#### SOVEREIGN 3901

#### Chapter 3901: Zhuang Tian Heng

Why did Mi Xuan forbid Wu Hong Qing from interfering with the Solitary Destructive Heaven's affairs? Why did he lie to Wu Hong Qing about making a pact with Feng Qing Yang?

Mi Xuan was worried Wu Hong Qing would learn the truth after visiting the Solitary Destructive Heaven. At that time, Wu Hong Qing would definitely like a coward after finding out how strong Duan Ling Tian had become.

Mi Xuan and Wu Hong Qing's relationship was a mutually beneficial one. There was no friendship between them at all.

Mi Xuan was naturally dissatisfied that he alone expended so much effort dealing with Feng Qing Yang while Wu Hong Qing hid and enjoyed the fruits of his labor. Perhaps, he would have turned a blind to it if everything went well, but it did not, making him feel unhappy. Hence, he vented his frustration on Wu Hong Qing in such a manner. He knew Wu Hong Qing would return to the main Title Temple after listening to him and that Duan Ling Tian would definitely look for Wu Hong Qing in the main Title Temple.

In fact, Mi Xuan did not come to this decision on his own. Feng Qing Yang had fanned the fire previously.

At that time, Feng Qing Yang had said to him, "Mi Xuan, Wu Hong Qing was the one who told you about my return, right? You expended so much effort in the Solitary Destructive Heaven while Wu Hong Qing hid in the dark. You even suffered such a huge loss. Are you okay with doing all the work while he reaps the benefits? Why don't you lie to him and make sure he returns to the main Title Temple? Previously, I told Duan Ling Tian to look for him there. I'm sure you're not friends with Wu Hong Qing. Don't you feel frustrated? You suffered so much because of my disciple, don't you want to vent your frustration on Wu Hong Qing. He's just an ant. I can crush him with just one finger. Even if he dies, it won't affect you..."

Mi Xuan had already had such thoughts. Feng Qing Yang's words only served to motivate him further. Hence, he quickly came up with a lie to deceive Wu Hong Qing.

At that time, when Feng Qing Yang saw how smoothly Mi Xuan had lied, he thought that Mi Xuan was far more insidious and vicious than he had imagined. He did not think he would be able to lie as well as Mi Xuan did.

At this moment, Mi Xuan smiled as though to himself, 'Wu Hong Qing, don't think you can just sit back and relax... I really wonder how you'll react when you find out Duan Ling Tian's already a Lord of Gods...'

With that, Mi Xuan's mood improved greatly as he returned to the Land of the Dead.

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Meanwhile, Wu Hong Qing, who was completely oblivious, confidently returned to the realm where the main Title Temple was located through a Transportation Formation in a Title Temple branch. He planned to rebuild the main Title Temple again.

When he arrived, he looked at the realm, which was completely devoid of life, with a gloomy expression. However, soon enough, a smile appeared on his face. "To all of you who died, rest in peace. I've already gotten Mi Xuan to avenge all of you... The past is in the past. Now that Feng Qing Yang's has been dealt with, there's no need for me to dwell on the past. I should focus on rebuilding this place. The destruction isn't too bad so it won't take much effort for me to rebuild it..."

The main Title Temple's damage was nowhere close to the damage that the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Emperor Palace suffered.

Wu Hong Qing summoned about a dozen people from one of the Title Temple branches over, and in less than half a month, the main Title Temple was as good as new.

Following that, Wu Hong Qing began to select people from the Title Temple branches to work in the main Title Temple. He even held what he called the Main Title Temple Grand Contest for the selection.

Many powerhouses from Title Temple branches across the Devata Realms, which included titled Celestial Emperors, gathered to participate in the contest. Many of the titled Celestial Emperors felt that this was a way for them to elevate their status. The ordinary Celestial Emperors, Celestial Kings, and Celestial Lords were no different.

Apart from that, outsiders were also allowed to participate.

The main Title Temple was sacred in the eyes of those from the Title Temple branches. Moreover, it was one of the strongest forces in the Devata Realms. Who would give up on a chance to join the main Title Temple?

The preliminary rounds were held in various Title Temple branches.

Needless to say, titled Celestial Emperors did not need to participate in the contest and could directly go to the main Title Temple. However, they naturally need to show their strength. The main Title Temple would test their strength to determine their positions.

At this moment, Wu Hong Qing was smiling after listening to his subordinate's report. He said, "Very good. It seems like there are many talented powerhouses in the Title Temple branches..."

Wu Hong Qing could already imagine the main Title Temple returning to its glory again.

At this moment, Wu Hong Qing's confidant, who was standing next to him, said, "Lord Temple Master, I heard that the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Emperor Palace was destroyed previously, and they're rebuilding it now. Since you said Feng Qing Yang has fallen, should we..."

After that, Wu Hong Qing's confidant made a slashing gesture at his neck.

Wu Hong Qing's smile froze briefly upon seeing this. Then, he quickly adjusted his expression and said indifferently and coldly, "I know what to do. You don't have to worry about this. Also, without my orders, no one is allowed to go to the Solitary Destructive Heaven and cause trouble! Otherwise, I'll kill them without mercy."

Upon hearing this, the people in the hall shuddered slightly as their expressions changed. They did not understand the reason behind Wu Hong Qing's orders. After all, with Feng Qing Yang dead, what was there to be afraid of? The Solitary Destructive Heaven was now as vulnerable as a fish on a chopping board. Naturally, they did not dare to ask any questions.

After a moment, Wu Hong Qing waved his hand and said with a dark expression, "Alright, you can all leave if there's nothing else."

Everyone retreated one after another.

Wu Hong Qing naturally did not dare to do anything to the Solitary Destructive Heavens due to Mi Xuan's threats. However, how could he tell his subordinates this? He would lose his prestige as the Temple Master of the main Title Temple if people knew about this. In their eyes, he was a powerful King of Gods!

'Although I can do anything to the Solitary Destructive Heaven, it doesn't mean that others can't. Now that Feng Qing Yang is as good as dead, the strongest person is Meng Luo, the Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor. Perhaps, after the Main Title Temple Grand Contest is over, I'll find a titled Celestial Emperors stronger than Meng Luo to take over the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Emperor Palace as the new Heavenly Emperor. If Meng Luo and the others obediently follow the new Heavenly Emperor, I'll let them live. Otherwise, I'll kill all of them. I should start making arrangements for this. The fewer people know about this, the better..."

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The Main Title Temple Grand Contest was very popular in the 81 Devata Realms.

There were countless participants participating in the preliminary rounds.

In just a blink of an eye, a year had passed.

At this time, the Title Temple branches had already selected their representatives with various cultivation bases and led them to the main Title Temple.

All that was left now was a few more tests. As long as they passed the first test, they would be able to join the main Title Temple. The second test would determine their position and status in the main Title Temple.

"I hope I can pass the first test! The second test doesn't matter for now. As long as I can join the main Title Temple, my status will surely rise. No one will dare to underestimate mewhen I return to the Title Temple branch in the future!"

Many people shared this sentiment; this was especially true for young people.

Among the bustling crowd, a purple-clad young man stood quietly with an indifferent expression on his face. He was handsome, and his temperament and bearing were outstanding, garnering him the attention of many female cultivators. Most of the men looked at him with envious expressions on their faces.

At this time, the person standing next to the purple-clad young man looked at him with a hint of awe. He was Zhuang Tian Heng, the Branch Master of the Title Temple branch in the Dream Cycle Heaven.

Not too long ago, the purple-clad young man came looking for him and easily suppressed him. After Wu Hong Qing and several powerhouses in the main Title Temple, he was the strongest in the 81 Title

Temple branches. After he was suppressed, it did not take long for him to discover that the young man was a Lord of Gods. He was shocked by his discovery. However, he was even more shocked when he heard the purple-clad young man say he was Duan Ling Tian.

In the past, Zhuang Tian Heng did not watch the Devata Realm Battle of the Geniuses because he was in closed-door cultivation. However, he knew the winner was a young man who was not even 1,000 years old and that young man's name was Duan Ling Tian. How could he not be shocked when he found out that Duan Ling Tian had become a Lord of Gods in such a short time?

Back in the present, when Duan Ling Tian saw Zhuang Tian Heng looking at him, he said tonelessly, "Bring me to Wu Hong Qing."

"Understood!" Zhuang Tian Heng responded respectfully. He quickly gave instructions to the vice branch master before he brought Duan Ling Tian away.

Many people frowned slightly when they saw Zhuang Tian Heng leading Duan Ling Tian away.

One young man said enviously, "What relationship does he have with the branch master? He just appeared not too long ago, and he spent most of his time in seclusion. Don't tell me he's the branch master's illegitimate son?"

"Be quiet! Do you have a death wish?"

# Chapter 3902: Temple Master Wu, We Meet Again

"Temple Master, the Dream Cycle Heaven's Branch Master, Zhuang Tian Heng, requests an audience with you."

