

Chapter 3971: Thank You For the Compliment

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Zhen Ping Fan was truly dumbfounded when he found out that his father knew nothing at all about this matter. Then, he quickly warned Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, you shouldn’t lie. It’s fine if the Seven Kills Valley refuses, but if they agree, you’re going to have to produce a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete soul if Dao Wei defeats you. Otherwise, let alone me, even the sect won’t be able to protect you.”

It would not be much of a problem if the Seven Kills Valley was an ordinary emperor-rank force, but it was on par with the Pure Yang Sect in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Although the Seven Kills Valley was slightly weaker than the Pure Yang Sect, the Pure Yang Sect still would not be willing to offend the Seven Kills Valley to such an extent.

“Elder Zhen, I understand,” Duan Ling Tian replied, not surprised by Zhen Ping Fan’s message.

“If you understand then why did you propose such a thing? Where are you going to find a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete soul?” Zhen Ping Fan said somewhat angrily.

Duan Ling Tian smiled before he replied, “Elder Zhen, what if I tell you that I’ll definitely win a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact for you? If I’m 100% confident, won’t you borrow it from Elder Yun Feng? In fact, there might not be a need for that if the Seven Kills Valley doesn’t demand us to show our stakes.”

Zhen Ping Fan was stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s words. His eyes glinted after he thought about Duan Ling Tian’s words again. There were only a few Ascension Elders in the Pure Yang Sect in possession of prominent divine artifacts with incomplete artifact souls. He did not think much about his lack of a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. However, he did feel slightly discontented when he found out that the Seven Kills Valley’s Hong Yun Xiao possessed a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul even if he knew Hong Yun Xiao only came into possession of the weapon due to luck. In terms of strength and background, he was superior to Hong Yun Xiao, after all.

“Are you truly confident?” Zhen Ping Fan asked again. Although he was very confident and optimistic about Duan Ling Tian, the stakes were too high after all. In the entire Eastern Ridge Mansion, there were perhaps fewer than 30 prominent divine artifacts with an incomplete artifact soul, and most of them were in the possession of the top five emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

“As long as he’s not an advanced Lord of Gods, I’m 100% confident,” Duan Ling Tian replied without hesitation.

“Very good! I’ll speak to my father immediately,” Zhen Ping Fan said as his eyes lit up. He wasted no time in sending his father, Zhen Yun Feng, a message.

“Father, there are only a few advanced Lord of Gods under the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion over the past 100,000 years. We’ve also been paying attention to Dao Wei’s progress. It’s impossible for him to breakthrough in such a short time and become an advanced Lord of Gods even if he has an abundance of resources. I think it’s worth a gamble,” Zhen Ping Fan said to his father.

Zhen Yun Feng replied immediately, "I know. I believe in Duan Ling Tian as well. I'll allow both of you to use my prominent divine artifact as a stake. However, I think both of you are too optimistic and naive. Do you really think the Seven Kills Valley will be willing to use such a treasure as a stake? Especially when they know how talented Duan Ling Tian is..."

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Zhen Yun Feng's excitement died down slightly upon hearing his father's words. However, his eyes still could not help but shine with anticipation as he looked at Yu Chang Lian. 'Yu Chang Lian doesn't seem like he's qualified to make such a decision. I don't think he has a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as well...'

Dao Wei, who finally regained his senses, scoffed at Duan Ling Tian. "Duan Ling Tian, is this a joke? Do you even possess such a prominent divine artifact? If you ask me, I think you're just trying to get out of the duel by coming up with such a ridiculous proposal. Are you that afraid of me?"

Even if Duan Ling Tian was able to produce a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to use as a stake, the Seven Kills Valley definitely would not dare to take such risk even if Dao Wei was strong.

Yu Chang Lian remained silent. However, a hint of contempt could be seen in his eyes when he looked at Duan Ling Tian. He shared the same opinion as Dao Wei and thought that Duan Ling Tian was just trying to avoid fighting Dao Wei.

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'Why is he unwilling to duel? Does he want to hide his strength? Is he not confident?'

Yu Chang Lian did not think Duan Ling Tian was afraid of Dao Wei. After all, for Zhen Ping Fan to personally go to the Flying Dragon Sect to recruit Duan Ling Tian was proof enough that Duan Ling Tian was highly talented. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian's achievements spoke for themselves as well. His progress in the past few decades alone was enough for him to be considered among the top prodigies in the history of the Eastern Ridge Mansion. He really did not understand why Duan Ling Tian would propose this. After all, he was certain Duan Ling Tian did not possess such a prominent divine artifact, and even if Duan Ling Tian did possess such a weapon, Duan Ling Tian would not reveal it unless he had a death wish. After all, even Emperors of Gods would be tempted by such a weapon.

As soon as Dao Wei spoke, Zhen Ping Fan said nonchalantly, "Who says he doesn't have such a prominent divine artifact to use as a stake? I just spoke to my father, and he's willing to lend his prominent divine artifact to Duan Ling Tian. If that's enough, I can swear on the Devil's Heart Blood Oath to prove the veracity of my words. If Duan Ling Tian loses to Dao Wei, that prominent divine artifact will be yours. Naturally, that will depend on whether the Seven Kills Valley is willing to accept the bet."

