

Chapter 3861: Kuang Tian Zheng's Determination

"It's not your fault, you don't have to blame yourself," Duan Ling Tian said in an attempt to console Ding Yan. In his opinion, Ding Yan's intention was good. Ding Yan had thought about him first after finding out about the Divine Sanctuary from the two men. Ding Yan had even negotiated with them so the conditions were more favorable to him. Clearly, the two men had used Ding Yan's loyalty to get to him. For all these reasons, he did not resent Ding Yan at all. On the contrary, he felt grateful.

"Duan Ling Tian, do you remember that person's face?" Ding Yan asked.

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian replied, "However, even if I recognize him, I can't prove anything. He had a Formation compass that prevented me from using Floating Image Pearls to record him."

Formation compasses were like portable Formations. They could be used to hold defensive, offensive, assistive, or restrictive Formations. However, Formation compasses that held Killing Formations or defensive Formations were quite rare since a lot of energy was needed to create them.

"Can you describe his appearance to me? Perhaps, I know him," Ding Yan asked.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian's description, Ding Yan thought about it for a moment before he said regretfully, "I don't think I've seen him before, but I can ask around."

"There's no need for that," Duan Ling Tian said, "Moreover, who knows if he was using a disguise? Nonetheless, his technique and divine artifact can't be faked. I'll recognize him if I see him."

Let alone a Lord of Gods, even Duan Ling Tian had his specific ways of doing things. Habits were not easy to change, after all.

"You're right," Ding Yan replied.

"Just let it be for now. There's no need for you to ask around. Besides, I don't plan to stay in the inner disciples' cultivation ground anymore," Duan Ling Tian said.

"You're leaving? Are you worried the culprit will make a move in the sect? There's no need to worry. If you stay in the sect, the culprit won't attack you unless he has a death wish," Ding Yan said worriedly.

"It's just a precaution," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, "They might not dare to kill me in the sect. However, this time, it's clear that they're determined to kill me. We're in the midst of the Imperial War, and yet, they have the time to plan this. This indicates they're growing desperate to kill me. They know it'd be disastrous for them once I grow stronger."

Ding Yan frowned as he said, "Where will you go if you leave the inner disciples' cultivation ground? Are you planning to enter the Imperial War Realm? However, the Imperial War Realm isn't a suitable place to cultivate."

Duan Ling Tian smiled as he replied, "I'm not going to enter the Imperial War Realm until I become a Lord of Gods. I'll stay in Brother Hai Chuan's courtyard and cultivate there. No one will be able to make a move against me there. Whether it's Kuang Tian Zheng or two White Dragon Elders in the 10,000 Devils faction, they won't be able to do anything to me unless they have a death wish."

Ding Yang sighed in relief upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply. "Elder Xue's courtyard is indeed a good place for you to stay. Duan Ling Tian, I'll speak to Uncle Siking as soon as I can. If Elder Xue enters the Imperial War Realm, you can stay with my Uncle Sikong. With his protection, even Vice Sect Leader Xue won't be able to do anything, let alone the two White Dragon Elders from the 10,000 Devils faction."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate to accept Ding Yan's suggestion. After all, he would need another place to stay once Xue Hai Chuan enters the Imperial War Realm. However, based on the current situation, he knew Xue Hai Chuan would not be entering the Imperial War Realm so soon because Xue Hai Chuan still needed to protect his elder brother, Xue Hai Shan, who was also targeted by the 10,000 Devils faction. No one knew if the White Dragon Elder from the 10,000 Devils faction, who was determined to seek revenge from Xue Hai Shan, was in the Imperial War Realm. He had run into that White Dragon Elder before he entered the King Battlefield. At that time, Dongfang Yan Nian had pointed the White Dragon Elder out to him.

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After Duan Ling Tian ended his conversation with Ding Yan, he teleported to Xue Hai Chuan's courtyard.

After expressing his intention to stay with Xue Hai Chuan for a period of time, Duan Ling Tian said apologetically, "I'm sorry for troubling you, Brother Hai Chuan."

"Little Tian, why are you treating me like an outsider? There's no need to be so polite. You can stay here for as long as you need," Xue Hai Chuan said with a warm smile on his face before he arranged for Duan Ling Tian to stay in an independent building in his courtyard. The cultivation environment there was not inferior to Xue Hai Chuan's personal cultivation ground.

Duan Ling Tian asked, "Brother Hai Chuan, has Brother Hai Shan come out of his closed-door cultivation?"

Xue Hai Chuan shook his head as he replied, "No." Then, he asked solemnly, "Little Tian, what happened? Why did you suddenly come to me?"

Xue Hai Chuan knew Duan Ling Tian would not have come to him if there was no problem.

"It's just a small matter," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile before he briefly recounted what had happened.

After Xue Hai Chuan listened to Duan Ling Tian, he said with a dark expression on his face, "Based on your description, I think I know who he is. He did not use a disguise."

"Who is it?" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He wanted to know the identity of the person who destroyed his doppelganger from the law of space.

"Meng Shan," Xue Hai Chuan replied with a low voice, "I've sparred with him once when I just became an intermediate Lord of Gods. His techniques are exactly as you described."

"Meng Shan? Is he from the 10,000 Devils faction?" Duan Ling Tian asked in confusion. It was his first time hearing this name, after all.

“He’s Kuang Tian Zheng’s first direct disciple and a rudimentary Lord of Gods. He’s also an outer elder of the sect,” Xue Hai Chuan replied with a nod.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I’ve already suspected him to be from the 10,000 Devils faction or has something to do with Kuang Tian Zheng. Meng Shan... I’ll remember him.” Killing intent flashed in his eyes as he muttered to himself, “The day I become a Lord of Gods is the day Kuang Tian Zheng dies.”

Today was the first time Duan Ling Tian faced a Lord of Gods. Although his opponent was just a rudimentary Lord of Gods, the gap between an advanced King of Gods and a rudimentary Lord of Gods was still hard to overcome. Nonetheless, based on the battle alone, he was confident he would be strong enough to kill Kuang Tian Zheng once he became a rudimentary Lord of Gods due to his extraordinary comprehension of the law of space. He might not be a match for Xue Hai Chuan or the other White Dragon Elders, but it was not a problem for him to kill an inner elder like Kuang Tian Zheng. In fact, with his secret weapons, he could easily kill Kuang Tian Zheng.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Xue Hai Chuan could not help but remind Duan Ling Tian, “Little Tian, don’t underestimate Kuang Tian Zheng. He has his means as well. His comprehension of the law might not be any weaker than yours. Even after you stabilized your cultivation after becoming a rudimentary Lord of Gods, it might still be difficult for you to deal with him. I advise you to wait until you’ve become an intermediate Lord of Gods.”

Although Duan Ling Tian’s strength was shocking, Kuang Tian Zheng’s comprehension of the law was quite profound as well. Hence, Xue Hai Chuan thought it would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to kill Kuang Tian Zheng even if Duan Ling Tian was a rudimentary Lord of Gods. At most, he thought Duan Ling Tian would be able to fight to a draw with Kuang Tian Zheng.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. “Don’t worry, Brother Hai Chuan. I won’t make a move unless I’m certain of my victory. I won’t risk alerting my enemy for no good reason.”

Xue Hai Chuan felt relieved upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s reply. Then, he said solemnly, “You did the right thing by coming to me immediately. Since Kuang Tian Zheng made an attempt on your life during the Imperial War, it shows that he’s desperate to get rid of you. Not only that, I’m sure the entire 10,000 Devils faction can’t wait to get rid of you as well. Kuang Tian Zheng might attack you in the sect out of desperation. In fact, he can even challenge you to a life-or-death battle. Many people would benefit from him killing you.”

Xue Hai Chuan did not say that Xue Ming Zhi would also benefit from Duan Ling Tian’s death. After all, Duan Ling Tian was a huge threat to Xue Ming Zhi. Moreover, Xue Ming Zhi was tied to Kuang Tian Zheng through the union of Kuang Tian Zheng’s daughter and Kuang Tian Zheng’s second disciple. Xue Hai Chuan did not mention Xue Ming Zhi because he did not want Duan Ling Tian to feel even more pressure. After all, even the Black Dragon Elders were no match for Xue Ming Zhi, let alone him who was only a White Dragon Elder. Xue Ming Zhi was an advanced Lord of Gods, after all.

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After Meng Shan failed to kill Duan Ling Tian, Kuang Tian Zheng hurried to the inner disciples’ cultivation ground. However, he could not find Duan Ling Tian.

“Duan Ling Tian has left the inner disciples’ cultivation ground?”

Kuang Tian Zheng's expression was very unsightly at this moment. He had come here determined to kill Duan Ling Tian. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to leave.

Chapter 3862: Xue Hai Chuan Receives an Order

When Kuang Tian Zheng arrived at Duan Ling Tian's courtyard in the inner disciples' cultivation ground, he found that the Formation protecting the courtyard had been deactivated and Duan Ling Tian was nowhere to be found. He felt extremely depressed at this time. He had used Ding Yan to lure Duan Ling Tian out of the Flying Dragon Sect's estate to kill Duan Ling Tian, but the plan failed. That plan was the only way for him to kill Duan Ling Tian without risking his life. He had even planned to help Meng Shan kill Duan Ling Tian once Meng Shan confirmed that it was Duan Ling Tian's true body that had left the Flying Dragon Sect's estate.

When Kuang Tian Zheng received Meng Shan's message saying that it was Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger from the law of space that had left the sect, he knew that the worst scenario had happened. With this, he knew it would be impossible to lure Duan Ling Tian out of the Flying Dragon Sect's estate again. In the end, after struggling inwardly for a while, he finally decided to risk his life and kill Duan Ling Tian in the sect. After all, if Duan Ling Tian lived, not only would he be in danger, but everyone related to him would be in danger as well.

'Where did he go?' Kuang Tian Zheng wondered to himself with a dark expression on his face. After a while, he sent a message to Xue Ming Zhi as well, informing Xue Ming Zhi about what happened. He hoped that Xue Ming Zhi might know where Duan Ling Tian had gone.