Before the commencement of the Main Title Temple Grand Contest, Wu Hong Qing, the Temple Master of the main Title Temple, was watching a duel between Kings of Gods from a Floating Image Pearl in his courtyard. His courtyard was located in the depths of the main Title Temple.

The Title Temple had existed as long as the Devata Realms and had roots in the Realms of Gods. According to the rumors, the Title Temple even had connections to a supreme powerhouse, which explained the temple's high status in the Devata Realms. However, it was said that the supreme powerhouse did not care about the Title Temple at all. After all, the Title Temple was no different from an ant in the eyes of a supreme powerhouse. However, naturally, no one could verify the rumors. There was only one thing that was certain: the Title Temple did not bother with top forces in the Devata Realms such as the Ten Thousand Beast Heaven's Qilin clan and the Wandering Heaven's Latent Wind Sect, which were rumored to have connections with supreme powerhouses as well.

"Zhuang Tian Heng?" Wu Hong Qing opened his eyes and frowned. He said in a gloomy voice, "Didn't I say that I won't be meeting anyone before the start of the Main Title Temple Grand Contest? What's wrong with him?"

"Temple Master, he said it's an urgent matter."

Wu Hongqing's frown deepened as he said tonelessly, "Tell him to wait at the front courtyard."

"Yes, Temple Master."

"Zhuang Tian Heng ... "

Wu Hong Qing's expression was dark as he got out of bed and left his room. He would have ignored Zhuang Tian Heng if it were not for his decision to bring Zhuang Tian Heng back to the main Title Temple and promote Zhuang Tian Heng to become the Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple due to Zhuang Tian Heng's capabilities.

'Damn it! I wouldn't need to deal with a Branch Master if Feng Qing Yang did not kill all my powerhouses,' Wu Hong Qing complained inwardly. However, his mood improved when he thought about how Feng Qing Yang was going to die. There was no need to get angry over a dead man.

It did not take long for Wu Hong Qing to arrive at the front courtyard.

The main Title Temple occupied a vast land. The front courtyard was so huge that it could accommodate a man-made lake, artificial mountains, and a pavilion.

Wu Hong Qing looked at Zhuang Tian Heng, who was looking at him from the pavilion. His expression changed when he saw a purple figure, who stood with his back facing him, in the pavilion as well. He found the purple figure's back rather familiar but could not recall where he had seen it before. He frowned slightly with a dark expression on his face as he thought to himself, 'Where have I seen that person before?'

"Greetings, Temple Master," Zhuang Tian Heng called out as he cupped his fists together. He did not bow.

Wu Hong Qing glanced at the purple figure before he shifted his frosty gaze to Zhuang Tian Heng and asked, "Zhuang Tian Heng, did you bring him here?"

"He..." Zhuang Tian Heng said as he turned to look at the purple figure.

However, before Zhuang Tian Heng could say another word, the purple figure turned around and said with a meaningful smile, "Temple Master Wu, we meet again."

Wu Hong Qing's eyes widened as soon as he heard the voice. He exclaimed in shock, "Duan Ling Tian?!"

"Temple Master Wu, it's not been that long since we last met. How come it took you so long to recognize me?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile.

When Wu Hong Qing regained his senses, he looked at Zhuang Tian Heng and said with a bright smile, "Branch Master Zhuang, it seems like I've wrongly blamed you. You did a good job by capturing Duan Ling Tian! Well done! I'll consider making you my successor before I leave for the Realm of Gods."

Wu Hong Qing was ecstatic; he finally captured Duan Ling Tian, who possessed all Five Divine Elements.

Meanwhile, Zhuang Tian Heng was stunned. He looked at Wu Hong Qing as though he was looking at an idiot.

"Temple Master Wu..." Duan Ling Tian said as he strode forward. He mobilized his Divine Energy, causing the void to ripple and twist.

In just a blink of an eye, Wu Hong Qing was brought to his knees with a loud thump, cracking the ground. He struggled as he looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he had seen a ghost. The delighted expression on his face had vanished and was replaced with one of terror and disbelief. He briefly wondered if he was dreaming, but the pain in his knees and the huge pressure told him that was not the case. He soon discovered he could not mobilize his Divine Energy and law at all. It was as though Duan Ling Tian's energy had sealed his energy off.

'I'm a powerful King of Gods. Even if Feng Qing Yang is stronger than I am, he's not capable of suppressing me so thoroughly!'

Similar to Mi Xuan, Wu Hong Qing found this hard to believe and accept. After a moment, a terrifying thought appeared in his mind. 'Is he... Is he a Lord of Gods?!'

"Temple Master Wu, if Branch Master Zhuang really captured me, what were you planning to do to me?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a disdainful smile on his face.

In the past, Wu Hong Qing and Mi Xuan had forced Duan Ling Tian into a corner. He would have died if it were not for the Five Divine Elements' help. For this reason, his hatred toward Mi Xuan and Wu Hong Qing ran deep.

"D-duan, Duan Ling Tian, you, you, you've become a Lord of Gods?" Wu Hong Qing asked. He still found it difficult to believe. During their last meeting, the young man in front of him had yet to attain godhood, but now, the young man was already a Lord of Gods.

Duan Ling Tian continued to smile as he asked lightly, "Temple Master Wu, you've sensed it?"

"H-how's this possible?!" Wu Hong Qing was dumbfounded.

"Many things seem impossible, but they're not..." Duan Ling Tian said, "Temple Master Wu, you and Mi Xuan tried to rob me and almost killed me in the past. I bet you didn't expect that one day you'd be in this situation, right?"

Wu Hong Qing's expression changed drastically. As though he recalled something, he quickly turned to look at Zhuang Tian Heng.

However, at the moment Zhuang Tian Heng raised his eyebrows, Duan Ling Tian waved his hand.

A terrifying Soul Energy swept toward Wu Hong Qing immediately. In just a moment, his soul was destroyed, and he died.

Then, Duan Ling Tian turned to Zhuang Tian Heng and asked, "Did he speak to you through Voice Transmission?"

"Yes," Zhuang Tian Heng hurriedly said in a respectful tone, "He was trying to tell me something when, when he died, my lord."

Duan Ling Tian stared at Zhuang Tian Heng intently. After confirming that Wu Hong Qing did not reveal the fact that he possessed the Five Divine Elements to Zhuang Tian Heng, he looked at Wu Hong Qing's body. In just a moment, his body disappeared as he possessed Wu Hong Qing's body.

"Lord Ling Tian?" Zhuang Tian Heng's eyes widened when he saw Duan Ling Tian's body disappear.

As though he could read Zhuang Tian Heng's thoughts, Duan Ling Tian said, "That was just my doppelganger."

"Doppelganger?" Zhuang Tian Heng's face paled. He realized that Duan Ling Tian was even stronger than he had imagined.

# Chapter 3903: The Deaths of the Advanced Gods

Zhuang Tian Heng did not expect the person in front of him to be a doppelganger from a law until Duan Ling Tian told him so after possessing Wu Hong Qing. With that, his respect toward Duan Ling Tian grew even more. After all, Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger alone could easily kill Wu Hong Qing, who was a King of Gods, let alone someone like him.

"Prepare yourself. When the Main Title Temple Grand Contest starts, I'll use Wu Hong Qing's identity to promote you to become the new Temple Master," Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly.

Zhuang Tian Heng looked slightly worried as he said, "My lord, it's not a problem for me to become the Temple Master, but I'm afraid the others will be dissatisfied. After all, there are a few more members who are stronger than I am. They weren't here when Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang came previously..."

While most of the branch masters were unaware of the truth, Zhuang Tian Heng was one of the few who knew that the main Title Temple was previously destroyed by Feng Qing Yang. Not only that, but he also knew Feng Qing Yang had killed everyone present at that time. Due to the loss of manpower, Wu Hong Qing decided to hold the Main Title Temple Grand Contest.

"Don't worry. I'll take care of it," Duan Ling Tian said.

Zhuang Heng Tian felt relieved upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. Following that, he bade farewell to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian, who possessed Wu Hong Qing's body, returned to Wu Hong Qing's room after using his Divine Consciousness to figure out the location.

'What a pity! Wu Hong Qing's spatial ring is like the one in the Realms of Gods that self-destruct upon their owners' deaths....' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when he recalled Wu Hong Qing's spatial ring that had turned to dust as soon as Wu Hong Qing died. Even if there was nothing useful to him, that might not be the case for his family and friends.

'Forget it. If I really need something, I'll have Zhuang Heng Tian look for it after he becomes the Temple Master. In the coming 300 years, I'll have complete control over the Title Temple, after all.'

...

When Zhuang Tian Heng returned, the group of participants he brought here from the Dream Cycle Heaven began to whisper among themselves.

Zhuang Tian Heng glanced at them and said, "Li Feng has been accepted as the Temple Master's direct disciple..."

Li Feng was the name Duan Ling Tian had used in the Title Temple's branch in the Dream Cycle Heaven. He had come up with that name after combining his mother and father's names, Li Rou and Duan Ru Feng.

"What?!"

