemy.

At this moment...

“Ding Yan?”

A voice rang out, attracting the attention of Duan Ling Tian and the others.

Duan Ling Tian looked over and saw Murong Sui Feng, the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect and the dean of Skywind City’s Hidden Fog Sect.

Murong Sui Feng was clearly shocked when he saw Ding Yan. After all, Ding Yan had abruptly left the Hidden Fog Academy more than 20 years ago after sending him a hasty message about dropping out. Ever since then, he had been unable to contact Ding Yan. He had been wondering about what happened to Ding Yan since then. Through a few teachers of the academy, all he knew was that Ding Yan was not dead since his Soul Pearl was intact.

Ding Yan’s eyes lit up. “Dean Murong! You’re here as well?!”

On the contrary, Murong Yin Yue looked around vigilantly as she bit her lips before she finally called out softly, “S-sixth Uncle!”

“Sixth Uncle?”

Duan Ling Tian and Hou Qing Ning were slightly taken aback.

Duan Ling Tian had thought about the possibility of Murong Sui Feng being related to the Murong clan since the clan was located quite near to the Hidden Fog Sect. However, during the qualifying test, he noticed that the members of the Murong clan and Murong Sui Feng did not greet each other in any form; it was as though they were strangers. Hence, he dismissed his speculation. Hence, he was caught off guard when Murong Yin Yue addressed Murong Sui Feng as Sixth Uncle.

Murong Sui Feng’s expression changed slightly when Murong Yin Yue greeted him. He looked around vigilantly as well.

Upon seeing this, Murong Yin Yue said, “Don’t worry, Sixth Uncle. There aren’t any members of the clan around us.”

“Little Yue, even if that’s the case, you shouldn’t talk to me so openly. We can speak through Voice Transmission. You know very well that when I was expelled from the clan, the clan leader forbade the clan members from approaching me. Those who even dare to speak a word to me would be expelled as well. You should pretend like you don’t know me,” Murong Sui Feng admonished gently. However, his expression was stern.

“I understand,” Murong Yin Yue said when she saw Murong Sui Feng’s stern expression.

With this, Duan Ling Tian finally understood why the Murong clan and Murong Sui Feng acted as though they were strangers. As it turned out, it was under the order of the Clan Leader of the Murong clan. He could not help but wonder what Murong Sui Feng had done for him to be expelled from the clan.

Although Duan Ling Tian was usually not interested in gossip, he was very curious about this matter. Hence, he said to Hou Qing Ning through Voice Transmission, “Ask the Third Miss what happened between the dean and the Murong clan when you have the time.”

Duan Ling Tian could not imagine what kind of crime Murong Sui Feng committed for him to be treated in such a manner by the Murong clan.

“Why don’t you ask her?” Hou Qing Ning replied. After all, he did not know if it would be inappropriate for him to ask her such a personal question.

“I’m giving you a chance to deepen your relationship with her,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, “You can tell her that I’m the one who asked about it.”

“You...” Hou Qing Ning was rendered speechless by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

While Murong Sui Feng and Ding Yan were talking, the moderator for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest finally appeared at the Flaming Dragon Arena.

Two people followed behind him. One of them was Dongfang Yan Nian, one of the two White Dragon Elders of the Flying Dragon Sect whom Duan Ling Tian was familiar with.

Chapter 3799: Lan Yu Shan, a Black Dragon Elder!

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze to the middle-aged man standing next to Dongfang Yan Nian. With just a glance at the identity token at his waist, he discovered that the middle-aged man was also a White Dragon Elder like Dongfang Yan Nian.

As for the old man who stood in front of the two White Dragon Elder, his identity token was carved with a life-like dragon and was inlaid with something that looked like black jade.

'Black Dragon Elder!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened imperceptibly when he saw the old man's jade token. With this, it was easy to guess that the moderator for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest was the Black Dragon Elder called Lan Yu Shan.

Previously, when Duan Ling Tian chatted with Xue Hai Chuan and Dongfang Yan Nian, he had heard about Lan Yu Shan in passing. At that time, he learned that Dongfang Yan Nian was in charge of the inner disciples' entrance examination while another White Dragon Elder was in charge of the outer disciples' entrance examination. Their superior, the one in charge of everything to do with the qualifying test and entrance examinations, was Lan Yu Shan.