Everyone, except for Duan Ling Tian, was shocked by Zhen Ping Fan's words.

The members of the Pure Yang Sect did not think there was a point in dissuading Zhen Ping Fan since even Zhen Yun Feng had agreed to it. It was clear to them that Zhen Yun Feng was highly confident about Duan Ling Tian's ability. Without Zhen Yun Feng's permission, even Zhen Ping Fan would not dare

to use his father's prominent divine artifact as a stake. Since Zhen Yun Feng was so confident, all of them thought that Duan Ling Tian's strength must have risen tremendously after becoming an intermediate Lord of Gods.

At the same time, Dao Wei's expression darkened immediately. He did not expect Zhen Ping Fan to say such words. He knew that Zhen Ping Fan not only had an extraordinary background, but Zhen Ping Fan, a highly talented rudimentary Emperor of Gods, was stronger than his master, Yu Chang Lian, as well. He could scoff, ridicule, and refute Duan Ling Tian's words, but he could not afford to do so with Zhen Ping Fan. Hence, with Zhen Ping Fan's intervention, he could only look at his master.

When Yu Chang Lian recovered from the shock, he thought that the Pure Yang Sect was despicable for coveting their prominent divine artifact. Nonetheless, he maintained the smile on his face and said, "It seems like Junior Uncle Yun Feng is very confident about Duan Ling Tian's strength. If I'm not mistaken, Duan Ling Tian must have become an intermediate Lord of Gods, right?"

Zhen Ping Fan could not help but roll his eyes upon hearing Yu Chang Lian's words. Now that Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base had been exposed, there was no way the Seven Kills Valley would agree to such a bet. In any case, he knew the secret could not be kept for long. Eventually, someone from the Pure Yang Sect would expose it.

Yu Chang Lian, who had confirmed his speculation after seeing the expressions of Zhen Ping Fan and the members of the Pure Yang Sect, turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said with a smile, "Congratulations, Duan Ling Tian. Based on your past performances, it seems like you'll definitely rank in the top 10 during the Seven Mansions Feast now that you've become an intermediate Lord of Gods. Perhaps, my disciple might stand a chance if you're still a rudimentary Lord of Gods, but now, I don't think he's a match for you."

With these words, Yu Chang Lian admitted defeat on behalf of his disciple.

Dao Wei's expression changed immediately as soon as he heard Yu Chang Lian's words. Just as he was about to protest, he received a message from Yu Chang Lian.

"Unless you're 100% confident you can defeat him, you'll die if you lose the prominent divine artifact. How much do you know about him for you to confidently claim that you can defeat him? It's good to be confident, but if you overdo it, you're just conceited."

Yu Chang Lian's voice turned icy at the end of his message. He knew his disciple very well so he had quickly sent a message to stop his disciple from speaking up.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, "Thank you for the compliment, Elder Yu. If you don't have confidence in Dao Wei, you can substitute with someone stronger from the Seven Kills Valley. The stakes will be the same."

Chapter 3972: The Wanqi Clan

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When Duan Ling Tian suggested someone stronger from the Seven Kills Valley to substitute for Dao Wei, the arrogant Dao Wei was naturally furious. He glared at Duan Ling Tian with eyes like daggers. At this moment, he was desperate to prove to everyone that he was stronger than Duan Ling Tian. However, he did not have the courage to do so after his master warned him of the consequences of losing the Seven Kills Valley's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. He would not only be risking his life, but he would be risking the lives of his master and his family as well.

"Duan Ling Tian, it seems like you've gotten very strong," Yu Chang Lian said as the smile on his face slowly disappeared. He was naturally displeased considering how aggressive Duan Ling Tian was acting. Alas, he felt helpless.

The other two top prodigies from the Seven Kills Valley were only slightly stronger than Dao Wei. There was no 100% guarantee that they would be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian, who was now an intermediate Lord of Gods. Under normal circumstances, this was no issue at all. However, using prominent divine artifacts with an incomplete artifact soul as stakes made it a big issue. The Seven Kills Valley would not agree to such a bet if they were not 100% confident they would win.

"Elder Yu, you're overpraising me," Duan Ling Tian said with an innocent smile.

Duan Ling Tian's innocent smile grated on the nerves of those from the Seven Kills Valley. It looked more like a derisive smile to them.

As for Dao Wei, he could not help but begin to doubt his ability when he saw how confident Duan Ling Tian was.

"Elder Yu, I heard that Dao Wei is the third strongest prodigy below the age of 10,000 in the Seven Kills Valley. This means there are another two people stronger than him, right? It's said that their strength is almost that of an advanced Lord of Gods. Are you sure the Seven Kills Valley doesn't want to bet? After all, there's a chance the Seven Kills Valley can obtain my father's prominent divine artifact," Zhen Ping Fan said persuasively. His eyes shone brightly with anticipation as he looked at Yu Chang Lian.