"The Temple Master accepted Li Feng as his direct disciple?"

"How's that possible?!"

Everyone was shocked. The young cultivators were envious.

As more and more people arrived, they were finally escorted to their accommodations.

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In just a blink of an eye, a month had passed, and the Main Title Temple Grand Contest was about to begin. Until now, Zhuang Tian Heng was the only one who was aware that Wu Hong Qing had died.

"Lord Temple Master!"

When Duan Ling Tian arrived in a valley, the venue of the Main Title Temple Grand Contest, everyone greeted him respectfully.

The younger cultivators' eyes shone with reverence when they looked at him.

Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air and looked at the people below him. After he extended his Divine Consciousness, he sighed inwardly. 'The Title Temple has so many geniuses... No wonder it manages to stay in power for so long...'

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian raised his hand, and the entire place fell silent.

The huge crowd's attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian, who now possessed Wu Hong Qing's body.

Duan Ling Tian said, "Initially, I planned to personally host the Main Title Temple Grand Contest. However, I've broken through recently so I need to continue cultivating. As such, I'll appoint someone host the contest on my behalf."

Although most of the people present were disappointed, they thought it was reasonable. After all, cultivation was very important.

"I've decided to let Branch Master Zhuang Tian Heng from the Dream Cycle Heaven to host the contest. Apart from that, I'll also be resigning from my position and appointing Branch Master Zhuang as the new Temple Master of the main Title Temple so I can focus on my cultivation."

Duan Ling Tian's words stirred up a commotion immediately.

"What?! The Temple Master is appointing Zhuang Tian Heng as the new Temple Master?!"

"Zhuang Tian Heng is strong, but there are a few branch masters and elders who are stronger than him. Any of them are more qualified than him to become the new Temple Master, right? Why was he chosen?" "Why is Zhuang Tian Heng?"

Everyone questioned the decision immediately. They whispered among themselves, afraid of being overheard.

However, there were a few bold ones who stepped forward and spoke out. They were the three advanced gods who were stronger than Zhuang Tian Heng. One of them was a young man and the other two were middle-aged men.

One of the middle-aged men said tentatively, "My lord, I'm afraid this isn't appropriate..."

Normally, he would not dare to publicly question the Temple Master's decision. However, due to the circumstances, how could he stay put and do nothing? How could he allow Zhuang Tian Heng, who only recently attained godhood, to surpass him and become the Temple Master?

The other middle-aged man said, "Lord Temple Master, I think it's more suitable to appoint Elder Chu as the new Temple Master."

Although the young man did not speak, it was clearly based on his expression that he disapproved of Duan Ling Tian's decision as well.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the two middle-aged men before he asked the young man, "Do you disagree as well?"

The young man replied, "Lord Temple Master, I agree with the two guardians. Zhuang Tian Zheng only attained godhood recently. Let alone Elder Chu, he's even weaker than us. Position-wise, he's just a branch master. On the other hand, Elder Chu is the First Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple."

The young man was also a Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple.

After the young man finished speaking, everyone held their breaths as they shifted their eyes back and forth between Duan Ling Tian and the three advanced gods. The atmosphere at this time was as cold as ice.

Duan Ling Tian finally said, "I, Wu Hong Qing, have already made up my mind. If you want to change my mind, you'll have to defeat me."

The three advanced gods' expressions changed drastically. They felt that Wu Hong Qing was unlike himself. If Wu Hong Qing was domineering and unreasonable, they would not have dared to voice their dissatisfaction, after all.

A huge palm seal descended from the sky onto the three advanced gods immediately.

At the same time, the trio discovered that they had been restrained by an invisible force and could not even mobilize their Divine Energies. Before they could regain their senses, the palm seal had already struck them.

Boom!

The space tore, and a huge black hole appeared immediately before it slowly mended itself.

Just like that, the three advanced gods died.

When the crowd regained their senses, they did not even dare to move a muscle. Fear and reverence could be seen in their eyes as they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They did not expect their Temple Master would kill the three advanced gods so decisively just because they disagreed with him. They were also shocked by how easily he had killed the three advanced gods as though he was strangling chickens.

All of the branch masters who had a good relationship with Wu Hong Qing in the past keenly felt that there was something wrong with Wu Hong Qing. In their opinion, Wu Hong Qing was not so cruel.

At this moment, an aged and cold voice rang from the distance.

"Temple Master..."

In just a blink of an eye, an old man appeared, standing across from Duan Ling Tian and looking at Duan Ling Tian with a dark expression on his face.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man and asked expressionlessly, "Elder Chu, do you disagree with me as well?"

# Chapter 3904: A Rudimentary King of Gods With Strength Comparable To an Intermediate King of Gods

"Temple Master, don't you think you've gone overboard?" the old man said grimly as he stared at Duan Ling Tian, "The three of them had served the Title Temple for many years. Although they questioned your authority, you shouldn't have killed them. Moreover, it's true that it's inappropriate to appoint a branch master as the new Temple Master."

"Elder Chu, it seems like you disagree with my decision as well," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently as he looked at Elder Chu with a cold gaze.

The old man scoffed. "Wu Hong Qing, do you want to kill me as well?"

As soon as the old man's voice fell, a terrifying energy surged from his body, causing the crowd to shudder. Those with weaker cultivation bases were so pressured that their faces paled immediately.

"D-did Elder Chu break through and become a King of Gods?!"

All of the branch masters, including Zhuang Tian Heng, were shocked.

"He's become a King of Gods?! Based on the level of comprehension of his law, Wu Hong Qing won't be able to kill him now that he's become a King of Gods! After all, his comprehension is more profound than Wu Hong Qing's."

Elder Chu, or Chu Hu Yi, was not only the First Vice Temple Master of the main Title Temple, but he was also Wu Hong Qing's junior granduncle. He has the highest seniority in the Title Temple as well. He was invincible among those below the stage of a King of Gods. Although he was just a rudimentary King of Gods, his strength was almost comparable to an intermediate King of Gods.

For all these reasons, Chu Hu Yi dared to act boldly. Moreover, in his opinion, Wu Hong Qing was likely not an intermediate King of Gods yet. Even if Wu Hong Qing was an intermediate King of Gods, he was

confident Wu Hong Qing would not be able to kill him at all even if he was just a rudimentary King of Gods.

The branch masters discussed among themselves through Voice Transmission, afraid of being overheard.

"Elder Chu's strength is comparable to an intermediate King of Gods even though he's just a rudimentary King of Gods!"

"Elder Chu's comprehension of the law of destruction. His comprehension of the law is one of the most profound in the Title Temple and Devata Realms!"

"I wonder what the Temple Master is going to do."

"Is the Temple Master really going to fight Elder Chu?"

Many of them hoped that Chu Hu Yi would remove Wu Hong Qing from his position at this moment. After all, Wu Hong Qing's cruel display earlier made them feel uneasy.

Duan Ling Tian smiled. "Elder Chu, I didn't expect you to have become a King of Gods. So this is why you're bold..."

Chu Hu Yi said icily, "Wu Hong Qing, do you really think you're capable of killing me? It's not my intention to look down on you, but I really don't think you're capable of such a feat."

Duan Ling Tian's smile vanished abruptly as he said, "Vice Temple Master Chu Hu Yi is found guilty of trying to attack the Temple Master. His punishment is death."

Following that, Duan Ling Tian waved his hand.

"Ridiculous!" Chu Hu Yi cried out as Divine Energy imbued with the law of destruction surged out of his body.

The younger cultivators were shocked by Chu Hu Yi's strength. The pressure was so great that some of them began to bleed through their orifices. Fortunately, the branch masters reacted and quickly shielded them. Otherwise, those with weaker cultivation bases might have died.

"So this is the energy of a King of Gods?"

"How terrifying! Although I'm close to attaining godhood, I can't withstand his energy at all."

"Kings of Gods are truly terrifying! They're in a different league."

Boom!

While the branch masters were looking at Chu Hu Yi reverently, a golden palm seal suddenly descended from the sky and slammed Chu Hu Yi into the ground. When the dust settled, everyone saw a huge hole in the ground.

"The Temple Master has become so strong?!"

"Vice Temple Master Chu is almost as strong as an intermediate King of Gods despite only being a rudimentary King of Gods! Even then, he's no match for the Temple Master?"

"Perhaps, Vice Temple Master Chu was just caught off guard?"

"Is... Is, is Vice Temple Master Chu dead?"

The crowd looked at the huge hole in shock. Fear lingered in their heart as they communicated through Voice Transmission. Although they did not doubt Wu Hong Qing's strength, they did not expect him to be so strong. He managed to bury Chu Hu Yi with just one strike.

"Come out. Don't pretend to be dead. I held my strength back, after all," Duan Ling Tian said.

Boom!

A loud noise rang in the air as a figure shot out of the hole.

Chu Hu Yi's robe was tattered, and he was covered in dirt. He looked at Duan Ling Tian solemnly and said, "You're not Wu Hong Qing!"

Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian laughed. "I'm not Wu Hong Qing? Elder Chu, is this excuse you came up with now that you realized you're no match for me? Who'll believe such a shoddy excuse?"

Chu Hu Yi said frostily, "Wu Hong Qing isn't so strong. Who are you? Why did you possess Wu Hong Qing?"

Duan Ling Tian laughed. "Do you think one would have access to one's full strength after possessing someone?"

The branch masters, who were knowledgeable in possession, instinctively shook their heads. With that, the opinion changed.

"It seems like Elder Chu refuses to admit defeat."

"That's right. Earlier, it was obvious that he was so bold because he has become a King of Gods. He probably didn't expect the Temple Master to be stronger than him."

Chu Hu Yi heard the words from the branch masters, and his expression turned unsightly. A hint of fear could be seen in his eyes as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked through Voice Transmission, "Who are you?"

"There's no need for you to know this," Duan Ling Tian said.

Subsequently, with just a wave of his hand, Duan Ling Tian killed Chu Hu Yi in front of everyone. He did not kill Chu Hu Yi earlier because he knew this would have a greater impact on the crowd.

The entire place was silent.

"Is there anyone who disagrees with me?" Duan Ling Tian asked as he swept his eyes across the crowd.

Needless to say, with the four people serving as an example, no one dared to speak even if they were dissatisfied. Those four were elites in the Title Temple, and yet, they died so easily.

"Very good. It seems like there's no more objection," Duan Ling Tian said as he nodded in satisfaction. Then, he continued to say, "Since that's the case, Zhuang Tian Heng is now the Temple Master of the main Title Temple, and he'll host the Main Title Temple Grand Contest. I'll be going into closed-door cultivation after this."

After a brief pause, Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhuang Tian Heng and said, "If anyone tries to find fault with you, you can look for me. I'll help you to deal with them."

After that, Duan Ling Tian looked at the others meaningfully.

Zhuang Tian Heng hurriedly thanked Duan Ling Tian. "Thank you, Temple Master!"

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly in response before he vanished from sight. He was naturally not interested in the Main Title Temple Grand Contest. He was more interested in searching the Title Temple's treasure vault to see if there was anything useful for his family and friends.

# Chapter 3905: The Doppelganger's Return

Duan Ling Tian went to the main Title Temple to kill Wu Hong Qing and gain control over the temple mainly due to his master, Feng Qing Yang. Moreover, he thought it would be beneficial to him as well.

As one of the top forces in the Devata Realms, the Title Temple's cultivation resources were naturally superior. Even a Lord of Gods, like Duan Ling Tian, would not be so influential in the Devata Realms. After all, the Title Temple had a long legacy in the Devata Realms. This could not be obtained through strength alone and needed time to accumulate.

Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly as he thought to himself, 'It's best I don't show myself to save them the sorrow of parting again. I'll just disguise myself as a member of the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Emperor Palace to pass them the treasures...'

Although he could not openly reunite with his family and friends yet, he was content with knowing they were safe. He could bear to cause them sorrow when it was time to part again.

Duan Ling Tian no longer cared about the Title Temple. He was confident that Zhuang Tian Heng, whom he had chosen, would fulfill his role satisfactorily.

Indeed, after Duan Ling Tian killed the four people while possessing Wu Hong Qing's body, shocking everyone, no one dared to disobey him even if they felt he was too cruel. After all, not only was he the Temple Master, but he had shown himself to be the strongest in the Title Temple. Even if he had stepped away from his position, his strength was unquestionable. Only a fool would challenge him.

Nonetheless, some of the branch masters had already decided to head to the Realm of Gods when the spatial passages reopened to complain about 'Wu Hong Qing'. During these 300 years, they would stay low and bide their time.

Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware of their thoughts. Even if he was aware, he would not care about them. After all, the Title Temple in the Realm of Gods would not be able to find out that he was the culprit. Moreover, he was sure that Zhuang Tian Heng, who benefited from this arrangement, would not expose him. It was likely that the Title Temple would not do anything to Zhuang Tian Heng as well since

most of the capable powerhouses in the Title Temple had been killed by him, leaving Zhuang Tian Heng as the most suitable candidate to lead the Title Temple in the Devata Realms.

...

Through Zhuang Tian Heng, Duan Ling Tian obtained many cultivation resources for his family and friends. Although Zhuang Tian Heng was confused as to why Duan Ling Tian wanted those resources, he obediently carried out Duan Ling Tian's orders.

At that time, Duan Ling Tian had said, "I won't interfere with the Title Temple after this. All I need you to do is to obtain cultivation resources and run a few simple errands for me. Even if the Title Temple in the Realm of Gods investigates this matter 300 years later, you won't be implicated. The blame will fall on Wu Hong Qing, and they'll also discover that Wu Hong Qing is dead. Before that, I'll also announce that I discovered Feng Qing Yang's secret so I'll be heading to the Asura Hell..."

Zhang Tian Heng's eyes lit up. His fear of becoming Duan Ling Tian's puppet vanished completely. Based on Duan Ling Tian's words, it was clear Duan Ling Tian had no interest in the Title Temple at all. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had also figured things out for him. Hence, he said happily, "Lord Duan, if you need my help in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! I'll do all I can to help you!"

Duan Ling Tian nodded. Since he had dealt with everything, he left the main Title Temple and returned to the mundane realm where his family and friends were staying.

•••

# Swoosh!

After Duan Ling Tian put on a long black robe and mobilized the law of life to disguise himself as an expert in the law of life, he flew into the family and friends' cultivation ground. He did not look for Li Fei and Huan'er since he was worried they might see through his disguise.

Duan Ling Tian appeared in a valley where his parents, Li Rou and Duan Ru Feng, were drinking tea and playing chess before he asked, "Are both of you Duan Ling Tian's parents?"

Li Rou and Duan Ru Feng did not sense Duan Ling Tian's presence at all so they were shocked when they heard his voice. Before they regained their senses, Duan Ling Tian brought a spatial ring out and tossed it on the table.

Duan Ling Tian said in a hoarse voice, "Before the Young Master left, he asked me to hand this spatial ring to you on this specific day. I'll take my leave now that my mission has been accomplished."

Following that, Duan Ling Tian disappeared from the valley without another word.

The plants in the valley seemed even lusher after they bathed in his energy from the law of life.

When Li Rou and Duan Ru Feng finally regained their senses, they looked at the plants in their surroundings and the table before they exchanged a look with shocked expressions on their faces.

Duan Ru Feng claimed ownership of the spatial ring before he looked into the ring. Then, he said with a sigh, "Tian'er is improving so much that I feel useless as a father..."

"Brother Feng, everyone walks on different paths. We should be happy that our son is so lucky. Moreover, Little Tian will never think of us as useless..." Li Rou said reassuringly with a smile on her face.

"I know. I just feel a little emotional," Duan Ru Feng said as he shook his head.

Duan Ru Feng and Li Rou felt at ease when they heard that the mysterious powerhouse was from the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

"Tian'er entrusted the person to deliver these cultivation resources on this day, but I don't think I've seen such a person in the Heavenly Emperor Palace," Li Rou said.

Duan Ru Feng said, "Perhaps, he's one of the secret guards who's protecting us in the dark..."

The husband and wife were unaware that Duan Ling Tian overheard their conversation before he left.

•••

'I should continue raising my cultivation. If I encounter a bottleneck, I'll have to enter the Lord Battlefield again,' Duan Ling Tian mused inwardly as he left the mundane realm and returned to the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

...

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian's true body was refining the divine pills he had promised Xue Hai Chuan and Dongfang Yan Nian in the Flying Dragon Sect. After he handed the divine pills to the duo, he continued with his cultivation.

•••

In just a blink of an eye, a decade had passed.

In the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

"Master has still yet to escape from Mi Xuan after a decade?" Duan Ling Tian frowned.

If it were not for Feng Qing Yang's intact Soul Pearl, Duan Ling Tian would have rushed to the Land of Dead to look for Mi Xuan.

Over the past decade, he had spent his time in the mundane realm and the Solitary Destructive Heaven's Heavenly Emperor Palace. Although he knew it was unlikely for his family to encounter danger in the mundane realm, he felt more assured when he was keeping an eye on them. He had also visited the Heavenly Emperor Palace to check if his master had returned.

'I've finally reached a bottleneck in my cultivation. It's time for me to enter the Lord Battlefield again. To be safe, it's best to have my law of space's doppelganger with me when I enter the Lord Battlefield. Otherwise, it'll be bad if I run into an Underworld Elder from the Tai Yi Sect. If I use all my trump cards and still can't kill him, it'll be even worse since my trump cards would be exposed... Hence, it's best to have my law of space's doppelganger with me...'

•••

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian's true body in the Flying Dragon Sect began to manifest his law of space's doppelganger. With that, the doppelganger disappeared from the Devata Realms as well. Since he had made arrangements, he was at ease leaving the Devata Realm and the mundane realm. Moreover, he knew he could return again as long as he obtained another Destruction Divine Shuttle.