As soon as the trio appeared, they stirred up a commotion and became the focus of everyone's attention. Many of the new inner and outer disciples recognized the trio at once.

"That's Elder Dongfang!"

"That's Elder Hou Ji Fang who was in charge of the outer disciples' entrance examinations."

Hou Ji Fang was the other White Dragon Elder standing next to Dongfang Yan Nian at this moment.

Soon, someone with keen eyesight saw the identity token at Lan Yu Shan's waist. "He's, he's a Black Dragon Elder?!"

The old man standing in the lead had a medium build and an ordinary appearance. His thick long hair was draped across his back. His expression was calm; it was neither happy nor sad.

At this time, an inner disciple who came to watch the show turned around and said to the new inner and outer disciples, "Considering you're new to this place, let me introduce you to that person. He's Elder Lan Yu Shan, one of the Black Dragon Elders of the Flying Dragon Sect. He's an advanced Lord of Gods."

Only new inner and outer disciples could participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, but older inner disciples could come to watch the show at the Flaming Dragon Arena. Unfortunately, older outer disciples were prohibited from coming to the Flaming Dragon Arena.

The Flaming Dragon Arena was in the depths of Fire Dragon Mountain.

Outer disciples were only allowed outside most of these places unless they had just joined the Flying Dragon Sect. If they violated this rule, they would be severely punished.

For this reason, most of the people present were new inner and outer disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect. No outer disciples could watch, and very few inner elders came to watch.

As for the elders, there were even fewer of them present.

All in all, there were only a few hundred people present. Compared to the thousands of hopefuls who came to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, the number of spectators was rather pitiful.

Many people were shocked when they learned that Lan Yu Shan was a Black Dragon Elder. For most of them, it was their first time seeing an advanced Lord of Gods. Hence, it was not surprising that they were all staring at him unblinkingly.

“The Flying Dragon Sect is indeed amazing. I’ve just joined the sect, but I already met an advanced Lord of Gods!”

“So this is what an advanced Lord of Gods is like!”

“This old man is an advanced Lord of Gods? So he’s among the strongest among all Lords of Gods!”

“In the Flying Dragon Sect, the White Dragon Elders have higher status than inner elders. However, the status of Black Dragon Elders is even higher than that of a White Dragon Elder.

“Those who can become advanced Lords of Gods have survived many once-in-1,000-years Heavenly Tribulations. This shows how powerful they are.”

“I wonder if I’d be able to become an advanced Lord of Gods in the future like Elder Lan after joining the Flying Dragon Sect...”

Lan Yu Shan’s arrival brought about a momentary silence before a commotion erupted.

Not only were the disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect in awe, but even the elders from various forces were in awe.

At this moment, a man standing near the trio from the Flying Dragon Sect bowed slightly and said, “Greetings, Elder Lan. I’m Hua Chun Ming, the Sect Leader of the Eastern Oriental Sect.”

Although Hua Chun Ming was the sect leader of a rather powerful lord-rank force, he still showed respect to Lan Yu Shan, who was a Black Dragon Elder. After all, not only did Lan Yu Shan have higher status, but Lan Yu Shan was much stronger than him as well.

With Hua Chun Ming taking the lead, the elders from various forces began to greet Lan Yu Shan one after another.

After a while, Lan Yun Shan raised his hand, gesturing for everyone to keep quiet. Then, he said in a casual tone, “Let’s skip the small talk. I’m sure most of you are already aware of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest’s rules so I won’t repeat them. I’ll activate a Formation and form ten battle rings. Those whose names appear will go into the battle rings. You only have one minute to enter the battle ring. Otherwise, you’d be automatically disqualified.”

When everyone had just joined the Flying Dragon Sect three days ago, they had already been told about the Latent Dragon Grand Contest’s rules.

The first round of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest was to select the 100 strongest outer disciples who would join the inner disciples during the second round. If any of the outer disciples managed to rank in the top 200, they would be promoted to an inner disciple. Conversely, inner disciples who ranked at the

bottom would be demoted to an outer disciple. Naturally, if the inner disciple was unwilling to become an outer disciple, he or she could choose to leave the Flying Dragon Sect.