The corners of Yu Chang Lian's lips twitched when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. He shook his head and said, "Elder Zhen, let's not talk about this matter anymore. The Seven Kills Valley definitely won't agree to such a bet. Unless... you're willing to duel with one of our intermediate Emperor of Gods."

Clearly, there was no way that the Seven Kills Valley would agree to such a bet. Yu Chang Lian emphasized that and drew a comparison by suggesting that Zhen Ping Fan, a rudimentary Emperor of Gods, fought with an intermediate Emperor of Gods.

The members of the Pure Yang Sect, including Duan Ling Tian, felt the corners of their lips twitch upon hearing Yu Chang Lian's words.

Although Zhen Ping Fang was acknowledged as the strongest rudimentary Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect, there was a huge difference between a rudimentary Emperor of Gods and an intermediate Emperor of Gods. In the realm of Emperors of Gods, even if one's comprehension was more profound, it still would not be enough to defeat someone whose cultivation base was higher.

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Contrary to his thoughts, Zhen Ping Fan maintained a smile on his face and said, "Elder Yu, how can I be a match for an intermediate Emperor of Gods? However, if you're not opposed to it, why don't you and Hong Yun Xiao join forces in a duel with me? If I win, the Seven Kills Valley's prominent divine artifact will belong to me."

The smile on Yu Chang Lian's face froze immediately.

At the same time, the expressions of Yu Chang Lian's disciples, who were standing behind him, darkened as well. They all felt that Zhen Ping Fan's words were insulting their master.

Apart from the elders, the younger generation from the Pure Yang Sect was shocked by Zhen Ping Fan's proposal.

"Elder Zhen is confident he can win against two rudimentary Emperors of Gods from the Seven Kills Valley?"

"Wait. Elder Zhen is just a rudimentary Emperor of Gods, right?"

"I don't think it'd be easy for him to take on two rudimentary Emperors of Gods at the same time, right?"

However, after thinking about it, those from the Pure Yang Sect thought that Zhen Ping Fan must be strong enough to defeat two rudimentary Emperors of Gods at the same time. Otherwise, how could he be willing to use his father's prominent divine artifact to bet?

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'Elder Zhen...' Duan Ling Tian was similarly stunned by Zhen Ping Fan's proposal. Although he had heard that Zhen Ping Fan was the strongest in the Pure Yang Sect, not counting the intermediate Emperors of Gods, he had never seen Zhen Ping Fan in action before. Moreover, since it was just hearsay, likely spread by those who wanted to curry favor with Zhen Ping Fan, he did not put much stock into it. However, judging by Yu Chang Lian's reaction, it seemed like the rumor was true.

Yu Chang Lian finally said with a self-deprecating smile, "Elder Zhen, you must be joking. Who doesn't know you're invincible among rudimentary Emperors of Gods in the Eastern Ridge Mansion? I still have the recording from the time you killed a rudimentary Emperor of Gods and severely injured another rudimentary Emperor of Gods when you'd just broken through and became a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. Even if another rudimentary Emperor of Gods joins me and Hong Yun Xiao to fight you, I'm still not 100% certain of our victory."

The Pure Yang Sect members, apart from the elders and Duan Ling Tian, were further shocked by these words.

Even Yu Chang Lian's disciples were shocked.

"Zhen Ping Fan is so strong?!"

Dao Wei and his fellow disciple exchanged a look as they spoke through Voice Transmission.

In the end, none of the proposed duels happened.

Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian felt that it was a pity that they lost the chance to obtain a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

However, it was not important to Duan Ling Tian. After all, he was in possession of a divine prominent artifact with a complete artifact soul. Not only that, but Linghu Ren Feng had also given him a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul in the past. If the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul were not given by Linghu Ren Feng, he would have offered it to Zhen Ping Fan. However, he was not sure if Linghu Ren Feng had given him her only prominent divine artifact or not so he planned to return it to her when he saw her again. He thought to himself, 'I guess I can only look for another chance to repay his kindness...'

Before officially joining the Pure Yang Sect, Zhen Ping Fan had supported and taken great care of Duan Ling Tian so he felt greatly indebted to Zhen Ping Fan. He thought a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was a great way to repay Zhen Ping Fan. Alas, no one took the bait and accepted the duel. He could only look for another chance to repay Zhen Ping Fan.

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As Yu Chang Lian led those from the Pure Yang Sect into the Seven Kills Valley's estate, no one spoke, at least not outwardly.

As a matter of fact, Yu Chang Lian was speaking to Zhen Ping Fan through Voice Transmission at this moment.

"Elder Zhen, I have an idea if you really want a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul..."

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes narrowed slightly upon hearing those words.

When he saw Zhen Ping Fan looking at him, Yu Chang Lian said ambiguously, "Wanqi Hong, the top prodigy from the Wanqi clan, will be present."

"So?" Zhen Ping Fan replied nonchalantly, "Even if he's stronger than your disciple, Dao Wei, there's still a limit to his strength. Do you think the Wanqi clan is stupid? Even you didn't dare to accept the bet. The Wanqi clan is an emperor-rank clan that has existed for a few hundred thousand years. It's no worse than our respective sects."