After receiving Kuang Tian Zheng's message, Xue Ming Zhi did not waste time before he investigated Duan Ling Tian's whereabouts. After 15 minutes, he sent a message to Kuang Tian Zheng.

"Duan Ling Tian didn't enter the Imperial War Realm after leaving the inner disciples' cultivation ground. Instead, he's gone to Xue Hai Chuan's cultivation ground. Your plan has alerted him so he's very cautious now. You should've listened to me and killed him directly instead of luring him out of the sect first. Look what you've done now!"

Kuang Tian Zheng was naturally displeased when he heard Xue Ming Zhi's reproachful words. Xue Ming Zhi did not object at all when he first told Xue Ming Zhi about his plan. However, now that the plan had failed, Xue Ming Zhi pushed all of the blame on him. Alas, even if he was displeased, there was nothing he could do. In the end, he only said, "I'll kill him personally. I hope you'll help me create a chance to kill him. I need you to lure Xue Hai Chuan away. No one can do this except for you."

The people with the highest status in the 10,000 Devils faction in the Flying Dragon Sect were only White Dragon Elders. Naturally, they could not order Xue Hai Chuan, who was also a White Dragon Elder, around.

"Alright," Xue Ming Zhi replied.

Kuang Tian Zheng felt relieved as soon as he received Xue Ming Zhi's reply. He was certain Xue Ming Zhi would do all he could to help him since Xue Ming Zhi desperately wanted to get rid of Duan Ling Tian as well.

'I'll go back and wait for Vice Sect Leader Xue's message. I hope he'll get back to me before Duan Ling Tian becomes a Lord of Gods. Otherwise, it'd be difficult for me to deal with him. At that time, the problem Xue Ming Zhi and I face will be even bigger,' Kuang Tian Zheng mused inwardly.

In Kuang Tian Zheng's opinion, even if Duan Ling Tian became stronger than him, he would still be safe as long as he stayed in the Flying Dragon Sect's estate. The real danger would be if Duan Ling Tian became stronger than Xue Ming Zhi. At that time, Xue Ming Zhi might even defect and help Duan Ling Tian to kill him in order to appease Duan Ling Tian. Naturally, if that happened, Kuang Tian Zheng planned to expose Xue Ming Zhi by telling Duan Ling Tian that Xue Ming Zhi was responsible for the assassination attempt on Linghu Ren Jie in the Linghu clan. At that time, it would be impossible for Xue Ming Zhi to get on Duan Ling Tian's good side. Naturally, he was unaware that Duan Ling Tian had already known about this matter.

'If push comes to shove, I should definitely expose Xue Ming Zhi and let him and Duan Ling Tian kill each other! After all, I have nothing to lose at this point...' Kuang Tian Zheng thought to himself, feeling slightly more relieved. Earlier, he was ready to give up his life. However, now, he felt that there was a slight chance that he might survive.

If Xue Ming Zhi was aware of Kuang Tian Zheng's thoughts at this moment, he would have killed Kuang Tian Zheng immediately to get on Duan Ling Tian's good side.

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Two years passed in just a blink of an eye.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian was already on the brink of becoming a Lord of Gods. His Divine Energy had also undergone a huge transformation. The only thing left was to break through the bottleneck, which he found difficult to do.

"It shouldn't be difficult for me to break through the bottleneck since I've consumed the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill. The only explanation is that the divine pill has lost its efficacy or my body has developed immunity against it..." Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he sat cross-legged in the air. He was still staying in Xu Hai Chuan's cultivation ground.

Swoosh!

The space suddenly rippled before his doppelganger from the law of space. He had formed it again after the first one was destroyed. His second attempt only took half of the original time.

'It's strange that it was so peaceful over the past two years. I wonder why Kuang Tian Zheng and Xue Ming Zhi didn't make a move at all,' Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he thought to himself, 'Aren't they, especially Kuang Tian Zheng, worried about me becoming a Lord of Gods? After all, Kuang Tian Zheng won't be a match for me at all at that time. In any case, it's good that they didn't make a move, giving me a lot of time to cultivate.'

While Duan Ling Tian was immersed in his thoughts, he received a message from Xue Hai Chuan.

“Little Tian, I just received an order from a Black Dragon Elder to enter the Lord Battlefield with another few White Dragon Elders. A White Dragon Elder from the Hidden Fog faction had recently perished on the battlefield. This Black Dragon Elder has a good relationship with the Hidden Fog faction, and he’s on the side of the other Vice Sect Leader who opposes Xue Ming Zhi. Hence, I don’t think this is an attempt from Xue Ming Zhi trying to lure me away.”

Duan Ling Tian felt at ease after listening to Xue Hai Chuan’s words. Then, he asked solemnly, “Another White Dragon Elder has perished?”

This was the second White Dragon Elder to die during the Imperial War. On the other hand, the Tai Yi Sect had only lost two ordinary intermediate Lords of Gods. This meant that the Flying Dragon Sect was in a slightly disadvantageous position now.

“The Hidden Fog faction has also told me to enter the Lord Battlefield. I’m afraid I won’t be able to refuse them,” Xue Hai Chuan said.

“What about Brother Hai Shan?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“My brother broke through and became a King of Gods two months ago. He’s stabilizing his cultivation now. The faction knows about this as well. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have asked me to enter the battlefield since it’s impossible for me to agree to it,” Xue Hai Chuan replied.

“Brother Hai Shan has become a King of Gods?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up immediately. “Brother Hai Chuan, are you going to bring Brother Hai Shan into the Imperial War Realm as well?”

Xue Hai Chuan replied confidently with a nod, “That’s right. Even if my brother doesn’t enter the King Battlefield, the 10,000 Devils faction’s Liu Yin won’t dare to attack my brother in the Imperial War Realm. The Golden Dragon Elder in Flying Dragon City will definitely kill him before he can even kill my brother.”

“What if the Golden Dragon Elder is on Liu Yin’s side?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Impossible. The Golden Dragon Elders prioritized the sect’s interest and has no interest in meddling with petty affairs such as this. Moreover, from what I know, they don’t have a particularly close relationship with Xue Ming Zhi or the 10,000 Devils faction. Moreover, my potential is much bigger than Liu Yin’s. Even if they don’t take my side, they won’t side with Liu Yin,” Xue Hai Chuan said confidently.

“So you’re only worried about me now, Brother Hai Chuan?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Xue Hai Chuan replied, “Yes. That’s why I want you to follow my brother and me into the Imperial War Realm for a period of time.”

Chapter 3863: Old Man Wen

Although Duan Ling Tian was grateful that Xue Hai Chuan was concerned about his well-being, he still declined Xue Hai Chuan’s invitation. He said, “Brother Hai Chuan, I won’t go to the Imperial War Realm with you.”

Xue Hai Chuan sighed upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s reply. He tried his best to persuade Duan Ling Tian and said, “Little Tian, I know the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Imperial War Realm is thin, making it almost impossible to cultivate, but you’ll be in danger if you stay in the Flying Dragon Sect. I

don't know the others, but Kuang Tian Zheng will likely disregard everything and kill you after I leave. There's no need for you to rush to improve your cultivation now. Your life is more important. If something happens to you, the improvement in your cultivation will be useless anyway. It's safe now, but what are you going to do when Kuang Tian Zheng makes a move? It'll be too late to regret your decision at that time. There are many things in life that are irreversible, and you can't turn back time. There's no medicine for regret in this world."

Duan Ling Tian knew Xue Hai Chuan had misunderstood him. He said, "Don't worry, Brother Hai Chuan. I have no intention of risking my life. I only declined your invitation because I already have a plan. Brother Hai Chuan, I'm sure you know my friend, Ding Yan. His guardian is Revered Elder Sikong. Previously, before I came to you, he told me that I can stay with Revered Elder Sikong when you enter the Imperial War Realm. Some time ago, he told me that Revered Elder Sikong had agreed to his request. In fact, I could've gone there earlier, but there was no need for it. Brother Hai Chuan, now that you're leaving to the Imperial War Realm, I'll move in with Revered Elder Sikong."

After Ding Yan returned to the Flying Dragon Sect's estate two years ago, he had gone looking for his uncle immediately, but his uncle was in closed-door cultivation. When his uncle finally emerged from closed-door cultivation a few months ago, he finally managed to speak to his uncle. When his uncle agreed to his request, he wasted no time in informing Duan Ling Tian about it.

However, since Duan Ling Tian was rather safe staying with Xue Hai Chuan, he was not in a rush to leave. In his opinion, it would be best to trouble Ding Yan less.

Xue Hai Chuan nodded. "Very well. I feel relieved now that I know you'll be staying with Revered Elder Sikong. His strength is a mystery to everyone in the sect. Not only was he personally invited to the sect by the sect leader, but the sect leader even bestowed him the title of a Black Dragon Elder. At the very least, his strength isn't inferior to the Black Dragon Elders. His place is definitely safer than mine."

Xue Hai Chuan paused briefly before he continued to say, "The most important thing is Revered Elder Sikong has remained neutral in the sect. Everyone doesn't dare to offend him like they would any other Black Dragon Elders."

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Half a month later.

Before Xue Hai Chuan entered the Imperial War Realm, he, along with Xue Hai Shan, went to look for Duan Ling Tian. When he arrived, he saw Ding Yan.

"Little Tian, I'll escort you to Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground."

Since Duan Ling Tian had learned about Xue Hai Shan's breakthrough and emergence from his closed-door cultivation, he was not surprised to see Xue Hai Shan. He said, "Brother Hai Shan, I just spoke to Ding Yan. If you're willing, you can also follow me to Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground. Revered Elder Sikong has agreed to it. After all, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Imperial War Realm is very thin, making it difficult to cultivate."

Upon hearing this, Xue Hai Shan shook his head and said, "Little Tian, I appreciate your kindness, but I plan to enter the Imperial War Realm. I don't plan to cultivate for the time being. Instead, I plan to

explore Flying Dragon City and Peace City. Since I've been cultivating since the day I came to the Flying Dragon Sect, I want to take this time to relax a little."