“Three days ago, more than 300 people passed the inner disciples’ entrance examinations, and more than 800 people passed the outer disciples’ entrance examinations,” Hou Qing Ning, who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, said in a hushed voice, “This means only 100 out of 800 outer disciples will qualify for the next round. It seems like the first round won’t end so soon.”

At the same time, Lan Yu Shan waved his hand, activating the Formation. Subsequently, ten square battle rings appeared in the air above the Flaming Dragon Arena. With that, he said in a clear voice without beating around the bush, “The Latent Dragon Grand Contest begins now!”

To Duan Ling Tian and the others, the Latent Dragon Grand Contest was a serious event. However, to a Black Dragon Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect, it was just child’s play.

The battle rings were located quite far from each other, and each of them was suffused with light of different colors, making it easier to tell them apart.

At this time, two names appeared in each of the ten battle rings.

At the same time, ten figures flew out and moved to stand at each of the battle rings. Based on their identity tokens, they were inner elders of the Flying Dragon Sect.

Kuang Tian Zheng, who had once visited Duan Ling Tian in the Linghu clan to kill him, was among the ten inner elders. Due to his connection with Vice Sect Leader Xue of the Flying Dragon Sect, he was naturally unlike the ordinary inner elders of the Flying Dragon Sect.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, twenty outer disciples flew toward the battle rings that were flashing with their names. The identity token they carried had a special mark as well, indicating their eligibility to participate in the Latent Dragon Grand Contest.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Hou Qing Ning and saw a trace of unease on Hou Qing Ning’s calm face. He asked through Voice Transmission, “What’s wrong? Are you worried you’d rank at the bottom and would be demoted to an outer disciple?”

As stated, inner disciples ranked below the 100th place would be demoted to outer disciples.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Hou Qing Ning smiled awkwardly as he replied, “I’m slightly worried...”

Duan Ling Tian moved to stand closer to Hou Qing Ning before he passed Hou Qing Ning a ring that he held in his left hand. “Take this.”

“What’s this?” Hou Qing Ning was surprised and confused.

“It’s nothing. It’s just a prominent divine artifact,” Duan Ling Tian said in a relaxed manner.

“A prominent divine artifact?” Hou Qing Ning’s expression changed as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. In just an instant, he felt that the spatial ring in his hand was as heavy as a dumbbell.

“Duan Ling Tian, this is too precious. I...”

Duan Ling Tian felt rather speechless by Hou Qing Ning’s line of thoughts. He hurriedly interjected, “I’m only lending it to you! You didn’t think I’d give it to you, right?”

Hou Qing Ning’s face flushed red from embarrassment immediately. When he finally calmed down, he said jokingly, “Although I’m a little disappointed, I still want to thank you.”

At this time, Hou Qing Ning did not reject Duan Ling Tian’s help anymore even if he thought Duan Ling Tian only had one prominent divine artifact. After all, the Latent Dragon Grand Contest was rather fair. The inner elders would not pit powerful participants so early. Moreover, with Duan Ling Tian’s strength, he did not even need a prominent divine artifact to win. If Duan Ling Tian needed a prominent divine artifact to defeat his opponent, chances were he would be eliminated by the opponent even if he had a prominent divine artifact.

“You’re disappointed? You’re really shameless!” Duan Ling Tian said teasingly.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian looked at Murong Yin Yue and spoke to her through Voice Transmission.

Chapter 3800: Did They Forget About You?

Duan Ling Tian said to Murong Yin Yue, the Third Young Miss of the Murong clan, and said, “Third Miss, with Hou Qing Ning and your strength, it would’ve been difficult for both of you to pass the entrance examinations for the inner disciples three days ago. The reason both of you passed was due to me asking Dongfang Yan Nian, the White Dragon Elder, to go easy on both of you.”

Murong Yin Yue was stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say, “Hence, if you don’t want to rank at the bottom of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest, I suggest you borrow a prominent divine artifact from your father.”

When Murong Yin Yue returned to her senses, she replied, “Alright. I’ll borrow a prominent divine artifact from my father for Hou Qing Ning.”

“No. You should borrow it for yourself,” Duan Ling Tian said, feeling slightly speechless by Murong Yin Yue’s response. At the same time, he thought Hou Qing Ning was really blessed to have found someone who cared about him so much.