'I hope master will return at that time...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with a sigh.

# Chapter 3906: Lords of Gods Death Warriors

This was Duan Ling Tian's third time forming the doppelganger from the law of space so the process was extremely smooth and fast. As soon as the doppelganger was completely formed, the one in the lower realm disappeared completely.

One could only form one doppelganger from a law at a time.

After forming the doppelganger, Duan Ling Tian finally calmed down.

•••

A few days later, Duan Ling Tian made his way to the Imperial War Realm again. Ten years had passed since the last time he entered the Imperial War Realm.

Ten years were not long and passed in just a blink of an eye for those in the Realms of Gods. Even a single session of closed-door cultivation could last for centuries. In comparison, ten years was nothing. It was even possible to cultivate closed-door for more than 1,000 years, but it was impossible for those at or above the stage of a King of Gods since they had to face the Heavenly Tribulation every 1,000 years. Even Supreme Gods who were close to becoming supreme powerhouses were not exempt from this. As for whether supreme powerhouses also had to face Heavenly Tribulations, perhaps, only supreme powerhouses themselves and their immediate relatives had the answer.

•••

For Xue Ming Zhi, one of the Vice Sect Leaders of the Flying Dragon Sect, the past ten years had been particularly torturous for him. He had never felt like that before.

"It's been ten years. Is Duan Ling Tian never going to leave Xue Hai Chuan's cultivation ground?"

Xue Ming Zhi was afraid that the longer the matter dragged on, the stronger Duan Ling Tian would become. At that time, it would be even harder for him to get rid of Duan Ling Tian. The two Lords of Gods death warriors he had hired would no longer be able to kill Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian grew even stronger. How could he not be anxious with this thought in his mind?

Furthermore, to not expose themselves, the two Lords of Gods had to enter the Imperial War Realm as well. Hence, Xue Ming Zhi was also worried the duo might be killed on the Lord Battlefield.

While Xue Ming Zhi was drowning in his anxiety, he received a Voice Transmission.

"My lord, Duan Ling Tian has left Xue Hai Chuan's cultivation ground, and he's alone. He's heading toward the Imperial War Realm. There's no movement from Xue Hai Chuan, and he's likely still in closed-door cultivation."

The message was from his man whom he had stationed outside of Xue Hai Chuan's cultivation ground to monitor Duan Ling Tian. He was a disciple in charge of patrolling the area, and he had been selected so as to not arouse suspicion.

"Good! Very good!" Xue Ming Zhi was delighted. He thought that Xue Hai Chuan probably did not expect him to hire two death warriors who were Lords of Gods to deal with Duan Ling Tian since the cost is astronomical.

Xue Ming Zhi's eyes were bright as he brought out his trusted friend's Soul Pearl to send a message. "Duan Ling Tian is heading toward the Imperial War Realm alone. Tell them to look for an opportunity to complete their mission."

Xue Ming Zhi's laughed and replied, "Congratulations! Your wish is about to be fulfilled!"

"I hope so," Xue Ming Zhi said. Unless Duan Ling Tian died, he still did feel assured. Nonetheless, he finally saw a sliver of hope at this moment.

Xue Ming Zhi's friend said again, "I know the loss of those Kings of Gods death warriors affected you slightly. However, you hired them for almost nothing. Just focus on those two Lords of Gods. They've entered the Imperial War Realm a few times now. Not only are they not injured, but they even killed a few Lords of Gods from the Tai Yi Sect. One of those they killed was an inner elder of the Tai Yi Sect as well! Even if the duo encounters an Underworld Elder, the Underworld Elder might not even be able to prevent them from escaping."

Xue Ming Zhi said, "I know they're strong. However, my only concern is whether they'll succeed in their mission."

As long as the duo completed their mission, Xue Ming Zhi would feel that the high price he had paid was worth it. After all, he had hired death warriors not assassins. The cost of hiring assassins was nowhere near that of hiring death warriors. Assassins had autonomy while death warriors were under another person's control. Death warriors had no choice but to follow their owner's bidding.

If the duo failed, he would really suffer a huge loss. Apart from that, if the death warriors failed, he would have to take even greater risks.

"He's just a rudimentary Lord of Gods. Success is guaranteed," Xue Ming Zhi's friend said dismissively, "Unless he's already become an intermediate Lord of Gods, it's impossible for him to survive with two intermediate Lords of Gods making a move."

"You're right," Xue Ming Zhi said, feeling much more at ease. He did not think Duan Ling Tian would become an intermediate Lord of Gods in just ten years. Even those monstrous prodigies from supremerank forces would find it difficult to break through in such a short time.

Cultivation would only get harder as one got stronger, after all.

Cultivating as a Lord of Gods was ten times more difficult compared to cultivating as a King of Gods. Even if one had unlimited resources, divine pills, and divine fruits, one would still need time to break through. For this reason, regardless of Duan Ling Tian's heaven-defying talent, Xue Ming Zhi was certain Duan Ling Tian could not have become an intermediate Lord of Gods in such a short time.

Indeed, Duan Ling Tian had yet to become an intermediate Lord of Gods. Despite consuming many divine pills, he not only did not become an intermediate Lord of Gods yet, but his progress was not very significant as well.

...

After leaving Xue Hai Chuan's cultivation ground, Duan Ling Tian made his way to the valley where the entrance to the Imperial War Realm was located. He did not inform Xue Hai Chuan and Dongfang Yan Nian about this since the duo might insist on accompanying him. With the duo's presence, it would be difficult for him to gain experience on the Lord Battlefield.

'I rarely fought after becoming a Lord of Gods. The only way to improve and familiarize myself with my strength is to fight. Life-or-death battles will help me even more...' Duan Ling Tian sighed as he thought to himself, 'Even my law of space isn't progressing with the help of the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity.'

Although Duan Ling Tian was anxious to get stronger, he knew there was nothing much he could do at the moment. He could only solve his problems as they come. The Lord Battlefield should help him with the mobilization of his Divine Energy. As for the law of space, he thought there was a chance it would improve during battles as well. Even if it did not, he would solve the problem later. At worst, he would have to wait until he became an intermediate Lord of Gods before his law of space could improve again.

'In any case, my comprehension of the law of space has slightly surpassed that of Brother Hai Chuan, Brother Yan Nian, and a few Black Dragon Elders. It should be sufficient for now...'

Duan Ling Tian needed a breakthrough the most now. He suspected that the bottleneck he faced when comprehending the law of space had something to do with his stagnant cultivation base.

He had read many records in the Profound Energy Land regarding the history and people of the Eastern Ridge Mansion and other places. From what he had read, there was no rudimentary Lord of Gods who possessed comprehension like him.

When Duan Ling Tian arrived at the entrance of the Imperial War Realm, he saw a lot of people exchanging tips and sparring. There were also many who were chatting and playing around. Some were even betting using their artifacts.

'These people are really carefree. However, quite some time has passed since the Imperial War began. It's normal that they have grown desensitized to the dangers of the Imperial War...'

# "Hmm?"

Duan Ling Tian was about to enter the entrance that led to the Imperial War Realm when he heard faint noises coming from afar. Moreover, the sound seemed to be drawing closer and closer. He turned around and saw a young man and a middle-aged man fighting.

The fight attracted many people's attention since they were the intermediate Lords of Gods present at the moment.

## Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The duo seemed to be moving closer and closer to him as they fought. They moved in other directions as well, but in general, there was no doubt they were drawing closer and closer to him.

Duan Ling Tian paused and watched their battle. After all, it would be beneficial to him to watch the intermediate Lords of Gods fight.

# "Hmm? It's them?"

When the duo drew closer, Duan Ling Tian finally saw their faces. He remembered seeing them entering the Imperial War Realm previously.

# Boom!

The duo did not seem to be holding back as they fought. A loud explosion rang in the air before the duo shot off in opposite directions. One flew away from Duan Ling Tian while the other flew toward Duan Ling Tian and a few others.

# Chapter 3907: A Sudden Attack on Duan Ling Tian

Duan Ling Tian and those around him moved to avoid the Lord of Gods.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the middle-aged man who had flown over, 'The two of them seem stronger than ordinary inner elders...'

The middle-aged man glared at the aloof young man in the distance and said in a deep voice, "Again!"

"Very well!"

The young man moved, looking like a streak of light as he shot toward the middle-aged man. When he drew close to the middle-aged man, his terrifying Divine Energy that was imbued with the law burst forth and swept out like a tornado.

Those standing nearby with weak cultivation bases were instantly sent flying by the tornado-like energy. Even those with stronger cultivation bases stumbled slightly and nearly lost their footing. Only a few Lords of Gods like Duan Ling Tian were unaffected.

# Boom! Boom!

The middle-aged man and the young man collided fiercely. Two earth-shattering explosions rang in the air before the duo suddenly turned to Duan Ling Tian in unison. The duo, who were fighting with their bare hands before this, suddenly brought out their prominent divine artifacts, which were a saber and a sword, as they rushed toward Duan Ling Tian.