Seeing that Duan Ling Tian was about to persuade him, Xue Hai Shan immediately said, "Little Tian, I'm not being polite. I really don't plan to continue cultivating for the time being. I'll let you know if I change my mind in the future."

With this, Duan Ling Tian gave up on persuading Xue Hai Shan to stay.

Following that, Xue Hai Shan escorted Duan Ling Tian and Ding Yan to a towering mountain range in the Flying Dragon Sect's estate. There were very few people in this place.

Seeing the confusion on Duan Ling Tian's face, Ding Yan explained, "My Uncle Sikong prefers to be alone, and he cherishes silence. Hence, there aren't many patrolling disciples in the area, let alone people on his cultivation ground."

Ding Yan had been staying with his uncle previously so he was naturally familiar with his uncle's habits.

Upon hearing this, Xue Hai Chuan nodded and said, "Revered Elder Sikong has lived in seclusion ever since he came to our sect. I only saw him once during his entire time here."

Xue Hai Chuan recalled his confusion when he first met Revered Elder Sikong. After all, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, who was accompanying Revered Elder Sikong, at that time was abnormally respectful toward Revered Elder Sikong. Even among the Golden Dragon Elders, there were only one or two whom the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect showed this degree of respect to. At that time, he wondered if Revered Elder was an elder of the sect leader. Although Revered Elder Sikong looked to be the same age as the sect leader, in the cultivation world, appearance was not reliable at all to determine a person's age.

When they were approaching a quiet valley shrouded in mist, Ding Yan said, "It's up ahead."

Swoosh!

The wind began to blow at the entrance of the valley as soon as they drew close. Soon enough, an old man stepped out of the cloud of mist.

Ding Yan bowed and greeted the old man immediately. "Greetings, Old Man Wen."

"Young Master Ding Yan, I've told you many times that there's no need for you to be so formal. I'm just a servant here," the old man said with a sigh as he looked at Ding Yan with a gentle gaze.

Ding Yan seemed to be used to the old man's words and did not take them to heart at all. He said, "Old Man Wen, let me introduce you to my friend, Duan Ling Tian. I met him when we were in Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy. These two are Elder Xue Hai Chuan and his brother, Xue Hai Shan."

"Greetings, Young Master Duan, Elder Xue," the old man said. Then, he nodded at Xue Hai Shan with a smile as a sign of respect.

"Greetings, Old Man Wen."

After that, Old Man Wen led the group into the valley. Whenever he moved, the mist would part on its own accord. They finally emerged from the mist after they stepped into the valley.

At this time, Ding Yan said through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, Old Man Wen is like Uncle Sikong's attendant. When Sikong Yue goes out, he'll be tasked to protect her. That's the only time that he'll leave Uncle Sikong's side. He's been with Uncle Sikong for many years. Although Sikong Yue is usually arrogant, she's also very respectful to Old Man Wen and addresses him as Grandpa Wen. Since Uncle Sikong cares about me, he's also very polite and respectful to me. He didn't look down on my low cultivation at all."

Ding Yan's words revealed that he thought highly of Old Man Wen.

Duan Ling Tian nodded as he looked at Old Man Wen's back. He could not see through Old Man Wen's thoughts at all. He found Old Man Wen harder to read than the other Black Dragon Elders he had previously met.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew this was not an indication of Old Man Wen's strength. After all, there were many who were mysterious and sage-like, but their cultivation was only ordinary.

In the valley that was carpeted with lush grass where flowers bloomed and birds chirped, six simple courtyards surrounded a courtyard in the middle.

When Old Man Wen led the others to the courtyard in the center, he bowed and said, "Master, the guests are here."

"Come in."

The gates to the courtyard swung open, and Old Man Wen led the others inside.

In just a blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian saw a flash before the courtyard changed. The flowers and plants in the courtyard seemed even more vibrant than the ones outside, and a peaceful air permeated the entire place. He thought to himself, 'As it turns out, what I saw earlier was an illusion. This is the true appearance of the courtyard.'

Chapter 3864: Sikong Ye

The elegant and quiet courtyard looked as though it had come out of a painting.

A middle-aged man with a fit body who was dressed in a blue and brown robe sat cross-legged in the air. His hair was long and gray, and his face was handsome. Apart from that, his bearing was extraordinary as well. His hooked nose was his most distinguishable feature.

"Master."

"Uncle Sikong."

Old Man Wen and Ding Yan greeted the middle-aged man at almost the same time.

Following that, Xue Hai Chuan and Xue Hai Shan stepped forward and cupped their fists together at the middle-aged man and greeted him in unison, "Greetings, Revered Elder Sikong."

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he quickly greeted the middle-aged man as well. Sikong Yue, whom he had met, did not resemble the middle-aged man much. There was only a slight similarity between the two; their ears and their lips were the same.

The middle-aged man was none other than Sikong Ye, a Revered Elder and a Black Dragon Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect. When he opened his eyes, unlike most people, his eyes were grayish-brown. If Duan Ling Tian were still on Earth, he would have thought Sikong Ye was wearing colored contact lenses.

A faint smile appeared on Sikong Ye's face when he looked at Xue Hai Chuan and said praisingly, "Elder Xue, I've long heard of you. Long Qing Chong, that child, has mentioned you to me many times. Among the youngest White Dragon Elders, he thinks you have the highest chances of becoming an Emperor of Gods."

Xue Hai Chuan was briefly stunned by Sikong Ye's praise. Then, he quickly said, "Revered Elder Sikong, you're praising me too much. I'm aware of my strength. It won't be easy for me to become an Emperor of Gods."

"You're still young, unlike me, an old man. You have time on your side," Sikong Ye said before he landed on the ground, "Just like how Kings of Gods will improve during the Imperial War Realm, it'll be the same for you. I heard about what happened in the past. I don't think you need to restrict your cultivation for your brother's sake. I don't think that he wants either."

Then, Sikong Ye turned to Xue Hai Shan and said, "You can stay here to cultivate when Elder Xue goes to the Imperial War Realm. I have three empty courtyards. One's for Duan Ling Tian, and one's for you."

"Thank you, Revered Elder Sikong," Xue Hai Shan thanked Sikong Ye profusely.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian said through Voice Transmission, "Thank you, Ding Yan."

Ding Yan looked at him in confusion and asked, "Why are you thanking me?"

"Didn't you ask Revered Elder Sikong to let Brother Hai Shan stay?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"No," Ding Yan replied, "I mentioned Brother Hai Shan previously, but Uncle Siking didn't say anything. I only heard about it earlier. I think he's doing this because of Elder Xue."

Duan Ling Tian nodded in agreement.

At this time, Xue Hai Chuan said, "Thank you, Revered Elder Sikong."

Sikong Ye said, "Alright. I hope you'll grow stronger from the Imperial War. Apart from cultivating and comprehending the law, you need experience to raise your strength as well. As for Xue Hai Shan, I suggest that you stay to cultivate. After stabilizing your cultivation base, you can form a group to enter the King Battlefield to gain experience."

Upon hearing this, Xue Hai Shan seemed to have changed his mind.

"You're right, Revered Elder Sikong," Xue Hai Shan said before he turned to Xue Hai Chuan and said, "Hai Chuan, you can leave now. Don't worry. I'll stay here to cultivate."

Xue Hai Chuan nodded in response before he bade farewell to the others and left.

After Xue Hai Chuan left, Sikong Ye said to Old Man Wen, "Please make the necessary arrangements for Xue Hai Shan."

"Yes, Master," Old Man quickly replied before he led Xue Hai Shan away.

Xue Hai Shan bade farewell to everyone as well before he left.

With that, only Sikong Ye, Ding Yan, and Duan Ling Tian were left in the courtyard.

Ding Yan said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, this is my Uncle Sikong, Sikong Ye."

Sikong Ye, who was looking at Ding Yan with a dotting gaze, shifted his attention to Duan Ling Tian and said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, I've heard many great things about you. Thank you for taking care of my nephew when he was in Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy."

Duan Ling Tian hurriedly shook his head and said, "Revered Elder Sikong, you're too polite. Ding Yan and I are friends. It's only normal for us to look out for each other."

Sikong Yue smiled as a hint of nostalgia flashed in his eyes. He chuckled and said, "How nice it is to be young. Both of you remind me of myself and Ding Yan's father. So many years have passed in just a blink of an eye. It's a pity he left us so soon..."

A sorrowful expression could be seen on Sikong Ye's face as he sighed.

Duan Ling Tian said solemnly, "Revered Elder Sikong, I'm sure Ding Yan's father is watching all of you from heaven. I'm sure he has no regrets having a friend like you when he sees how you treat Ding Yan like you would your son."

Sikong Ye chuckled. "You're much more eloquent than Ding Yan. How interesting. No wonder my daughter is so interested in you. She even wants Long Qing Chong to ask you to teach her alchemy."

Ding Yan was stunned by Sikong Ye's words. Then, a hint of gloom flashed in his eyes briefly.

Duan Ling Tian was also stunned. Then, he said with a wry smile, "In fact, my alchemy isn't very good. Although I can refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills, it's only because I'm very sensitive to the vitality energy in the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. In terms of skills, I can't compare to the divine alchemists in our sect at all."

A hint of helplessness could be heard in Duan Ling Tian's voice when he spoke.

Sikong Ye looked at Duan Ling Tian with a profound gaze as he said, "While the drooping flowers pined for love, the river continued to flow heartlessly. If that's the case, I hope you'll make your intention clear the next time you encounter my daughter. That child is very proud, and she has never taken a liking to a man before. You're the first person she's interested in. I heard from Ding Yan that you already have a lot of wives and concubines. You even have children of your own. With your experience, I believe you know how to reject my daughter."

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian looked at Ding Yan with a speechless expression as he thought to himself, 'When did I tell him I have a lot of wives and concubines? I only have two wives and three other women. How can these be considered a lot?!'

Sikong Ye continued to say with a serious expression, "In return for letting my daughter down gently, I'll owe you a favor. I don't consider letting you stay here a favor. I took you in because of Ding Yan so it has nothing to do with this matter regarding my daughter."