Zhen Ping Fan naturally had heard of Wanqi Hong.

Wanqi Hong was the top prodigy in the Wanqi clan, and he was also one of the strongest intermediate Lord of Gods in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. To be precise, he was considered one of the top three strongest prodigies below the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. The three top prodigies under the age of 10,000 in Seven Kills Valley were no match for him at all. In fact, his fame rose when he defeated the strongest prodigy in the Seven Kills Valley 200 years ago with just ten moves.

Yu Chang Lian smiled. "That's true if it were in the past. However, what if Wanqi Hong has already become an advanced Lord of Gods now? Based on what I know, his goal isn't to rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast, but to rank in the top 3!"

Zhen Ping Fan was shocked when Yu Chang Lian said that Wanqi Hong might have become an advanced Lord of Gods. If it was true, Wanqi Hong would be the first advanced Lord of Gods below the age of 100,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion in the past 100,000 years.

Yu Chang Lian continued to say, "Moreover, if Wanqi Hong isn't an advanced Lord of Gods, it's unlikely that he'll participate in the Trading Conference. I heard that the person leading the entourage from the Wanqi clan is Wanqi Jue, Wanqi Hong's grandfather."

"Wanqi Jue?" Zhen Ping Fan, who had returned to his senses, looked at Yu Chang Lian meaningfully when he heard the name 'Wanqi Jue'. Then, he said, "Old Yu, I heard that when you were young, you said something inappropriate during some event and was slapped by Wanqi Jue. Are you still holding a grudge against him?"

Chapter 3973: Not a Big Deal

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Yu Chang Lian was stunned by Zhen Ping Fan's words. Then, he feigned a cough out of embarrassment before he replied through Voice Transmission, "How despicable of you to judge me like that. Am I, Yu Chang Lian, such a person? Can't you tell me that I'm doing you a favor? You should be aware that Wanqi Jue is not only short-tempered, but he's also quite dense. He's been bragging about his great-great-grandson, Wanqi Hong, a lot. Most importantly, he cares about his reputation a lot. Do you think he'll be able to stay calm if you say Wanqi Hong is no match for Duan Ling Tian? Moreover, there's no need for you to wait for the Wanqi clan to bring a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul over because Wanqi Jue possesses one. Wanqi Jue is not only an intermediate Emperor of Gods, but he has the highest rank among the entourage from the Wanqi clan. Wanqi Jue aside, the strongest among them is only a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. Do you think the others would be able to dissuade him if he's intent on betting with you? Trust me, this won't go wrong." Then, he paused for a moment as though he just remembered something before he added, "It's best if you don't tell him that I suggested this. Don't tell anyone that I told you Wanqi Hong has become an advanced Lord of Gods within 100 years so his cultivation base has yet to stabilize..."

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes narrowed and glinted upon hearing Yu Chang Lian's words.

Yu Chang Lian continued to say, "Naturally, this will only work if Duan Ling Tian is confident about defeating Wanqi Hong. Otherwise, it'd be meaningless."

'Wanqi Jue...'

The image of a burly old man with a head full of white hair like the mane of a lion appeared in Zhen Ping Fan's mind. The old man was none other than Wanqi Jue, one of the three Golden Seat Elders of the Wanqi clan and also one of the four intermediate Emperors of Gods in the Wanqi clan. Apart from the three Golden Seat Elders of the Wanqi clan, the clan leader was also an intermediate Emperor of Gods.

'That old man is here? If I'm not mistaken, his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul is a spear. It's not my favorite type of weapon, but once the artifact soul is complete, the weapon can change its form. However, it's too early for me to think so far. I should ask Duan Ling Tian if he's confident about defeating Wanqi Hong. After all, my father's prominent divine artifact with an

incomplete artifact soul is at stake. If I lose it, he's not going to let me get away with it,' Zhen Ping Fan thought to himself, growing calm at the end of his thoughts.

At the same time, Yu Chang Lian had led Duan Ling Tian and the others to a valley filled with many courtyards. This place had been prepared by the Seven Kills Valley for the people from the Pure Yang Sect. There were so many courtyards that they were enough for each person to occupy one.

When Zhen Ping Fan was about to send a message to Duan Ling Tian, Yu Chang Lian said, "Elder Zhen, the Wanqi clan has been arranged to stay in that valley over there."

Yu Chang Lian pointed in the direction of a valley that was about a mile away from them.

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes shone brightly as he looked in the direction where Yu Chang Lian pointed.

"Old Yu, if this matter is successful, I'll..." Zhen Ping fan wanted to reward Yu Chang Lian. After all, if he truly managed to obtain a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, he had Yu Chang Lian to thank for it.

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Before Zhen Ping Fan finished speaking, Yu Chang Lian said, "No, there's no need for that. I'll be grateful as long as you don't mention my involvement in the matter after you win the prominent divine artifact. Wanqi Jue is short-tempered, and he definitely won't let me get away with it if he finds out I'm involved. Elder Zhen, you better not betray me!"

A hint of anxiousness could be heard in Yu Chang Lian's voice nearing the end of his words.