# 'They want to kill me!'

When Duan Ling Tian reacted, he quickly mobilized the law of space to teleport away. However, he discovered he was unable to do so because the middle-aged man had also comprehended the law of space and had disrupted the space around him to prevent him from leaving.

'This is clearly premeditated!'

Duan Ling Tian would have lived in vain for so many years if he still could not figure out what was happening at this moment. The two intermediate Lords of Gods had joined the Flying Dragon Sect with the intention to kill him. Clearly, they were prepared to sacrifice their lives to complete their mission.

'Previously, when they were looking at me, I assumed they were looking at Brother Yan Nian. After all, Brother Yan Nian had shown that young man around when he just joined the sect...'

Apart from not being able to teleport away. It was also too late for Duan Ling Tian to mobilize his Divine Energy even though he had 99 Heavenly Veins.

'I'm afraid it'll take some time before the Black Dragon Elders and the Golden Dragon Elders arrive. Forget it. I'll deal with these people on my own!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes glinted coldly.

Over the past decade, although his cultivation did not improve greatly, his comprehension of the law did. He could also now perfectly disguise his Mastery Dao as a technique from the law of space. No one below the stage of an Emperor of Gods would be able to sense anything wrong.

At the same time, the people in the surroundings backed away in fear. Even the rudimentary Lords of Gods nearby did not plan to help Duan Ling Tian. They were all afraid of being caught in the crossfire. These rudimentary Lords of Gods had only joined the Flying Dragon Sect after the Imperial War started. Hence, they did not know Duan Ling Tian.

"What's going on?"

"Why are they trying to kill him?"

"They want to kill him?"

## Swoosh!

The young man pointed his sword at Duan Ling Tian. The void rippled before a sword ray shot out in the sky toward Duan Ling Tian's glabella.

At the same time, the middle-aged man brandished his saber. Saber rays shot out and disrupted the space around Duan Ling Tian, forming a prison to trap him.

Unlike the rudimentary Lords of Gods, the Kings of Gods' expressions changed drastically when they returned to their senses.

"That's Duan Ling Tian! I saw him in Peace City before!"

"Why are the two intermediate Lords of Gods trying to kill Duan Ling Tian?"

"Are they crazy? Aren't they afraid of the Black Dragon Elders and Golden Dragon Elders?"

"Duan Ling Tian is just a rudimentary Lord of Gods. He's going to die!"

"What a pity! Only the good die young!"

"Who are those two people? Why would they throw their lives away just to kill Duan Ling Tian?"

"Is it worth it to sacrifice the lives of two intermediate Lords of Gods for a rudimentary Lord of Gods like Duan Ling Tian? On second thought, Duan Ling Tian's not an ordinary rudimentary Lord of Gods..."

out of their minds? Are they not afraid of the Black Dragon Elders and Gold Dragon Elders here?!"

The young man's attack that was aimed at Duan Ling Tian's glabella was meant to kill. It was obvious that he hoped to end this with one move.

"Die!" the middle-aged man cried out before saber rays swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, two furious voices rang in the air.

"Stop it!"

"Do you have a death wish?!"

The voice belonged to Black Dragon Elder and a Golden Dragon Elder. Previously, they did not pay attention to the two intermediate Lords of Gods since he assumed they were just sparring. This was common in recent years. Earlier, they had seen Duan Ling Tian, but they did not pay attention to him. Who knew the duo would suddenly attack Duan Ling Tian when they left to patrol the other area? Everything happened so abruptly that they did not have time to respond.

Although the Golden Dragon Elder was further away, due to his strength and speed, he attacked at the same as the Black Dragon Elder.

Sword rays as dazzling as the sun fell on the two intermediate Lords of Gods immediately.

A hint of hopelessness could be seen in the two elders' eyes. They felt that they had reacted too late and that it was impossible to save Duan Ling Tian. Before their attacks landed, the two intermediate Lords of Gods had sufficient time to kill Duan Ling Tian.

#### Swoosh!

At this time, Duan Ling Tian's Divine Energy that had been imbued with the law of space surged out. At the same time, a defensive mediocre divine artifact in the form of armor appeared on him while a prominent divine sword appeared in his hand.

At the critical moment, Duan Ling Tian used the Mastery Dao. The space around him rippled so slightly that even the Golden Dragon Elder failed to notice it, let alone the Black Dragon Elders or the two intermediate Lords of Gods.

"Die!" the middle-aged man and young man cried out simultaneously. Their eyes were blank, and their faces were expressionless; clearly, they had no regard for their lives. They ignored the attacks coming their way and were only focused on one thing: killing Duan Ling Tian!

## Boom! Boom! Boom!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air, shocking everyone.

"Duan Ling Tian, the most brilliant prodigy in the Flying Dragon Sect, is going to die today!"

"It's a pity! Duan Ling Tian is considered a top prodigy in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, after all..."

"Those two men disregarded their lives just to kill Duan Ling Tian. They must have a deep grudge against him!"

The Golden Dragon Elder and Black Dragon Elder did not think Duan Ling Tian would survive as well.

The Golden Dragon Elder, a youthful-looking old man dressed in a Taoist robe, hovered in the sky and sighed. "Young man, I can only kill them to avenge you after you die..."

The Black Dragon Elder, who had appeared behind the Golden Dragon Elder, sighed as well.

## Chapter 3908: The Golden Dragon Elder, Yang Feng

The Gold Dragon Elder and Black Dragon Elder sighed, thinking that Duan Ling Tian was going to die, when a shocking scene appeared before their eyes. Their expressions froze immediately.

#### Boom! Boom! Boom!

The two elders discovered that before their attacks landed on the two intermediate Lords of Gods, their attacks were crushed by the spatial storm that raged around Duan Ling Tian. It was a barrier that protected Duan Ling Tian.

#### "What a terrifying defense!"

The two elders were shocked by the spatial storm's defensive ability. Following that, they saw Duan Ling Tian's armor that had dimmed considerably.

"Is that all you got?"

An indifferent voice rang from the eye of the spatial storm.

Following that, two sword rays imbued with the law of space shot out of Duan Ling Tian's prominent divine sword toward the two intermediate Lords of Gods.

The duo, who were focused on killing Duan Ling Tian, did not have time to defend against Duan Ling Tian and was caught off guard by the sudden turn of events. Death warriors were usually devoid of emotions. Their only purpose was to complete the mission given to them by their masters. However, at this moment, the two death warriors were shocked. How could a rudimentary Lord of Gods crush their attacks that had been launched with prominent divine artifacts? Moreover, they were not holding back their strength and had attacked with all their might.

The duo had joined the Flying Dragon Sect for a period of time now and had gained a certain understanding of the sect. They knew their strength had surpassed most of the inner elders of the Flying Dragon Sect. Moreover, because they fought with disregard for their lives, they also had an advantage. This was what set them apart from ordinary people. If they joined forces, none of the inner elders would be a match for them at all. How could they not be shocked that Duan Ling Tian survived, completely unharmed? Moreover, Duan Ling Tian even managed to crush their attacks with his spatial storm. Even a White Dragon Elder would not be able to escape completely unharmed. The duo growled and steeled themselves as they faced the two incoming sword rays that seemed capable of destroying everything in their paths. At the same time, they did not forget to launch another attack at Duan Ling Tian, determined to kill him.

At this time, the spatial storm around Duan Ling Tian had weakened greatly after blocking the duo's attacks. Even his armor was crushed, and he was sent flying back. He spat out a mouthful of blood, suffering from minor injuries. These injuries would be healed with just a few recovery divine pills. He had planned to let the attack injure him. After all, although he was confident the Golden Dragon Elder would not be able to see through his Mastery Dao, it was always better to play it safe.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian staggered back, struggling to regain his footing after being sent flying. His face was pale as well.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's sword rays struck the two intermediate Lords of Gods. When they entered the duo's bodies, they multiplied before destroying their hearts and Heavenly Veins. At the same time, the Soul Energy in the sword rays began to devour their souls as well.

When the duo's bodies were about to fall due to the attacks on their souls, the Golden Dragon Elder and the Black Dragon Elder's attacks finally struck them.

# Boom! Boom!

Two loud explosions sounded as the two intermediate Lords of Gods exploded into a blood mist that evaporated quickly due to the high temperature.

Soon enough, silence returned.

Duan Ling Tian panted heavily, determined to continue his act. Although he looked roughed up, the others looked at him in shock.

Duan Ling Tian had only become a rudimentary Lord of Gods about a decade ago, but he not only managed to defend against the sudden attack of two intermediate Lords of Gods, but he even managed to kill them. None of them paid attention to the Golden Dragon Elder and the Black Dragon Elder at this moment. In fact, in their opinion, the two elders' attacks only served to motivate the two intermediate Lords of Gods to attack harder.

"Duan Ling Tian is too strong ... "

"Is he really just a rudimentary Lord of Gods?"

"There's no doubt about that. His Divine Energy is the same as ours."

"How can a rudimentary Lord of Gods be so powerful?"