Duan Ling Tian said helplessly, "Revered Elder Sikong, there's no need to be so polite with me. You don't owe me any favor for this matter."

"I insist," Sikong Ye said. Then, he did not wait for Duan Ling Tian's response before he told Ding Yan to arrange a place for Duan Ling Tian to stay. Following that, he vanished into thin air as though he was never there at all.

Seeing that Duan Ling Tian was still in a daze, Ding Yan called out, "Duan Ling Tian, let's go. You won't be able to change Uncle Sikong's mind. If you really don't want him to owe you a favor, you can just not ask anything from him in the future. Naturally, I hope you won't hesitate to ask for your help if you need it. After all, Uncle Sikong can help you with many things."

Then, Ding Yan switched to Voice Transmission before he said, "Even if you ask Uncle Sikong to kill Xue Ming Zhi, I'm sure he'll agree to it. Even if Xue Ming Zhi hides in the sect, Uncle Sikong can still kill him easily."

Duan Ling Tian did not expect these words from Ding Yan. He was also surprised that Sikong Ye was capable of such a feat despite only being a Black Dragon Elder. Xue Ming Zhi was a Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, after all; Xue Ming Zhi's status was much higher than that of a Black Dragon Elder. Xue Ming Zhi's status was only below the Sect Leader and the Golden Dragon Elders of the Flying Dragon Sect.

After listening to Ding Yan's words, Duan Ling Tian wondered to himself, 'How good is Revered Elder Sikong's relationship with the sect leader to the point that he can easily kill a Vice Sect Leader without any repercussion? Or... Is he very strong?'

...

Time passed as Duan Ling Tian cultivated in Sikong Ye's cultivation ground.

Duan Ling Tian did not personally gather the medicinal herbs that the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect had procured for him. Instead, Ding Yan helped him to collect them so that those with bad intentions would not be able to act against Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware of Ding Yan's kindness. He was also unaware that the person who had ordered Xue Hai Chuan to go to the Imperial War Realm had connections to Xue Ming Zhi. After all, outwardly, the person had connections to Xue Ming Zhi or the 10,000 Devils faction.

Chapter 3865: Leaving After Only Two Years?

A black-clad figure appeared in Xue Ming Zhi's cultivation ground and asked bluntly, "Vice Sect Leader Xue, isn't it time for you to fulfill your end of the promise?"

Xue Ming Zhi's expression darkened as he said, "Did you play any dirty tricks without my knowledge? Did you remind Xue Hai Chuan to escort Duan Ling Tian to Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground?"

Even to Xue Ming Zhi, Sikong Ye was a mysterious person. He only knew the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect had personally invited Sikong Ye to the sect and that the sect leader had a very good relationship with Sikong Ye. Since Sikong Ye was given the title of a Black Dragon Elder, he assumed Sikong Ye's strength was like the other Black Dragon Elders. Nonetheless, if it was possible, he did not want to offend Sikong Ye. After all, Sikong Ye had the support of the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

The black-clad man asked frostily, "Vice Sect Leader Xue, why would I do that? I did as you asked, but you keep stalling for time. Are you going to go back on your words?"

Xue Ming Zhi scoffed before he finally brought a spatial ring out and handed it to the black-clad man.

The black-clad man claimed ownership over the spatial ring and checked its content before he laughed and said with a satisfied expression, "Thank you, Vice Sect Leader Xue. After today, we have nothing to do with each other just like before."

Following that, the black-clad man left like the wind.

Shortly after the black-clad man left, Xue Ming Zhi sent a message to Kuang Tian Zheng.

"Duan Ling Tian is now in Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground. I'll let my men monitor that place. As soon as there's no Lord of Gods around Duan Ling Tian, I'll inform you immediately so you can kill him."

"Then, I'll wait to hear from you, Vice Sect Leader Xue," Kuang Tian Zheng replied indifferently.

After replying to Xue Ming Zhi, a mocking smile appeared on Kuang Tian Zheng's face as he said to himself, "Do you think Duan Ling Tian's a fool? Based on the current situation, it's clear he's going to wait until he becomes a Lord of Gods before he comes out. With his talent in cultivation and the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill, I'm sure it won't take him more than 100 years to become a Lord of Gods and stabilize his cultivation base. Moreover, he can also refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills that will be helpful to him."

Kuang Tian Zheng knew that once Duan Ling Tian became a Lord of Gods, things would be extremely difficult. He was not sure if he would be able to kill Duan Ling Tian with one move at that time. If he did not kill Duan Ling Tian with one move, he would surely alert the others from the Flying Dragon Sect. At that time, he would be the one to die instead.

...

After staying in Sikong Ye's cultivation ground for two months, a woman came to look for Duan Ling Tian. She was none other than Sikong Yue, Sikong Ye's daughter.

Based on his conversation with Sikong Ye, Duan Ling Tian could tell Sikong Ye loved his only daughter very much.

When Sikong Yue met Duan Ling Tian, she was no longer as arrogant as she was before. In fact, a hint of joy could be seen in her eyes as she said, "Duan Ling Tian, I didn't expect you to stay in my father's cultivation ground."

"Miss Sikong," Duan Ling Tian greeted Sikong Yue with a smile. Then, he said, "I came here because Ding Yan arranged for me to stay in a safe place. I really have to thank Revered Elder Sikong for allowing me to stay here."

"Ding Yan?" Sikong Yue was slightly stunned. Then, she shook her head and said, "Duan Ling Tian, the next time you need help, you don't have to speak to Ding Yan. You can ask me for help, and I can speak to my father on your behalf. My father appreciates prodigies like you. Elder Xue is one of the prodigies he admires as well. Before you came, he admired Elder Xue the most in the Flying Dragon Sect. After you appeared, you stole the limelight from Elder Xue."

"You flatter me. I don't dare to compare myself with Brother Hai Chuan for now," Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head. Then, he asked bluntly, "Miss Sikong, is there anything I can help you with? Since Revered Elder Sikong is kind enough to let me stay here, I'll help you to the best of my ability."

"Really?" An expression of joy appeared on Sikong Yue's face.

Before Sikong Yue could continue speaking, Duan Ling Tian said, "Except for matters regarding alchemy. After all, my alchemy skills are actually quite average. I'm only able to refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills so easily because I'm very sensitive to the vitality energy in the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. In fact, the divine alchemists in our sect are more skilled than I am. If Miss Sikong truly wants to study alchemy, I think the former sect leader is a good choice. With your father's good relationship with the sect leader, I'm sure the sect leader will be able to get the former sect leader to teach you."

Sikong Yue frowned immediately. "How did you know I was going to ask you to help me study alchemy? Did my father tell you about it?"

Duan Ling Tian remained silent.

Sikong Yue shook her head and said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, I've never studied alchemy before. I only need a teacher to help me with the basics; I don't need an expert. I think you're more than suitable for this."

A hint of cunning flashed in Sikong Yue's eyes. It was as though she felt like everything was under her control.

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. "I'm afraid that won't do. I've been very busy with my cultivation lately, and I'm at a critical juncture now to break through and become a Lord of Gods. I'm afraid you'll have to find another teacher."

Sikong Yue's expression soured immediately as she said, "Duan Ling Tian, if you want to refuse me, you can do it directly. There's no need to give me excuses. How long has it been since you became an advanced King of Gods? Even I, who became an advanced Lord of Gods before you did, am not anywhere close to becoming a Lord of Gods. However, you say you're at the critical juncture of breaking through and becoming a Lord of Gods? Do you think I'm a fool?"

After saying that, Sikong Yue turned around and left in a huff.

“Miss Sikong,” Duan Ling Tian called out.

Sikong Yue paused in her tracks, but she did not look back. A smile appeared on her face, replacing the angry expression on her face, because she thought Duan Ling Tian had changed his mind.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was oblivious to Sikong Yue’s contradictory and ever-changing moods.

“What is it?” Sikong Yue. Her voice was clearly much softer than before.

Duan Ling Tian shrugged and said, “It’s nothing important. I just want to say that there are a few women occupying my heart, and there’s no place for another person.”

Under normal circumstances, Duan Ling Tian would not be so blunt. However, after Sikong Ye expressed that Duan Ling Tian should not lead his daughter on, he decided to be upfront. By doing this, he would be able to sever Sikong Yue’s hopes.

Sikong Yue’s body trembled upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. After a while, she turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said icily, “Duan Ling Tian, I think you’re overthinking things. Did you think I asked you to be my teacher because I like you? You think too highly of yourself. I won’t fall in love with you even if you’re the last man alive.”

Without waiting for a reply, Sikong Yue flew away, feeling angry and embarrassed. The pain hidden in the depths of her eyes was not noticeable, and soon enough, they were replaced with determination. She had decisively ended her feelings for him before they could bloom.

After Sikong Yue left, a voice rang in the air.

“Thank you.”

It was none other than Sikong Ye. He did not appear as he continued to say, “I owe you a favor.”

After Sikong Ye left, Duan Ling Tian sighed. Then, he muttered to himself, “I should try to break through as soon as possible and become a Lord of Gods. After that, I can leave the protection of Revered Elder Sikong.”

After he rejected Sikong Yue, he felt slightly comfortable about staying in Sikong Ye’s cultivation ground and enjoying his protection.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Sikong Yue had entered the Imperial War Realm’s King Battlefield after she left. She wanted to vent her emotions by fighting on the battlefield.

After Duan Ling Tian obtained the last medicinal herbs promised by the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, he refined a pill before going into closed-door cultivation again.

...

Spring and autumn came and went as time flew by. In just a blink of an eye, two years had passed.

The battles in the Imperial War Realm had grown even more intense, and the death toll for the Kings of Gods and Lords of Gods was on the rise.

Without Duan Ling Tian and Ximen Long Xiang, the battles on the King Battlefield had become much fairer.

...

In a corner of the Flying Dragon Sect's estate.

"Duan Ling Tian has left Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground! He's now walking toward the entrance of the Imperial War Realm."

Kuang Tian Zheng, who had yet to enter the Imperial War Realm due to Xue Ming Zhi's order, finally received a message from Xue Ming Zhi. He hurriedly replied, "He's out? Is he alone?"