"Of course," Zhen Ping Fan said as he glanced at Yu Chang Lian from the corners of his eyes. He did not expect Yu Chang Lian would still hold a grudge against Wanqi Jue for slapping him more than 30,000 years ago. In the next moment, chills ran up his spine, and a hint of wariness could be seen in his eyes as he looked at Yu Chang Lian and thought to himself, 'It's best not to offend this old man! He's unforgiving and petty and will likely hold a grudge for the rest of his life...'

30,000 years were nothing for those below the realm of a King of Gods. However, for those above the realm of a King of Gods, time was precious as they strove to grow stronger in preparation for the Heavenly Tribulation, hoping they would survive it.

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"Everyone, you have free access to this valley until the day you leave. You can stay and cultivate here. If there's anything you need, please reach out to our members who are patrolling nearby. The Seven Kills Valley welcomes you. The Trading Conference will begin in two weeks. When the time comes, I'll personally escort all of you to the venue."

After the Pure Yang Sect's leaders expressed their gratitude, Yu Chang Lian bade farewell and left with his two disciples.

Before leaving, Dao Wei glared at Duan Ling Tian with a sour expression on his face.

On the contrary, Duan Ling Tian did not care about Dao Wei at all. After all, intermediate Lords of Gods were no threat to him now.

'What a pity,' Lan Xi Lin thought to himself as he sighed inwardly. He had expected a duel between Duan Ling Tian and Dao Wei, but it failed to happen.

'Why was Duan Ling Tian so confident that he'd be able to defeat Dao Wei? He even had the guts to use the old ancestor's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as a stake. Why did the old ancestor trust him so much? Wasn't he worried that Duan Ling Tian would lose his prominent divine artifact?'

Lan Xi Lin was green with envy as he subconsciously looked at Duan Ling Tian. Although Zhen Yun Feng treated him well, it could not compare to Zhen Yun Feng's treatment of Duan Ling Tian who had just joined the Pure Yang Sect for a few decades.

After Duan Ling Tian bade farewell to Zhen Ping Fan and the Nirvanic Elder from the Hidden Sword faction, he settled down in one of the courtyards in the valley. Just as he was about to start cultivating, he received a message from Zhen Ping Fan.

"Duan Ling Tian, please come here for a second."

"Elder Zhen?" Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned and puzzled by the message. Then, he left his courtyard to look for Zhen Ping Fan, who was staying nearby.

Swoosh!

After Duan Ling Tian arrived, Zhen Ping Fan tossed out a few isolation and noise-canceling Formation compasses that would also prevent others from probing with their Divine Consciousnesses.

Seeing how cautious Zhen Ping Fan was, Duan Ling Tian's expression turned solemn as he asked, "Elder Zhen, what's the matter? Is there something I can help you with?"

Zhen Ping Fan smiled as he gestured for Duan Ling Tian to take a seat at the stone table in the front yard before he said, "Your strength must have increased tremendously after you became an intermediate Lord of Gods, right? Otherwise, you wouldn't have been so confident when challenging the three strongest intermediate Lords of Gods in Seven Kills Valley with a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul on the line."

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly before he said, "Elder Zhen, you can be direct with me. However, I'm afraid it'd be impossible for us to get the Seven Kills Valley to agree to the bet. It's useless even if I defeat the three strongest intermediate Lords of Gods in the Seven Kills Valley since they don't have the authority to use a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as a stake."

Duan Ling Tian assumed that Zhen Ping Fan was going to ask him to challenge the other two strongest prodigies in the Seven Kills Valley.

Zhen Ping Fan rolled his eyes. "Did you think I was going to ask you to challenge them? Do you think I'm stupid? What's the use of challenging them if they don't have a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled sheepishly. "I thought you were clouded by the thought of obtaining a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul from the Seven Kills Valley. If that's not the case, then..." He trailed off as his smile faded away. After a beat, he asked curiously, "What is it, Elder Zhen?"

Zhen Ping Fan took a deep breath as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. Then, he cleared his throat and asked, "Tell me, are you confident about defeating someone who has just become an advanced Lord of Gods less than 100 years ago? Before breaking through, that person was slightly stronger than the three prodigies in Seven Kills Valley, including Dao Wei. Even then, there was a limit to his strength."

"There's a limit to his strength?" Duan Ling Tian was suspicious when he saw the ambiguous expression on Zhen Ping Fan's face and asked, "What was the limit?"

Zhen Ping Fan smiled sheepishly as he said, "It's not a big deal actually. He managed to beat the strongest prodigy in Seven Kills Valley in ten moves 200 years ago."

Chapter 3974: Is Duan Ling Tian Confident?

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The person defeated the strongest prodigy in the Seven Kills Valley with ten moves when he was still an intermediate Lord of Gods.

After listening to Zhen Ping Fan, Duan Ling Tian asked with a teasing expression on his face, "Elder Zhen, how is this not a big deal? An intermediate Lord of Gods who was so strong 200 years ago and became an advanced Lord of Gods less than 100 years ago... Elder Zhen, do you really think I can defeat him? It seems like you have a lot of confidence in me."