"Based on the situation earlier, even White Dragon Elders would not be able to get out of it easily..."

"Inner elders would definitely die if they were in Duan Ling Tian's shoes earlier..."

The Kings of Gods realized how terrifying Duan Ling Tian's strength was after listening to the words of the other rudimentary Lords of Gods.

# Swoosh! Swoosh!

The Golden Dragon Elder and the Black Dragon Elder appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian easily recognized them through the identity tokens hanging at their waists. He quickly consumed a few recovery divine pills before he smiled weakly and said, "Greetings, elders."

The two looked at Duan Ling Tian with complicated expressions on their faces. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian to survive at all. He was stronger than they had imagined. Although he was injured, it was undoubtedly a miracle that he survived. Perhaps, the strongest rudimentary Lord of Gods in the Eastern Ridge Mansion could also survive this, but they doubt he or she would be able to handle the matter calmly like Duan Ling Tian did.

"Duan Ling Tian, that was amazing," the Black Dragon Elder said praisingly and gave him a thumbs-up. He had a direct disciple who was a rudimentary Lord of Gods as well, but he was nowhere close to being comparable to Duan Ling Tian.

## Swoosh!

The Golden Dragon Elder raised his hand decisively, bringing Duan Ling Tian's identity token into his hand. Then, he said, "Duan Ling Tian, I apologize for failing my duties. Fortunately, you're alright. These 100,000 contribution points is my compensation to you."

"Elder Yang, this isn't necessary," Duan Ling Tian quickly said.

Duan Ling Tian recognized the Golden Dragon Elder. His name was Yang Feng. It was said that before joining the Flying Dragon Sect, Yang Feng was a remarkable prodigy from a lord-rank force. His performance was outstanding after he joined the Flying Dragon Sect, allowing him to quickly rise in ranks and become a prominent figure in the sect. He was known as the Flying Dragon Sect's friendliest Golden Dragon Elder, and he was also very willing to teach the inner disciples who approached him for guidance. Hence, he was also very well-liked in the sect.

"Just accept it. I have no use for them now," Yang Feng said as he returned Duan Ling Tian's identity token after transferring the contribution points. Then, as though he just recalled something, he said, "The sect will give you a satisfactory explanation regarding today's incident."

Following that, Yang Feng nodded slightly at Duan Ling Tian before he flashed away.

Duan Ling Tian could barely catch Yang Feng's movements. After all, Yang Feng was a top advanced Lord of Gods.

'What a terrifying speed...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. If his opponents were as strong as Yang Feng, he would die even if he used all his trump cards. His eyes shone with determination as he continued thinking to himself, 'He's going to be much stronger once he becomes an Emperor of Gods. My goal isn't just to become an Emperor of Gods or a Supreme God. My goal is to become a supreme powerhouse!'

## **Chapter 3909: The Investigation**

Yang Feng, the Golden Dragon Elder, left after dealing with the matter.

Seeing that Yang Feng had given Duan Ling Tian 100,000 contribution points as compensation, the Black Dragon Elder also compensated Duan Ling Tian with 50,000 contribution points. Although Yang Feng held more responsibility regarding this matter, he was not without fault as well. Hence, he felt compelled to compensate Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, he knew that the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect highly valued Duan Ling Tian as well; the sect leader valued Duan Ling Tian more than he did the Green Dragon Disciples. Who knew what the sect leader would think if he did not compensate Duan Ling Tian? Moreover, he could also leave a good impression on Duan Ling Tian by compensating him. In short, he stood to gain everything and had nothing to lose by compensating Duan Ling Tian.

"Duan Ling Tian, I'm Wang Yi Zhan. If you need help in the future, don't hesitate to look for me," the Black Dragon Elder said with a wide smile as he handed Duan Ling Tian his Soul Pearl after transferring the contribution points to Duan Ling Tian.

Although Duan Ling Tian was certain he would not need to ask Wang Yi Zhan's help, he still accepted Wang Yi Zhan's kind gesture.

After Wang Yi Zhan left, more and more people arrived after hearing about what happened.

Dongfang Yan Nian and his wife, Ouyang Xue Li, came as well. Both of them looked at Duan Ling Tian worriedly.

"Little Tian, are you alright?"

"I'm fine," Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile.

Ouyang Xue Li furrowed her brows, and her voice turned cold as she said, "Why are you here alone? Were you planning to enter the Imperial War Realm alone? Where's Xue Hai Chuan?"

Ouyang Xue Li's voice was noticeably colder when she mentioned Xue Hai Chuan.

As soon as Ouyang Xue Li's voice fell...

"Sister-in-law..." Xue Hai Chuan, who had just arrived, smiled wryly when he heard Ouyang Xue Li's words. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said apologetically, "Little Tian, I'm sorry about what happened."

In fact, Xue Hai Chuan was unaware that Duan Ling Tian had left his cultivation ground. Nonetheless, he would not have been worried even if he had been aware. In his opinion, with Kuang Tian Zheng serving as an example, he did not think anyone would dare to attack Duan Ling Tian in the Flying Dragon Sect. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian was now strong enough to hold his ground long enough against a White Dragon Elder until reinforcement arrived. Saying that, he felt it was impossible for any of the White Dragon Elders, including the two from the 10,000 Devils faction, to disregard their lives and kill Duan Ling Tian in the sect.

"Brother Hai Chuan, it's not your fault. I left without telling you, after all," Duan Ling Tian said confidently with a smile, "Moreover, I'm fine. Based on my strength, unless an advanced Lord of Gods makes a move, it's impossible for the others to kill me." Xue Hai Chun said, filled with praise, "I heard about what happened! Not only did you successfully defend against them, but you even killed them! I heard they were stronger than most of our inner elders."

Xue Hai Chuan had been shocked when he heard the news during his journey here. When they were in the Imperial War Realm, he knew Duan Ling Tian's strength was comparable to that of an inner elder of the Flying Dragon Sect when Duan Ling Tian killed the inner elder from Tai Yi Sect on the Lord Battlefield. However, defending and killing two intermediate Lords of Gods at the same time was a difficult feat. If he were in Duan Ling Tian's shoes, he was not certain he could escape completely unharmed. Duan Ling Tian was only injured from the duo's second attack. This indicated that Duan Ling Tian's strength not only surpassed most inner elders, but it was almost comparable to some White Dragon Elders.

Dongfang Yan Nian said, "Little Tian, I didn't expect you to become so strong so quickly. When you become an intermediate Lord of Gods, I don't think we'll be a match for you."

Dongfang Yan Nian was confident he could defeat Duan Ling Tian when Duan Ling Tian was a rudimentary Lord of Gods, but once Duan Ling Tian became an intermediate Lord of Gods, it would be considered good as long as he did not lose too miserably.

"Your law of space has also improved tremendously after a decade," Dongfang Yan Nian said with a sigh.

"It's not bad," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

While Duan Ling Tian, Xue Hai Chuan, Dongfang Yan Nian, and Ouyang Xue Li continued to chat, the crowd around them began to grow as well.

Even Ding Yan and Sikong Yue came to have a look. Since Hou Qing Ning was still in the Imperial War Realm, he was naturally absent.

"Duan Ling Tian, are you alright?" Ding Yan asked.

Duan Ling Tian saw the traces of concern in Sikong Yue's eyes, he sighed inwardly. It was clear that Sikong Yue still liked him. To Sikong Yue's disappointment, he pretended not to notice her feelings. He turned to Ding Yang and replied with a smile, "I'm fine. Why are you here? I thought you were in the Imperial Realm."

"I'll enter after a period of time," Ding Yan said. Then, he turned to greet Xue Hai Chuan and the others.

Xue Hai Chuan and the others knew Ding Yang was a good friend of Duan Ling Tian so they were friendly to him and did not treat him as an ordinary inner disciple.

Meanwhile, the crowd whispered among themselves as they looked at Duan Ling Tian and the others.

"I didn't expect Duan Ling Tian to be so strong! To think those from the Tai Yi Sect confidently claimed that Duan Ling Tian isn't a match for Ximen Long Xiang. What a joke!"

"Ximen Long Xiang only managed to kill rudimentary Lords of Gods from our sect, but Duan Ling Tian has shown that he's able to kill intermediate Lords of Gods. I heard that the battle earlier had been recorded in a Floating Image Pearl. It won't be long before we can watch it." "That's great! I was just thinking that it's a pity I didn't get to witness the earlier battle. I'll use my contribution points to exchange for the recording!"

"Who knew a rudimentary Lord of Gods below the age of 3,000 could be so strong? His strength has surpassed that of the inner elders and is comparable to the White Dragon Elders..."

"In fact, I think the weaker and newly promoted White Dragon Elders might not be able to defeat him at all..."

At the same time, Sikong Yue stared at the purple-clad young man in front of her in a daze after she overheard the hushed conversation in her surroundings.