Kuang Tian Zheng was surprised and confused. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to come out when only two years had passed.

Chapter 3866: Intercept

Kuang Tian Zheng asked skeptically, "Vice Sect Leader Xue, could this be a trap?"

It was only natural that Kuang Tian Zheng was wary. Duan Ling Tian had always been cautious previously. Why would Duan Ling Tian suddenly leave Sikong Ye's cultivation ground alone as though he was asking to be attacked? It was too strange.

Xue Ming Zhi replied with a scoff, "I'm hidden outside Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground. After Duan Ling Tian left, no one came out. Moreover, I don't sense another person's Divine Consciousness on him as well. Apart from that, the Black Dragon Elder patrolling the area today is my junior brother. If you fail to kill him with one move, I can buy you some time before the others are alerted. Try to kill Duan Ling Tian in three breaths.

Xue Ming Zhi continued saying, "I know what you're worried about. Although I find it strange as well, I've confirmed that nothing is out of the ordinary. Perhaps, he was just too bored after being cooped up for so long so he plans to enter the Imperial War Realm. Even if he's prohibited from entering the King Battlefield, there are many things to do in Flying Dragon City and Peace City. Hurry up and act. He's going to leave the range of the area where my junior brother is patrolling soon. If you miss the opportunity and allow him to live, you'll die for sure!"

Xue Ming Zhi's voice turned frosty nearing the end of his sentence.

Kuang Tian Zheng's eyes narrowed slightly upon hearing Xue Ming Zhi's reply. Although he felt slightly relieved, he was also still worried. Indeed, he had been prepared to be executed by the sect, but if it was possible, he naturally wanted to live. He quickly sent a message to Xue Ming Zhi again, seeking confirmation.

"Vice Sect Leader Xue, you confirmed that he's alone and that you didn't sense another person's Divine Consciousness on him. Do you think he's so bold because he's become a Lord of Gods?"

Kuang Tian Zheng spoke very fast as though he did not want to waste time. At the same time, he was also making his way toward Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing Kuang Tian Zheng's words, Xue Ming Zhi sneered. "Lord of Gods? I'm sure you know when he broke through and became an advanced King of Gods. Do you really think he broke through again and became a Lord of Gods? That's impossible unless he has lord-grade Limit Divine Pills to help him. The medicinal herbs needed to refine lord-grade Divine Pills are extremely rare. Even the sect doesn't have most of the medicinal herbs."

Xue Ming Zhi was very dismissive of Kuang Tian Zheng's concern. He was very confident it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to become a Lord of Gods. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian did not go out at all during this period of time, meaning that it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to obtain any lord-grade Limit Divine Pills that could help improve his cultivation. As for refining lord-grade Limit Divine Pills, it was even more impossible. Put aside whether Duan Ling Tian could refine them or not, the Flying Dragon Sect's reserves did not have all the medicinal herbs needed to refine them. Perhaps, there was a chance that Duan Ling Tian could break through if he already had lord-grade Divine Pills and Divine Fruits in his possession. However, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would be so ridiculously lucky as to possess so many treasures. For all these reasons, he was convinced it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to become a Lord of Gods in such a short time. He wanted to act as soon as possible now that a golden opportunity had presented itself.

"Go intercept him near the Wondrous Proclamation Peak in Roving Dragon Mountain. I'll buy you some time. It's best if you can kill him with one strike. If you can't, you have to do it within three breaths," Xue Ming Zhi said sternly, "If you can't kill him within three breaths, you have to bring him away no matter what! Once you make a move, whether he dies or not, you'll die if you leave any traces behind. You should know this better than I do."

Xue Ming Zhi continued to say, "Although it's highly unlikely, you can only blame yourself for being unlucky if he has truly become a Lord of Gods. Don't worry. If you die, I'll take care of your people. After all, your second disciple, Zhong Can, is my son-in-law. After that, I'll bring a Lord of God to the sect and let him be an elder so he can find a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian and avenge you."

Kuang Tian Zheng felt even more reassured after listening to Xue Ming Zhi's words. Although there was still a risk, he felt the risk was rather small after listening to Xue Ming Zhi.

Although Kuang Tian Zheng was the one who brought up the possibility of Duan Ling Tian being a Lord of Gods now, he did not really think it was possible either.

It was already considered miraculous that Duan Ling Tian became an advanced King of Gods when he was not even 3,000 years old. If Duan Ling Tian truly became a Lord of Gods at this time, he would be the first person to become a Lord of Gods before reaching the age of 3,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

Nonetheless, Kuang Tian Zheng was still very cautious. He asked Xue Ming Zhi, "Vice Sect Leader Xue, is there a way for you to check his cultivation base?"

"I'll alert him if I check his cultivation base now. He's an advanced King of Gods, after all, and I'm just a Lord of Gods. He'll definitely sense my Divine Consciousness if I probe him. I'm sure you don't want to risk alerting him and ruining this golden opportunity, right? The chances of him breaking through and becoming a Lord of Gods are very low. This is a risk worth taking; we have to act now!"

With this, Kuang Tian Zheng knew he had no other choice but to act now.

...

The Flying Dragon Sect was home to nine mountain ranges, and the Roving Dragon Mountains were one of them. The Wondrous Proclamation Peak was one of the mountains in the Roving Dragon Mountains. It was not the tallest nor the lowest; it was rather inconspicuous, and there were not many people around it.

At this time, the purple-clad Duan Ling Tian could be seen flying over the Wondrous Proclamation Peak toward the entrance of the Imperial War Realm in the Flying Dragon Sect's estate. Suddenly, his expression changed.

Boom!

Accompanied by a thunderous explosion, a violent energy with the might of the thunder swept up from the Wondrous Proclamation Peak and swept over Duan Ling Tian.

At the same time, Kuang Tian Zheng, who was hidden on Wondrous Proclamation Peak, sighed in relief upon seeing this. In fact, there was no need for him to hide. Based on his attacks, most of the members of the Flying Dragon Sect could identify him. Fortunately, Kuang Tian Zheng's junior brother was patrolling this area today. All he had to do now was make sure that Duan Ling Tian was dead.

Swoosh!

Kuang Tian Zheng flew up after his attack subsided to confirm Duan Ling Tian's death. Alas, his expression changed drastically when he realized that his attack seemed to have landed on Duan Ling Tian's clone.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian appeared in the air nearby. He crossed his arms and looked at Kuang Tian Zheng with an expression of ridicule on his face as he said, "Elder Kuang, you really don't know when to give up, do you? You failed to kill me when I was in the Linghu clan, and today, you failed again in the Flying Dragon Sect. It seems like you have no regard for the sect's rule that prohibits members from killing each other."

Kuang Tian Zheng did not have time to listen to Duan Ling Tian. As soon as he discovered Duan Ling Tian was alive, he attacked again. After all, Xue Ming Zhi's words were deeply ingrained in his mind. He had three breaths to kill Duan Ling Tian. As he attacked, he said, "Duan Ling Tian, I really didn't expect you to become a Lord of Gods! Alas, you're still going to die today!"

At this time, Kuang Tian Zheng reassured himself that even though Duan Ling Tian was now a rudimentary Lord of Gods, Duan Ling Tian must have yet to stabilize his cultivation.

"I'm afraid you'll be disappointed," Duan Ling Tian said.

Following that, a spatial storm appeared as a sword ray flew out, blocking Kuang Tian Zheng's attack. Then, Duan Ling Tian teleported away.

At this time, two breaths had passed.

'I only have one breath left!'

At this time, Kuang Tian Zheng could already sense several powerful auras flying toward this place from different directions.

Although Xue Ming Zhi's junior brother, who was a Black Dragon Elder, could help him stall for time, it was impossible for Xue Ming Zhi to control the other White Dragon Elders on patrol. Moreover, the more people who were involved in the matter, the higher the likelihood of him being found out. Apart from that, it was still understandable if the Black Dragon Elder arrived late, but if all of the elders on patrol arrived late, it would be too suspicious.

"Duan Ling Tian, die!" Kuang Tian Zheng cried out. The auras that were approaching pressured him greatly, and he was determined to kill Duan Ling Tian. All of sudden, blood began to flow out of his seven orifices. Then, in a twist, the blood seemed to turn into a cloud of energy before it surged back into his body. Following that, a terrifying and bloodthirsty aura surged from his body immediately.

Chapter 3867: Is It Worth It?

Bloodline powers were unique to natives of the Realms of Gods, and Kuang Tian Zheng naturally had one as well.

Kuang Tian Zheng's bloodline power was rather unique. Unlike most people, there were two uses for his bloodline powers. Not only could his bloodline power passively boost his strength, but he could damage half of his Heavenly Veins in exchange for explosive strength. Naturally, this power came with a condition. He could only strike once before his strength would be weakened by half. Apart from that, he would also be seriously injured. For this reason, the second use was only used in moments of utter desperation.

Kuang Tian Zheng had lived for tens of thousands of years, he had only used that specific power twice. Needless to say, he was fighting for his life both times he had used it. Fortunately, he was lucky to kill his opponents after using the power. In both instances, it took him many years to repair his damaged Heavenly Veins.

'I have no choice. I can only do this now to kill him!'

'There is no other way. I can only do my best to kill him!' Kuang Tian Zheng thought to himself. As soon as he saw Duan Ling Tian had survived his first attack, he knew Duan Ling Tian was already a rudimentary Lord of Gods. He could also sense the change in Duan Ling Tian's Divine Energy. Following that, he discovered that not only did Duan Ling Tian become a rudimentary Lord of Gods, but Duan Ling Tian had also stabilized his cultivation base. This time, he and Xue Ming Zhi had lost their gamble.

Kuang Tian Zheng had one breath left to act. He knew this was his last chance. If he failed, even if Duan Ling Tian could not deal with him, he would still be captured by the White Dragon Elders who were on their way here. For this reason, he did not hesitate to damage half of his Heavenly Veins and use the second trait of his bloodline power. The explosive power he gained could only be channeled into one attack.