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled at the end of his words. He knew there were many outstanding prodigies in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, and it seemed like the person Zhen Ping Fan mentioned was unrivaled among his peers in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

Zhen Ping Fan stared at Duan Ling Tian intently as he took a deep breath before asking, "Are you confident?"

Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "I can't say for sure. After all, I've no idea how stable his cultivation base is now and how profound his comprehension of the law is. Moreover, I don't even know the strength of the strongest prodigy of the Seven Kills Valley, whom that person defeated 200 years ago, so I can't draw a comparison." Then, he paused before he asked, "Elder Zhen, who's that person you mentioned?"

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes flashed as he replied, "Wanqi Hong from the Wanqi clan."

Duan Ling Tian had naturally heard about the Wanqi clan before since it was among the top emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion that came to the Flying Dragon Sect to recruit him in the past. The Wanqi clan was comparable to the Pure Yang Sect and the Seven Kills Valley; it was a force with many Emperors of Gods. Unlike the two sects, the Wanqi clan was quite mysterious. They rarely recruited outsiders. Even if they did, outsiders could only be outer disciples. For this reason, many talented cultivators were unwilling to join the Wanqi clan, and most of the clan's powerhouses were all direct descendants of the clan.

Naturally, there were also talented cultivators who chose to join the Wanqi clan. With the right talents, the clan naturally would not refuse them and would also try to recruit them by offering various benefits. One of the methods the clan would use to make sure the outsider stayed loyal to the clan was arranged marriages. In fact, they had used marriages to build alliances with various lord-rank and emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. With this, many young talents from their allies would join them eventually. This was also the reason the Wanqi clan could maintain their position and legacy even though they did not recruit often and had fewer resources to offer as benefits. For all these reasons, most clans could not compare to sects in many aspects.

Duan Ling Tian recalled that when the Wanqi clan tried to recruit him, they had promised him many benefits. They also promised to select an outstanding and beautiful female prodigy to be his wife. Naturally, he knew the marriage was the Wanqi clan's way of tying him to the clan for the rest of his life.

"Wanqi Hong..."

Duan Ling Tian had also heard of Wanqi Hong. He was the Wanqi clan's strongest prodigy below the age of 10,000. There were rumors that he could defeat the second strongest prodigy in the clan in fewer than ten moves a few hundred years ago. It was said that he was the most outstanding prodigy in the history of the Wanqi clan. Many believed that he would be able to become an Emperor of Gods before reaching the age of 12,000. Even the most outstanding prodigy in the history of the Pure Yang Sect, Ye Chen Feng, the founder of the Hidden Sword faction, only became an Emperor of Gods when he was about 13,000 years old. With that, he was the youngest person ever to become an Emperor of Gods in the history of the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Many people thought Wanqi Hong was likely to break Ye Chen Feng's record in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

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Duan Ling Tian had learned about this from Zhen Ping Fan.

'He became an advanced Lord of Gods about 100 years ago...'

Duan Ling Tian remembered that Wanqi Hong was only about 8,000 years old. Initially, he thought that the rumors of Wanqi Hong becoming an Emperor of Gods at or before 12,000 years old were exaggerated, but now, it seemed like that was not the case.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhen Ping Fan and smiled. "Elder Zhen, do you want me to challenge Wanqi Hong to test the water? Are you afraid that I'll lose to him during the Seven Mansions Feast? If this is the case, I think it's unnecessary. If it's true that Wanqi Hong has become an advanced Lord of Gods, then he'll definitely rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast. In fact, just based on his performance when he was still an intermediate Lord of Gods, he has a high chance of ranking in the top three." He shook his head as he continued to say, "The Pure Yang Sect only expects me to rank in the top 10 so it doesn't matter if I can defeat him or not."

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Zhen Ping Fan rolled his eyes at Duan Ling Tian and said, "I'm not concerned about the Seven Mansions Feast. As you said, he won't affect your ranking in the top ten. There's no need for me to worry at all. The reason I brought him up is all because you mentioned the prominent divine artifact with an

incomplete artifact soul. The Seven Kills Valley won't bet using a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, but the Wanqi clan might..."

Zhen Ping Fan massaged his temples before he said with a sigh, "However, there's nothing we can do if you're not confident you can defeat Wanqi Hong."

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Zhen Ping Fan to be so obsessed with a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. He said, "Elder Zhen, I don't think Wanqi Hong or the Wanqi clan would be so stupid. Even if I'm confident, do you really think the clan would be willing to use a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul in a bet against me? Just like Elder Yu, since we dare to put a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul on the line, the Wanqi clan will naturally be cautious."

Zhen Ping Fan nodded in agreement as he said, "Indeed. You're not wrong, but we have a chance..."

Then, Zhen Ping Fan recounted his conversation with Yu Chang Lian to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission when he saw the doubt in Duan Ling Tian's eyes.

Duan Ling Tian was also shocked when he learned that Yu Chang Lian was still holding onto his grudge after 30,000 years. He said with a sigh, "Elder Yu looks kind and amicable. I didn't expect him to be so vengeful... I wouldn't believe it if you didn't tell me about it."