“However, he’d need a prominent divine artifact as well,” Murong Yin Yue said, “Although we might not be matched for a fight, there’s still a possibility that would happen. It’d be unfair for him if only I have a prominent divine artifact. There are a few high-ranking officials from the clan who came as well. My father’s not the only one with a prominent divine artifact; the elder next to him has a prominent divine artifact as well. It’s just that the elder has lent his prominent divine artifact to Brother Han Lin. I...”

Duan Ling Tian interjected, “Don’t worry about him. I’ve already lent him a prominent divine artifact. You should worry about yourself instead.”

“Then you...” Murong Yin Yue hesitated.

Duan Ling Tian naturally understood Murong Yin Yue's concerns. He said with a smile, "Have you forgotten the rules of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest? They have a profile of everyone's strength. They won't pit strong participants against each other so early on. That's to say, the first few opponents I face will be weaker than I am. I can easily defeat them without a prominent divine artifact."

Realization dawned on Murong Yin Yue immediately. "I understand. I'll borrow a prominent divine artifact from my father now. In fact, my father had said earlier that he would lend me his prominent divine artifact, but he warned me against lending it to Hou Qing Ning. He's worried we would have to fight each other. He was only willing to lend it to me if I agreed to his condition."

"Clan Leader Murong's actions are understandable," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, "Just promised him that you won't lend the prominent divine artifact to Hou Qing Ning now. If he doesn't believe you, you can tell him that I've already lent Hou Qing Ning my prominent divine artifact. If he probes further, just tell him that Supreme Elder Huan lent me that prominent divine artifact."

With that, Murong Yin Yue left to search for Murong Yun Liu, the Clan Leader of the Murong clan.

After a few minutes, Duan Ling Tian could feel Murong Yun Liu looking at him. To his surprise, Murong Yun Liu sent him a Voice Transmission to confirm that he had indeed lent Hou Qing Ning a prominent divine artifact.

Duan Ling Tian did not know how to react to this. Did Murong Yun Liu truly have such little trust in his daughter?

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After receiving Duan Ling Tian's confirmation, Murong Yun Liu finally handed his spatial ring to Murong Yin Yue after relinquishing his ownership of the spatial ring.

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian asked Ding Yan through Voice Transmission, "Ding Yan, do you have a prominent divine artifact? You'll have a greater advantage if you possess a prominent divine artifact during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. If you don't have one, I can lend one to you."

"I do," Ding Yan replied, "I just asked Hou Qing Ning needed a prominent divine artifact as well. If he didn't have one, I'd borrow one from Uncle Sikong for him. However, he told me you'd already lent him one."

After a moment, Ding Yan said worriedly, "Duan Ling Tian, it's quite risky for you not to have a prominent divine artifact during the contest. Do you need me to borrow one for you?"

"There's no need for that," Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head slightly, "I have one. Even if I don't, there are three Supreme Elders from the Linghu clan who accompanied me here so I can borrow it from either one of them."

"Very well," Ding Yan replied.

At the same time, the battles in the ten battle rings were in full swing.

The twenty outer disciples fought with all their might. They were mostly advanced gods; only two of them were rudimentary Kings of Gods. As a result, the duo easily won their respective fights. As for the other eight fights between the advanced gods, it took some time before they finally ended.

As soon as there was a winner, two names would immediately appear above the battle rings. With that, the next two participants would enter the battle rings.

The audience watched the fights in excitement. However, it only lasted for a while before they grew bored. After all, the participants were only advanced gods so their strength was limited. Many of the spectators even felt they were watching children fight.

It was not until a young man dressed in dark gold robes defeated his opponent with a punch that everyone's interest was piqued again.

Even Duan Ling Tian was slightly interested. The young man's explosive punch reminded him of Hou Qing Ning's performance during the inner disciples' entrance examinations. He thought to himself, 'I'm afraid this person isn't any weaker than Hou Qing Ning.'

The golden-clad young man and his opponent were both rudimentary Kings of Gods. Since he could defeat his opponent who was also a rudimentary King of Gods with just a punch, it proved that he was stronger than the average rudimentary Kings of Gods.