'He's grown so much in just a blink of an eye. In the past, I thought he was only slightly better than I am... Now, it seems like it's impossible for me to catch up to him. Not only do I have a low innate talent and comprehension skills, but I have a poor personality as well. No wonder he has no interest in me...' Sikong Yue thought to herself. She sighed inwardly before she silently left. She looked lonely when she left, but no one noticed her since everyone's attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian.

•••

Unlike the liveliness near the entrance to the Imperial War Realm, the atmosphere was gloomy and tense in the main hall of the Flying Dragon Sect.

Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, who was sitting on the main seat wore an unsightly expression on his face as he looked at an old man, who was a Black Dragon Elder. He said, "You accepted them both on the same day so you should know them better than anyone else."

The Black Dragon Elder said solemnly, "Sect Leader, they were very taciturn. I didn't pay attention to them since it's not a strange thing. However, now that I think about it, something's not right. Elder Yang said that the duo attacked with disregard for their lives. They were completely unafraid. Coupled with the fact that they made a move in the sect, I suspect they were death warriors. Someone must have hired them and got them to join the sect to kill Duan Ling Tian. The culprit must have a deep grudge against Duan Ling Tian. Even Elder Yang suspects they were death warriors."

The Black Dragon Elder hit the nail on the head.

At this moment, another Black Dragon Elder stepped forward and said, "Sect leader, the duo didn't go to the Imperial War Realm immediately after joining the sect. In fact, they seemed rather reluctant to enter the Lord Battlefield. They were forced to enter in the end when the stipulated time was almost up. This contradicts what one of them said to Elder Dongfang Yan Nian. When Elder Dongfang Yan Nian showed one of them around, he had said that he had a deep grudge against the Tai Yi Sect and wanted to kill people from the Tai Yi Sect. If that was the case, he wouldn't have waited until the last minute to enter the Lord Battlefield. All these further prove that they were death warriors."

# Chapter 3910: Xue Ming Zhi Loses His Composure Translation

The Flying Dragon Sect, a dignified emperor-rank force, was infiltrated by Death Soldiers? It was an insult to the sect!

The expression of Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, turned unsightly as soon as he heard the Black Dragon Elder's words. The culprit was blatantly challenging the dignity of the Flying Dragon Sect!

Yang Feng, the Golden Dragon Elder, stepped forward and said, "I'm certain they were death warriors. I monitored them for a time. They were serious and reclusive. They hardly respond when spoken to. They did not flinch at all when faced with death. It was as though they didn't know fear..."

"The cost to hire a death warrior who's an intermediate Lord of Gods is insanely high..." one of the Black Dragon Elders said.

"Who is Duan Ling Tian exactly? Why would someone spend so much to hire death warriors just to kill him?" another Black Dragon Elder said suspiciously.

"That's right. Moreover, they weren't ordinary death warriors. Even an ordinary advanced Lord of Gods might not have enough to hire two intermediate Lords of Gods who are death warriors," the first Black Dragon Elder said. He paused before he said with a wry smile, "Honestly, even if I used all my savings, I could only hire one intermediate Lord of Gods..."

"Could the culprit be an Emperor of Gods?" someone speculated out loud.

"Impossible," Long Qing Chong said, "Why would an Emperor of Gods need to hire death warriors to kill Duan Ling Tian? He could simply enter our sect to kill Duan Ling Tian. Our Guarding Formation wouldn't be able to stop an Emperor of Gods for long. Even if he didn't enter our sect and we refused to hand Duan Ling Tian over, he could force our hand by killing everyone who tried to leave the sect."

Most of the elders agreed with Long Qing Chong's words.

"If the culprit isn't an Emperor of Gods, then he's likely an advanced Lord of Gods. Perhaps, the culprit isn't just one person. It could be a lord-rank force."

"We should investigate those who have grudges against Duan Ling Tian first."

"We have to investigate this matter seriously."

"News of this has spread throughout the sect, and it makes the younger disciples uneasy. They know if they were in Duan Ling Tian's shoes, they would surely die. They're questioning the sect."

"This is why we need to investigate this matter, and show the disciples that the sect won't let this matter slide."

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All the high-ranking officials in the Flying Dragon Sect were furious. This included Xue Ming Zhi, the Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. He acted as though he could not wait to get his hands on the culprit during the meeting.

After the meeting ended, Xue Ming Zhi remained calm as he returned to his cultivation ground. He even smiled at those who greeted him during his journey back. However, as soon as arrived at his cultivation ground and activated the Noise-Cancelling Formation, his expression turned unsightly immediately.

"Damn it! Those two intermediate Lords of Gods were trash! They can't even deal with a rudimentary Lord of Gods! To think I spent half of my life savings on them!"

Xue Ming Zhi looked like a madman at this time. His eyes were bloodshot, his face was ashen, and his body was trembling. It took him about 15 minutes before he calmed down.

After that, he sent a message to his daughter.

"My dear daughter, come and see me alone. Don't bring Zhong Can."

"Father, I heard the plan failed? I'll come over at once."

It did not take long for his daughter to arrive.

Xue Ming Zhi sighed. "It seems like you've heard about those two death warriors. Don't ever speak about this matter from today onward. Don't mention it to Zhong Can. The Sect Leader and the Golden Dragon Elders are furious, and they're adamant about getting to the bottom of this matter despite the ongoing Imperial War. You should know how important this matter is. Although I'm the vice sect leader, they won't let me go if they find out that I'm the culprit. Death is the least of my concern since I've lived for tens of thousands of years. As a father, you're my only concern."

"Father, rest assured. I'll carry this secret to my grave," his daughter said.

"It's a relief to hear you say that," Xue Ming Zhi said with a nod.

"Father, what are you going to do next? Will they investigate you?" his daughter asked.

"Don't worry. I already have a plan. However, you have to mentally prepare yourself. I've decided to push the blame to the 10,000 Devils Sect," Xue Ming Zhi said.

"The 10,000 Devils Sect?"

"That's right. The enmity between the 10,000 Devils Sect and Duan Ling Tian is very deep. There was also that matter with Kuang Tian Zheng. They have enough reasons to hire death warriors to kill Duan Ling Tian. It's not convincing to blame the two White Dragon Elders from the 10,000 Devils faction in the sect since they can't afford to hire death warriors of such caliber. The 10,000 Devils Sect, on the other hand, is a wealthy lord-rank force. They can easily afford to hire two death warriors who are intermediate Lords of Gods."

"Father, I don't care about the life or death of the 10,000 Devils Sect, but Brother Zhong Can..."

"Rest assured. I'll do my best to protect Zhong Can."

"Thank you, father!"

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At this time, Duan Ling Tian, accompanied by Ding Yan, went to see Long Qing Chong.

"Greetings, Sect Leader," Ding Yan said with a bow.

Long Qing Chong nodded and said with a forced smile on his face, "I last met you at Revered Elder Sikong's cultivation ground. In such a short time, you've achieved so much..."

Ding Yan instinctively looked at Duan Ling Tian before he said wryly, "Sect Leader, you're overpraising me. Compared to Duan Ling Tian, I'm nothing."

Ding Yan's Uncle Sikong had a good relationship with Long Qing Chong, and the duo would often play chess and chat. Hence, Ding Yan had met Long Qing Chong a few times even before he went to Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy. Recently, Long Qing Chong did not visit as frequently because he was busy.

Long Qing Chong shook his head and said in a light-hearted manner, "You can't compare yourself to Duan Ling Tian. Even the prodigies from the previous generations, including myself, couldn't compare to him. A rudimentary Lord of Gods who's not even 3,000 years with strength comparable to a White Dragon Elder... This is unprecedented in the Flying Dragon Sect."

The corners of Long Qing Chong's lips twitched nearing the end of his words.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly stunned. He did not expect that the normally serious Long Qing Chong would have such a light-hearted side.

When Long Qing Chong turned to look at Duan Ling Tian, his expression turned solemn again as he asked, "Duan Ling Tian, do you have any helpful information regarding the two death warriors that were hired to kill you?"

Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed as he asked, "Sect Leader, are you asking me if I have an idea of who might be behind this?"

Long Qing Chong nodded.

"As a matter of fact, I do have someone in mind," Duan Ling Tian said without hesitation.

"Who is it?" Long Qing Chong's eyes glinted coldly as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's reply.

Duan Ling Tian met Long Qing Chong's gaze as he said, "It's either the 10,000 Devils Sect or Vice Sect Leader Xue."

There was only one vice sect leader with the surname 'Xue' in the Flying Dragon Sect.

Long Qing Chong's eyes narrowed immediately.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say, "There are many people who want me dead. However, only the 10,000 Devils Sect and Vice Sect Leader Xue have the capability to hire two death warriors who are intermediate Lords of Gods to kill me in the sect. Naturally, these are just my speculations. It'd be difficult for us to search for clues now that the death warriors are dead," Duan Ling Tian said truthfully.

The 10,000 Devils Sect and Xue Ming Zhi were as easy to deal with as an ant to Long Qing Zhong. With just a command, he could easily get rid of them. Apart from his narrowed eyes, his expression remained the same. He nodded and said, "Alright, I understand."