“Duan Ling Tian, you must die!” Kuang Tian Zheng, who was shrouded in blood energy, cried out. A dazzling saber, a prominent divine artifact, appeared in his hand. It seemed like it could tear the space apart.

Following that, countless saber rays shot out and merged into a huge saber that seemed to cover the sky. Then, it fell toward Duan Ling Tian so swiftly that Duan Ling Tian had no time to teleport away.

At this time...

“Stop!”

“Kuang Tian Zheng, do you want to die?!”

As soon as Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack fell, several voices rang in the air. They naturally belonged to the White Dragon Elders who had just arrived. At this moment, not only were they furious, but they were anxious as well. If someone was killed in the area they were patrolling, not only would the murderer be punished, but they would also have to bear some responsibility. This was especially true during the Imperial War where every member contributed to the overall strength of the sect. Apart from that, since the Imperial War was going on, it was likely that they would be punished to stay on the Lord Battlefield until they could kill someone of equal strength and status from the Tai Yi Sect. Naturally, no one wanted to stay on the Lord Battlefield longer than necessary since it was extremely dangerous there.

Meanwhile, when Duan Ling Tian saw Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack, he said with a hint of praise, “I’ve never seen such bloodline power before.”

Following that, another figure burst out of Duan Ling Tian’s body and flew up into the sky.

At the same time, a spatial storm began to rage as Duan Ling Tian brought his prominent divine artifact out. Layers of barriers appeared around him as he donned his defensive artifact to strengthen his defenses.

Boom!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air as Duan Ling Tian’s doppelganger from the law of space blocked part of Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack.

Boom!

Another explosion rang in the air as Kuang Tian Zheng’s landed on Duan Ling Tian’s defensive artifact, which was the armor he was wearing. Cracks appeared quickly before the armor shattered.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Duan Ling Tian struggled to withstand Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack. Fortunately, when he could no longer hold the attack back, and it landed on his body, the attack was already greatly weakened. Even then, he was sent flying back and even spat out a mouthful of blood. When he finally managed to stabilize his footing, he felt dizzy, and his body felt as though it was falling apart.

‘I was careless,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with a sigh. He did not expect that Kuang Tian Zheng would explode with such power after using his bloodline power. The strength of Kuang Tian Zheng’s final

attack from his bloodline power was not something other inner elders of the Flying Dragon Sect were capable of unleashing.

“Impossible!”

At the same time, Kuang Tian Zheng turned pale immediately when he saw that Duan Ling Tian was still alive. He kept throwing up blood due to his damaged Heavenly Veins; he was clearly severely injured. He no longer had the strength to due with Duan Ling Tian at this time. Even if he still had the strength, he still could not do anything since the patrolling elders had arrived.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The figures appeared, surrounding Kuang Tian Zheng. All of them carried White Dragon Elder tokens at their waists. They looked at the severely-injured Kuang Tian Zheng before they turned to look at Duan Ling Tian, who was also injured. They were shocked when they saw Duan Ling Tian.

Earlier, they had only seen Kuang Tian Zheng attacking, but they did not see the target of Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack.

When the White Dragon Elders determined that the purple-clad young man in front of them was Duan Ling Tian, they were even more bewildered.

They knew that Duan Ling Tian was the strongest King of Gods in the Flying Dragon Sect. However, even so, it should have been impossible for Duan Ling Tian to survive Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack. Even rudimentary Lords of Gods in the Flying Dragon Sect would have a hard time trying to withstand Kuang Tian Zheng’s attack, let alone an advanced King of Gods like Duan Ling Tian. How could Duan Ling Tian survive the attack when even the most extraordinary rudimentary Lord of God could do so? Although Duan Ling Tian was injured, there was no doubt that he had survived!

Whoosh!

A gust of wind heralded the arrival of a white-haired old man dressed in a sky-blue robe.

As soon as the three White Dragon Elders saw the old man, they bowed and greeted him, “Greetings, Elder Huang.”

The identity token hanging at the old man’s waist indicated that he was a Black Dragon Elder. He was also the leader of the group of White Dragon Elders who were in charge of patrolling this Roving Dragon Mountain and the areas nearby.

The old man glanced at Kuang Tian Zheng and Duan Ling Tian indifferently before he said to his subordinates, “Bring both of them to the Law Enforcement Hall.”

“Understood.”

Then, two of the White Dragon Elders moved toward Kuang Tian Zheng while the remaining one moved toward Duan Ling Tian.

The White Dragon Elder, who was next to Duan Ling Tian, said politely, "Duan Ling Tian, I was there when you refined the king-grade Limit Divine Pill."

This White Dragon Elder was also a divine alchemist. No one noticed his presence when he watched Duan Ling Tian refine the king-grade Limit Divine Pill since he was overshadowed by the presence of two Black Dragon Elders.

After taking a healing divine pill, Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile, "Elder, how should I address you?"

Then, Duan Ling Tian looked at the Black Dragon Elder, who was leaving, as various thoughts appeared in his mind.

'It's not strange if the White Dragon Elders arrived late, but isn't it strange that the Black Dragon Elder arrived after the White Dragon Elders?'

Duan Ling Tian did not think this was a coincidence at all. He was convinced Kuang Tian Zheng had something to do with this as well. To be precise, it had to be the work of the person behind Kuang Tian Zheng. Since the other party was able to get Kuang Tian Zheng and a Black Dragon Elder to do his bidding, the culprit could only be Xue Ming Zhi.

Alas, even if Duan Ling Tian was certain of Xue Ming Zhi's involvement, there was nothing he could do since he lacked evidence. Xue Ming Zhi might even turn the table against him and accused him of slander.

'I'm afraid I'll only be able to deal with Kuang Tian Zheng this time,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He knew it would be unrealistic to deal with Kuang Tian Zheng and Xue Ming Zhi at once. Moreover, unlike Kuang Tian Zheng who was just an inner elder, Xue Ming Zhi was the Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

The position of a Vice Sect Leader in the Flying Dragon Sect was only below the Sect Leader and the Golden Dragon Elders of the Flying Dragon Sect.

At this time, the White Dragon Elder smiled and replied, "My name is Yue Luo." Then, he asked curiously, "Duan Ling Tian, how did you offend Kuang Tian Zheng? He even risked his life to kill you! Now that he's been caught, whether you survive or not, he'll definitely die."

Duan Ling Tian replied, "He suspects that I killed his disciple long before I joined the Flying Dragon Sect. I know he hates me, but I didn't expect him to risk life and try to kill me in the sect as well."

While they were making their way to the Law Enforcement Hall, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Kuang Tian Zheng and asked with a smile, "Elder Kuang, is it worth throwing your life away for a dead person?"

Chapter 3868: Law Enforcement Hall

As soon as Kuang Tian Zheng saw his third attack failed to kill Duan Ling Tian, he knew it was over. He knew he was going to lose his life. Although he felt unwilling and resentful, there was nothing he could do,

"Is it worth it?"

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Kuang Tian Zheng's expression changed drastically. In fact, at this time, he was no longer sure if he was determined to kill Duan Ling Tian because he wanted to avenge his disciple or if it was because he was worried Duan Ling Tian would kill him once Duan Ling Tian was strong enough. In recent times, he had begun to regret trying to kill Duan Ling Tian in the Linghu clan's estate. After all, it was due to the incident that he had become enemies with Duan Ling Tian. Hence, he thought the latter was more likely to be the reason.

Upon seeing Kuang Tian Zheng remaining silent with a sour expression on his face, Duan Ling Tian wore a mocking expression on his face as he said through Voice Transmission, "Elder Kuang, let me tell you the truth. I was truly the one who killed your disciple, Chu Han."

Kuang Tian Zheng's expression did not change much upon hearing the confession. At this time, his heart was like a pool of still water. After all, although he had no evidence, he had always been certain that Duan Ling Tian was the one who killed Chu Han. Hence, he was not angry or surprised.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say through Voice Transmission, "I bet you don't know how he offended me, right?"

Upon hearing this, there was finally a slight change in Kuang Tian Zheng's expression.

Duan Ling Tian said, "In fact, I don't have any grudge against him. It's just that both of us ran into a fortuitous encounter at the same time, and only one person would be able to benefit from the encounter. We both tried to kill each other. He can only blame himself for being weaker than me."

Duan Ling Tian ignored the surging emotions in Kuang Tian Zheng's eyes and said, "It's all thanks to that fortuitous encounter that I was able to become an advanced King of Gods so quickly. With that, I was also able to become a Lord of Gods now. Otherwise, it'd be impossible for me to become a Lord of Gods even if I were given ten years and had the help of the Lord Breakthrough Divine Pill. Elder Kuang, I really have to thank Chu Han. If it weren't because of him being so weak, I wouldn't be a Lord of Gods today, and I would've died earlier when you attacked."

Duan Ling Tian's words had successfully infuriated Kuang Tian Zheng. "Duan Ling Tian, although I failed to kill you today, you don't have much longer to live. At that time, you can accompany me and Chu Han!"

"I'm afraid you'll be disappointed," Duan Ling Tian said dismissively.

Kuang Tian Zheng stopped speaking. Regardless of his anger, he knew he could do nothing to Duan Ling Tian now. Instead, he sent a message to Xue Ming Zhi.

...

"He ran into a fortuitous encounter with Chu Han, and it's because of the encounter that he became a Lord of Gods so quickly?"

When Xue Ming Zhi found out that Duan Ling Tian had already become a Lord of Gods, he knew that Kuang Tian Zheng would fail. However, he did not blame Kuang Tian Zheng for his failure when he learned that Kuang Tian Zheng had used the second trait from his bloodline power. He knew that Kuang Tian Zheng had tried his best. After all, very few rudimentary Lords of Gods could withstand that attack. How could they know that Duan Ling Tian would be able to do so?

Based on this, it could be seen that Duan Ling Tian was stronger than ordinary rudimentary Lords of Gods. His strength was not far from that of an intermediate Lord of Gods.

'I thought he was able to refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills. Fortunately, that's not the case,' Xue Ming Zhi thought to himself and sighed in relief after he received Kuang Tian Zheng's message.