"I just found out about it as well," Zhen Ping Fan said and sighed as well, "I've dealt with Old Yu several times in the past and thought he was alright. I didn't expect him to be so vengeful. Thank goodness there's no animosity between us. Otherwise, I'd have to constantly watch my back."

Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. Indeed, a vengeful person was truly terrifying. If there was animosity, it was best to get rid of such a person as soon as possible. Otherwise, such a person would definitely seek revenge sooner or later.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian also understood Zhen Ping Fan's thoughts. Wanqi Jue was a stubborn and proud old man with a quick temper. Based on Wanqi Jue's confidence in Wanqi Hong, it was indeed likely that Wanqi Jue would agree to the bet if he was provoked. As Zhen Ping Fan said, the key factor was if he was confident he could defeat Wanqi Hong.

Duan Ling Tian said solemnly, "Elder Zhen, I can't give you a 100% guarantee. Moreover, I still have to understand Wanqi Hong's strength and comprehension and his bloodline power. The more I know, the better I'll be able to judge. Apart from that, I also need to know how much his strength has increased after becoming an advanced Lord of Gods. With all these things, I'll be able to roughly judge if I'm able to defeat him. Even then, I think it's better not to take such a risk."

Duan Ling Tian naturally did not want to cause trouble for Zhen Ping Fan and the Cloud Peak faction. It was better to play it safe since it involved a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. He would be completely confident about defeating Wanqi Hong if Wanqi Hong was still an intermediate Lord of Gods, but unfortunately, Wanqi Hong was now an advanced Lord of Gods.

Zhen Ping Fan nodded and said, "Let me try to gather information in these coming few days. I'll update you once I find out anything. If you're confident, then we'll take the risk and challenge Wanqi Hong."

Otherwise, we'll forget about it. My old man will kill me if I lose his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, after all."

Zhen Ping Fan smiled bitterly at the end of his words, causing Duan Ling Tian to laugh.

Not long after that, Duan Ling Tian left Zhen Ping Fan's courtyard and returned to his own courtyard.

...

Three days later.

Duan Ling Tian received a message from Zhen Ping Fan pertaining to the information Zhen Ping Fan found out about Wanqi Hong.

Zhen Ping Fan managed to find out about Wanqi Hong's cultivation progress and comprehension of the law in detail so they were now aware of Wanqi Hong's abilities, except for the ones he chose to hide.

After telling Duan Ling Tian everything he found out, Zhen Ping Fan asked, "Are you confident?"

Duan Ling Tian could hear the nervousness in Zhen Ping Fan's voice when Zhen Ping Fan asked the question.

Chapter 3975: Wanqi Jue

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After receiving Zhen Ping Fan's urgent message, Duan Ling Tian mulled over Zhen Ping Fan's question for a moment before he replied slowly, "I'm confident I'm able to defeat him, provided he doesn't have any hidden trump cards. In fact, even if he hid his strength, I'm confident I'm able to defeat him unless his strength is beyond monstrous. Worse comes to worst, I think we'll be able to fight to a draw. However, Elder Zhen, I think you should discuss this with Elder Yun Feng first."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply, the eyes of Zhen Ping Fan, who was staying in the courtyard nearby, lit up immediately. He replied excitedly, "Alright!"

Initially, after learning about Wanqi Hong's strength, Zhen Ping Fan did not have much hope that Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat Wanqi Hong. He did not expect such a positive response from Duan Ling Tian even after he told Duan Ling Tian about Wanqi Hong's approximate strength in the first 100 years after Wanqi Hong became an advanced Lord of Gods and Wanqi Hong's current strength. He really did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be as confident as Hercules.

At the same time, Zhen Ping Fan thought to himself, 'Duan Ling Tian, I hope you're lying to me. I'll believe you this time. If you lose, that old geezer is definitely going to skin me alive even if he doesn't kill me. Forget it. If it really doesn't work out, I'll escape together with you. Aren't I loyal? After all, if I run away, that old geezer might vent his anger on you since he has no one to vent his anger on.'

After taking a deep breath, Zhen Ping Fan sent a message back to the Pure Yang Sect's Cloud Peak faction.

When Zhen Yun Feng heard Zhen Ping Fan's message, he replied, "Are you crazy?! You want Duan Ling Tian to fight Wanqi Hong and bet using my prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul? Are you sure there's nothing wrong with your brain? Believe it or not, I'll break your legs!"

Zhen Yun Feng was truly enraged by Zhen Yun Fang's message. If Duan Ling Tian fought against the three prodigies from the Seven Kills Valley, he was certain of Duan Ling Tian's victory. However, his son wanted to take such a huge risk by pitting Duan Ling Tian against Wanqi Hong from the Wanqi clan and using his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to bet on the fight.

"Are you my son or Wanqi Jue's son?! You're essentially giving away my prominent divine artifact to that old man, Wanqi Jue!"

"Father, listen to me..."