At this time, the crowd began to discuss among themselves again.

"He's the third disciple of the Sect Leader of the king-rank Heavenly Divine Sect. His name is Zhao Pei. He's only slightly over 5,000 years old, but he's already a rudimentary King of Gods. His comprehension skills aren't bad as well. During the qualifying test, he only lost because his opponent was Ouyang Jian Chen, the Third Young Master of the lord-rank Ouyang clan."

"That's right! Zhao Pei was quite unlucky. If he did not meet Ouyang Jian Chen during the qualifying test, he might have passed the entrance examinations. He was seriously injured by Ouyang Jian Chen at that time. Although he consumed a Divine Pill at that time, it took a while for his injuries to heal."

"I thought he would remain an outer disciple. Now it seems like he has a chance to redeem himself during the Latent Dragon Grand Contest and become an inner disciple."

Duan Ling Tian learned a lot from the conversations in his surroundings. Although he had watched the entrance examination, his attention was mostly focused on the Eastern Oriental Sect's Hua Tian Du, the 10,000 Devils Sect's Du Po Jun, and the 10,000 Flowers Valley's Lady Seven. He did not pay much attention to Ouyang Jian Chen at that time.

"Zhao Pei is quite strong," Hou Qing Ning said with a grave expression. Clearly, he was aware that Zhao Pei was not any weaker than him.

The matches kept going.

There were a few powerful outer disciples who had high chances of becoming inner disciples through the Latent Dragon Grand Contest. Most of them were unlucky and were seriously injured during the qualifying test, which in turn affected their performance during the entrance examinations. Now that they had recovered, they naturally performed better.

Time continued to fly by.

It did not take long before night fell.

At this time, Lan Yu Shan, a Black Dragon Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect, who was the moderator for the Latent Dragon Grand Contest announced that the contest would end now and continue tomorrow.

...

The Latent Dragon Grand Contest continued the next day until the evening before 100 participants were finally selected from the group of more than 800 outer disciples.

Most of the outer disciples who ranked at the bottom were aware of their strength so they were not too disappointed with the results. They knew they were no match for those who were ranked higher.

Moreover, the matches were arranged in a rather fair manner.

The ten elders of the Flying Dragon Sect who were in charge of arranging the matches were intermediate Lords of Gods so it was easy for them to see through the participants' strength. This naturally helped them to arrange the matches. Due to fairness, none of the participants questioned the results.

Before dismissing everyone for the day, Lan Yu Shan said, "The top 100 disciples will join the inner disciples for the next round of the Latent Dragon Grand Contest tomorrow. Over the next three days, we will determine the 100 strongest participants among the 400 participants.

...

The next day arrived in just a blink of an eye.

It was finally time for Duan Ling Tian and the other inner disciples who had been watching the Latent Dragon Grand Contest to fight.

Names after names appeared above the battle rings, but Duan Ling Tian's name had yet to appear even after Hou Qing Ning had fought twice.

In fact, it was not just Duan Ling Tian. The names of the 10,000 Devils Sect's Du Po Jun, the Eastern Oriental Sect's Hua Tian Du, the 10,000 Flowers Valley's Lady Seven, and the Ouyang clan's Ouyang Jian Chen had yet to appear as well.

In short, the names of those who performed exceptionally well during the qualifying test and entrance examination had yet to appear.

'Since they're aware of our strength, it seems like they've arranged for us to fight toward the end,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

During this time, there were a few outstanding participants who had hidden their strength previously. Since they had hidden their strength, they were called out rather early.

For example, there was the Hanchu Sect's Ji Wu Chang whose strength was on par with Hua Tian Du. Since he did not reveal his strength, he was arranged to fight in the earlier rounds. Once his strength was revealed, his name did not appear again.

'It seems like it was a good thing that I didn't hide my strength before this. At least, I can save my energy for my matches later,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with a smile.

"Ding Yan, why aren't you called to fight yet?" Hou Qing Ning asked.

Hou Qing Ning's voice pulled Duan Ling Tian back to his senses immediately.

Indeed, Ding Yan's name did not appear at all. The sun was about to set and the contest was about to come to an end today, but his name still had not appeared above a battle ring.

Hou Qing Ning frowned. "Did they forget about you?"