He had been worried that Duan Ling Tian was capable of refining lord-grade Limit Divine Pills. Once news of it spread, the top emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion would double their efforts to recruit Duan Ling Tian. Even powerful forces outside of the Eastern Ridge Mansion might recruit him. At that time, with just a word, Duan Ling Tian could easily kill him even if he was the Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

...

If Duan Ling Tian was aware of Xue Ming Zhi's thoughts, he would have scoffed. Although being able to refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills would make him famous, it would also bring great disasters.

He was just a Lord of Gods now. If it was known that he possessed such heaven-defying skills in alchemy, he would not be able to protect himself. After all, there would definitely be powerhouses who would try to enslave or imprison him so he could refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills for them.

There were many divine alchemists in the Realms of Gods who were imprisoned because of their skills. Many of them were highly skilled in alchemy, but their cultivation bases were not high.

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian intentionally told Kuang Tian Zheng about how he was only able to become a Lord of Gods so quickly because of the fortuitous encounter he had run into. Otherwise, when news of his breakthrough spread, some people would definitely suspect that he was able to refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills to raise his cultivation base.

...

Kuang Tian continued to send another message to Xue Ming Zhi.

"Vice Sect Leader Xue, I'll die soon after arriving at the Lord Enforcement Hall. There are a few things I want to say."

"Speak." Xue Ming Zhi was very patient. The words of a man on the brink of death often came from the heart, after all. He wanted to hear Kuang Tian Zheng's final words.

"Duan Ling Tian is young, but his way of doing things is very mature and meticulous. Even someone who's 10,000 years old might not be as mature as him. Previously, after I tried to lure him out using Ding Yan, he sent his doppelganger out instead. After the clone was destroyed, he went to stay with Xue Hai Chuan immediately. At that time, I already knew he has a very keen sense of danger, and I suspect everything was within his calculations. When you lured Xue Hai Chuan to the Imperial War Realm, he already had a solution. By staying at Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground, there was nothing we could do to him. This time, he came out alone, and he was not surprised at all when I tried to kill him. Like I said, he had calculated everything. Perhaps, he had deliberately come out so I would take action."

Kuang Tian Zheng's tone darkened as he continued to say, "I heard he's from a Devata Realm. Based on his actions, I don't think he came from an extraordinary background when he was in the Devata Realm. It seemed to me that he had struggled all the way to the top. In any case, I only said these things because I want to remind you that it's best not to make a move again unless you're absolutely certain you'll succeed. Otherwise, it's likely that you'll suffer a loss. I'm a living example of that."

Xue Ming Zhi fell silent for a long time after listening to Kuang Tian Zheng's words. As one of the Vice Sect Leaders of the Flying Dragon Sect, even if he was not smarter than Kuang Tian Zheng, he was at least as smart as Kuang Tian Zheng. He naturally understood the things Kuang Tian Zheng said. It was just that Kuang Tian Zheng had further confirmed his thoughts. He even briefly toyed with the idea of extending an olive branch to Duan Ling Tian before he dismissed the idea. At this point, there was no way for him to turn back.

Although only Kuang Tian Zheng had shown up, with Duan Ling Tian's intelligence, Xue Ming Zhi knew it would not be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to guess that he was pulling the strings behind the scenes. After all, the Black Dragon Elder patrolling the area did not show up for a long time even after all the White Dragon Elders arrived.

'He's so strong even though he's just become a rudimentary Lord of Gods. Given a little more time, I likely won't be a match for him anymore. Although I agree with Kuang Tian Zheng in regard to not acting rashly, I don't have much time. I have no choice but to get rid of Duan Ling Tian as soon as I can.'

Following that, Kuang Tian Zheng quickly sent a message. The recipient of the message was not from the Flying Dragon Sect; it was a friend whom he had met when he was wandering outside the sect.

'I need two intermediate Lords of Gods to help me with a task. No matter how high the price, I'm willing to pay.'

...

At the Law Enforcement Hall.

After Duan Ling Tian and Kuang Tian Zheng were brought to the hall, the people in the Law Enforcement Hall began to look up the recordings from the Mirror Image Formation in Roving Dragon Mountain. Then, a report was sent to the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, also Black Dragon Elder, who was away at the moment.

The Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall was one of the Golden Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect. He was currently on duty in the Imperial War Realm's Flying Dragon City.

Upon learning about the assassination attempt, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement sent a message to Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, immediately.

Chapter 3869: Underworld Elders

Normally, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, also a Black Dragon Elder, had the right to make the decisions, especially when the parties involved were just inner elders. However, it was different this time since Duan Ling Tian was one of the parties involved.

Everyone in the Flying Dragon Sect knew that Duan Ling Tian was the strongest King of Gods in the sect. He was a prodigy valued by the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

For this reason, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement informed the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect immediately after he found out about the matter.

“Kuang Tian Zheng, an inner elder, tried to assassinate Duan Ling Tian?” Long Qing Chong’s expression darkened as soon as he heard about what happened.

Long Qing Chong had specially rewarded Duan Ling Tian for his contributions on the King Battlefield in the Imperial War Realm. There was no doubt that Duan Ling Tian had brought honor and glory to the Flying Dragon Sect. He did not expect that someone would dare to try and kill Duan Ling Tian in the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate.

“Sect leader, I’ll proceed to execute Kuang Tian Zheng according to the rules of the Law Enforcement Hall.”

Long Qing Chong scoffed. “After you execute Kuang Tian Zheng, execute his relatives and disciples, except for Zhong Can, who are in the sect as well.”

The Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall naturally knew that Long Qing Chong had spared Zhong Can because Zhong Can’s father-in-law was Xue Ming Zhi, a Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. After a moment, I asked, “What reasons should I give for executing Kuang Tian Zheng’s relatives and disciples in the sect?”

“Do you still need me to teach you how to do things?” Long Qing Chong asked irritably.

“I understand,” the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall hurriedly replied.

...

When the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian and Kuang Tian Zheng, he looked at Kuang Tian Zheng coldly before he raised his voice and said, “Kuang Tian Zheng disregarded the sect’s rules and tried to kill Duan Ling Tian. I hereby sentence him to death.”

Although Kuang Tian Zheng was already prepared for this outcome, his expression still changed upon hearing his sentence.

The Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall continued to say, “All of Kuang Tian Zheng’s disciples, with the exception of Zhong Can; his second disciple, are also sentenced to death for aiding and abetting. Enforcement Team 1, arrest them immediately.”

Following that, a group of cultivators left the hall.

Kuang Tian Zheng’s expression changed drastically upon hearing the second sentence. He said anxiously, “Vice Hall Master Qin, this has nothing to do with them. I acted on my own! I...”

Before Kuang Tian Zheng finished speaking, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement interjected expressionlessly, “Kuang Tian Zheng’s blood relatives are also charged with aiding and abetting. They’re also sentenced to death.”

Kuang Tian Zheng was on the brink of collapse at this moment. "Vice Hall Master Qin..."

The Vice Hall Master said, "Enforcement Team 2, arrest those people."

"Understood!"

Another group of people left the hall.

"No!" Kuang Tian Zheng cried out with an expression of resentment and unwillingness. He fell to his knees and said, "Vice Hall Master Qin, they don't know anything about this. They had no idea I was going to try and kill Duan Ling Tian!"

However, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall only waved his hand, releasing a surge of energy directed at Kuang Tian Zheng.

Bang!

Just like that, Kuang Tian Zheng died. His mournful cries were abruptly cut off.

It was as silent as a graveyard in the Law Enforcement Hall.

Everyone in the Enforcement Hall, including the elders, disciples, and three White Dragon Elders, was dumbfounded by the outcome. Not only was Kuang Tian Zheng executed, but his relatives and his disciples, except for Zhong Can, were going to be executed as well. They did not expect the sect would go to such an extent for Duan Ling Tian's sake.

When they looked at Duan Ling Tian again, a hint of fear could be seen in their eyes.

Naturally, these people did not believe that all of Kuang Tian Zheng's disciples and relatives had helped him. However, since the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall had said so, it would be accepted as the truth.

They also knew this outcome was decided by either the Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall or the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. Based on this alone, one could see how much importance the sect placed on Duan Ling Tian; even Green Dragon Disciples could not compare to him.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian, as one of the parties involved, was also stunned by the outcome. He had assumed only Kuang Tian Zheng would be executed; he did not expect all of Kuang Tian Zheng's relatives and disciples, except for Zhong Can, would be executed as well. Needless to say, he also knew why Zhong Can alone was spared. Zhong Can was the son-in-law of Xue Ming Zhi, a Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, after all.

'Why did the Law Enforcement Hall do this? I don't know the vice hall master... Does he have a good relationship with Brother Hai Chuan or Brother Yan Nian? However, that's unlikely...' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly.

At this moment, the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, who was an old man with ruddy cheeks dressed in a gray robe, looked at Duan Ling Tian kindly and asked, "Duan Ling Tian, are you satisfied with the way the sect handled this matter?"

Duan Ling Tian returned to his senses and hurriedly nodded. "Yes, Vice Hall Master. Thank you for seeking justice on my behalf!"

Since a long time ago, when he was still in the mundane realm, he knew it was important to cut off all sources of trouble. He did not expect that this time, the Flying Dragon Sect would do it for him.

"This is what the sect leader ordered," the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall said. He did not dare to claim the credit. Then, he continued saying through Voice Transmission, "The sect leader values you very much. When he found out about Kuang Tian Zheng, he personally ordered for the execution of Kuang Tian Zheng and the others."

"The sect leader?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised. However, after thinking about it, he thought he should have thought about this possibility sooner. After all, even if the other party was the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, the other party was not qualified to make such a call.

After all, Kuang Tian Zheng was not just a simple inner elder of the Flying Dragon Sect. He belonged to the 10,000 Devils faction and had the support of two White Dragon Elders. Most importantly, he had the support of Xue Ming Zhi as well.

Finally, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Vice hall master, I'd like to thank the sect leader in person. Is it convenient for me to meet him now?"

"I'll ask the sect leader," the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall said before sending a message to Long Qing Chong. After receiving a reply, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, the sect leader said that he'll see you after you enter the Imperial War Realm's Lord Battlefield and kill an Underworld Elder of the Tai Yi Sect. At that time, he'll give you a huge gift."

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly. "The sect leader truly has high expectations for me."

During Duan Ling Tian's time on the King Battlefield, he had learned that, similar to the Flying Dragon Sect, there were different kinds of elders in the Tai Yi Sect as well.

Similar to the Flying Dragon Sects, there were also inner and outer elders in the Tai Yi Sect. Supreme Elders of the Tai Yi Sect were like Golden Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect. Then, in between the inner elders and the supreme elders were Profound Heaven Elders and the Underworld Elders.

The Profound Heaven Elders were like the Black Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect while the Underworld Elders were like the White Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect.

In other words, Long Qing Chong wanted Duan Ling Tian to kill someone whose strength was that of a White Dragon Elder.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Vice hall master, it's been six or seven years since the Imperial War started. Up until now, how many Underworld Elders had fallen?"

The Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall sighed. "Only one. Just a month ago, he was killed by Elder Xue Hai Chuan. On the other hand, our sect has lost two White Dragon Elders. News of this has yet to spread."

Duan Ling Tian nodded upon hearing those words. As expected, it was not easy to kill the Underworld Elders of the Tai Yi Sect.

Since advanced Lords of Gods could not enter the Lord Battlefield, this meant that intermediate Lords of Gods were the strongest on the battlefield.

“From the reports we received, those two White Dragon Elders only died because they were careless and fell into the trap of several Underworld Elders. Duan Ling Tian, since the sect leader has spoken those words, it shows that he thinks highly of you!”

Although the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall thought Long Qing Chong’s request was a little unrealistic as well, he did not want to demotivate Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, feeling speechless, ‘Does the sect leader think the Lord Battlefield is like the King Battlefield?’

Duan Ling Tian was able to dominate the King Battlefield previously because of his superior comprehension of the law of space and other factors. Moreover, he, as an advanced King of Gods, was the strongest on the King Battlefield. However, the Lord Battlefield was very different. He was just a rudimentary Lord of Gods while the strongest there were intermediate Lords of Gods. Furthermore, those Lords of Gods also had a profound comprehension of the laws. Currently, he did not think he was even able to defeat an ordinary intermediate Lord of Gods. He might be able to fight to a draw or defeat them only if he did not hold back at all. Naturally, it was impossible for him to not hold back. Exposing his true strength would only bring him trouble, after all.

Chapter 3870: Thank You, Father-In-Law

‘Regardless, my path to becoming a Lord of Gods is much easier compared to others.’

After becoming a Lord of Gods, the cultivation journey would become 100 times harder. Duan Ling Tian only spent a short time as King of Gods before he became a Lord of Gods. He knew he was really lucky. Going forward, it would be considered amazing if he took less than 100 years to become an Emperor of Gods. Fortunately, he had obtained various treasures in the Divine Sanctuary left behind by Emperor of Gods Qin Wu that would help with his cultivation after becoming a Lord of Gods.

Duan Ling Tian sincerely wanted to thank Long Qing Chong for helping him with Kuang Tian Zheng’s matter, but since Long Qing Chong had refused to see him, he did not insist as well. At this time, he was very intrigued by the reward that Long Qing Chong mentioned if he was able to kill an Underworld Elder of the Tai Yi Sect. He had no doubt the reward would be extraordinary.

Duan Ling Tian sighed. ‘However, based on my current strength, it’d be difficult for me to kill an Underworld Elder. In any case, I still have to enter the Lord Battlefield. It shouldn’t be difficult for me to kill ordinary rudimentary Lords of Gods. I’ll try to accumulate more war points so I can exchange them for the things I need. Hopefully, I’ll be able to accumulate enough war points to exchange for all the things I need.’

After bidding farewell to the Vice Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, as Duan Ling Tian walked out of the hall and made his way to the Imperial War Realm, the three White Dragon Elders and the others in the hall looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of respect in their eyes. With today’s event, there was no doubt that everyone in the Flying Dragon Sect would no longer treat Duan Ling Tian as an ordinary inner disciple. After all, the punishment meted out by the Law Enforcement Hall today showed how special

Duan Ling Tian was. This kind of punishment would not be possible if it were another inner disciple who was involved.

...

After Duan Ling Tian entered the Imperial War Realm for the second time, news of Kuang Tian Zheng attempting to kill Duan Ling Tian spread throughout the Flying Dragon Sect like a wildfire.

“Elder Kuang Tian Zheng tried to kill Duan Ling Tian?”

“What kind of enmity did they have between them that forced Kuang Tian Zheng to try to kill Duan Ling Tian in the sect’s estate?”

“Rumor has it that Duan Ling Tian was responsible for Chu Han’s death. Chu Han is Elder Kuang’s youngest direct disciple. I heard about this from my friend who’s in the 10,000 Devils faction.”

Everyone was shocked by the news. They were further shocked when they found that Duan Ling Tian survived the assassination attempt.

“Elder Kuang was one of the strongest inner elders! How could he fail to kill a King of Gods?”

“Although Duan Ling Tian is the strongest King of Gods, Elder Kuang, a Lord of Gods, should have been able to kill Duan Ling Tian with just a strike, right?”

“I wonder if Elder Kuang made a mistake because he was too rash?”

It did not take long before another two pieces of news that were even more shocking spread.

“Duan Ling Tian is now a Lord of Gods?!”

“Kuang Tian Zheng used his bloodline power that could kill most rudimentary Lords of Gods, and yet, he still failed to kill Duan Ling Tian!”

“The Law Enforcement Hall executed Kuang Tian Zheng immediately?!”

“That’s not too surprising! What’s shocking is that all of Kuang Tian Zheng’s blood relatives and disciples, except for Zhong Chan, have been sentenced to death!”

Perhaps, out of the various news they received, they were most shocked when they found all of Kuang Tian Zheng’s relatives and disciples, except for Zhong Can, were implicated and also sentenced to death.

“I heard that Kuang Tian Zheng’s relatives and disciples will be executed tomorrow...”

“Zhong Can wouldn’t have been able to avoid this disaster if he weren’t Vice Sect Leader Xue’s son-in-law!”

“Heavens! The sect is determined to get rid of those who’re connected to Kuang Tian Zheng!”

“The Law Enforcement Hall is very fair, and they don’t punish indiscriminately. Perhaps, all those people also helped Kuang Tian Zheng to plot Duan Ling Tian’s death.”

Most people thought the Law Enforcement Hall’s punishment was fair. Except for those in the know, most people were unaware that the punishment was so severe due to Duan Ling Tian’s special status.

Such a serious punishment could only be ordered by the Hall Master of the Law Enforcement Hall, who was also a Golden Dragon Elder, or the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

...

In a remote valley in the Flying Dragon Sect's estate.

A terrified young man kneeled in front of a middle-aged man.

A young and beautiful woman stood next to the kneeling young man and looked at the middle-aged man as she said, throwing a tantrum, "Father, please help Zhong Can save his seniors, juniors, and his master's relatives!"

The kneeling young man was none other than Zhong Can, and the beautiful young woman was his wife, who was also Xue Ming Zhi's daughter. Needless to say, the middle-aged man was none other than Xue Ming Zhi, one of the Vice Sect Leaders of the Flying Dragon Sect.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Xue Ming Zhi tapped his fingers on the stone table he was sitting in front of. A hint of helplessness could be seen in his eyes, and his expression was grim. Silence descended suddenly when he suddenly stopped tapping his fingers. Finally, he looked at Zhong Can, who was kneeling in front of him, and said in a low voice, "Before your master made his move, I promised him to look after his relatives and disciples if he died."

Zhong Can's eyes lit up immediately upon hearing these words. However, they dimmed again when he heard Xue Ming Zhi's next words.

"However, there's nothing I can do to save them now."

Zhong Can's expression changed drastically, and his wife frowned slightly.

"I really can't save them. I've investigated the matter. The order came from the sect leader. With this, you should understand why there's nothing I can do," Xue Ming Zhi said.

An expression of disbelief appeared on Zhong Can's face as he asked, "It's the sect leader's order? How's this possible?"

Xue Ming Zhi shook his head. "I couldn't believe it as well when I first heard about it. However, I've investigated it, and it's true. The sect leader highly values Duan Ling Tian due to Duan Ling Tian's talent in cultivation and alchemy. Even if a prodigy like Duan Ling Tian leaves the Flying Dragon Sect in the future, the sect will still benefit greatly from him. It's not surprising that the sect leader wants to maintain a good relationship with him." Then, he looked at Zhong Can meaningfully before he continued to say, "If you weren't my son-in-law, you wouldn't have been spared. Do you understand?"

After a brief moment of silence, Zhong Can nodded and said, "I understand." Then, killing intent surged in his eyes as he rose to his feet and asked, "Father-in-law, what's your plan next?"

Zhong Can naturally knew his father-in-law would not let the matter go so easily unless he reconciled with Duan Ling Tian. However, at this point, reconciliation was absolutely impossible.

However, Zhong Can's wife did not seem to know her father as well as her husband did. She said, "Father, you can't let him off! Elder Kuang was like a father to Zhong Can! You have to avenge him!"

Xue Ming Zhi looked at his daughter and sighed. "You shouldn't get involved in this matter."

The woman pursed her lips and did not say anything.

Xue Ming Zhi turned to Zhong Can and said, "I have my plan. There's nothing you can do to help so I won't explain it to you. Go home and wait for my news. Perhaps, you'll receive news of Duan Ling Tian's death after you emerge from closed-door cultivation."

Zhong Can and his wife's expressions brightened upon hearing Xue Ming Zhi's words.

Zhong Can fell to his knees and kowtowed as he said, "Thank you, father-in-law!"

Zhong Can's wife smiled brightly as she said, "Thank you, father!"

"Alright, leave," Xue Ming Zhi said, dismissing the duo.

Following that, Zhong Can brought his wife away from Xue Ming Zhi's cultivation ground.