Zhen Ping Fan felt a little helpless when faced with his father's anger. However, he knew that his father's reaction was normal. He said, "The people from the Seven Kills Valley and the Wanqi clan aren't stupid. You know this very well. The Seven Kills Valley is unwilling to gamble because they're not confident about winning. However, the Wanqi clan definitely doesn't lack confidence in Wanqi Hong. Moreover, with Wanqi Jue's temper, even if his clansmen disagree, do you think he'll refuse if I deliberately anger him?"

Zhen Yun Feng sneered. "Of course, he won't refuse! If I were him and someone is essentially giving me a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, I wouldn't refuse as well!"

...

At this moment, Zhen Yun Feng wondered if he had spoiled his son too much in the past. If he were not certain that Zhen Ping Fan was his biological son, he would have suspected that Zhen Ping Fan was the illegitimate son of someone from the Wanqi clan. How could his son propose such a ridiculous thing when he only possessed one prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul?

Zhen Ping Fan smiled bitterly as he replied, "Father, that's only if Duan Ling Tian's defeated. However, think about it. What if Duan Ling Tian wins?"

After receiving this message, Zhen Yun Feng fell silent for a moment before he bellowed, "Impossible!"

Zhen Yun Feng was aware that Duan Ling Tian had broken through and become an intermediate Lord of Gods. If Duan Ling Tian had already stabilized his cultivation base, he believed Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat ordinary advanced Lords of Gods. However, the problem was that Duan Ling Tian had only broken through two years ago, which was not nearly enough time to stabilize his cultivation base at all. After two years, Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was likely only just beginning to stabilize. No matter how talented Duan Ling Tian was, it would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to completely stabilize his cultivation base in roughly ten years, give or take, after becoming an intermediate Lord of Gods.

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"Look! Even you think it's impossible. The Wanqi clan and Wanqi Jue will definitely think it's impossible as well! They won't be able to resist the temptation of a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul," Zhen Ping Fan said. Without giving his father a chance to reply, he said, telling his father about what he had learned over the past few days, "Over the past few days, I learned about Wanqi

Hong's current strength. I've spoken to Duan Ling Tian and told him everything I found out as well. He said that as long as Wanqi Hong isn't hiding his true strength, he's confident he'll be able to defeat Wanqi Hong. Moreover, even if Wanqi Hong hid his strength, as long as Wanqi Hong isn't unreasonably strong, Duan Ling Tian said that at worst, he would fight to a draw with Wanqi Hong. Father, I know you don't trust me, but can't you trust Duan Ling Tian? Didn't you say that although Duan Ling Tian is young, he's more mature than I am? Are you going to deny you said these words before?"

It took a while before Zhen Yun replied, "Duan Ling Tian said that?"

Although Zhen Yun Feng did not have many interactions with Duan Ling Tian, he could see that Duan Ling Tian was not one to brag. With Duan Ling Tian's character, he was certain Duan Ling Tian would not mess around with such an important matter.

Zhen Ping Fan said confidently, "Yes! Why don't I come back now? I'll help you exchange your Soul Pearls with Duan Ling Tian so you can speak to him directly."

Zhen Yun Feng fell silent for a moment before he said, "That's not necessary. What else did you learn about Wanqi Hong? I'll ask around for more information as well. As for Duan Ling Tian, ask him about his strength as well. I want to compare their strengths. If I find that it isn't too risky, then I'll agree to your request."

At this moment, Zhen Yun Feng was also slightly tempted, but he still wanted to confirm the matter personally. After all, his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul would be used as a stake. It had taken his prominent divine artifact many years before giving birth to an incomplete artifact soul. There was a chance he might not have survived his previous once-in-1,000-year Heavenly Tribulation if his prominent divine artifact did not give birth to an incomplete artifact soul.

"I understand," Zhen Ping Fan replied. He knew his father was extremely cautious. Then, he did not hold back and recounted everything he learned about Wanqi Hong to his father. At the same time, he also sent a message to Duan Ling Tian, asking about Duan Ling Tian's strength.

After receiving Duan Ling Tian's reply, Zhen Ping Fan told Zhen Yun Feng about Duan Ling Tian's strength.

After listening to Zhen Ping Fan's message about Duan Ling Tian's strength, Zhen Yun Feng's eyes widened slightly as he inhaled sharply. Then, he said, "Brat, no wonder you're so confident. I had no idea, I really had no idea..."

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In just a blink of an eye, half a month had passed since Duan Ling Tian and the others arrived at the Seven Kills Valley.

On this day, Yu Chang Lian, an elder from the Seven Kills Valley, came to the valley where the members of the Pure Yang Sect were staying. He was here to lead them to the Trading Conference's venue. He hovered in the sky above the valley as he waited for them. This time, he came alone without his disciple, Dao Wei.

The Trading Conference would last for three days. Three days were not a long time, but they were enough for the top five emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion to trade.

The people from the top five emperor-forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion brought many things along, ready to sell or exchange them for the things they needed.

“Elder Zhen, Elder Ye, let’s go,” Yu Chang Lian said with a smile after Zhen Ping Fan and the others from the Pure Yang Sect flew into the air.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian noticed that Yu Chang Lian was staring at the sky above another valley nearby.

An elder from the Seven Kills Valley could be seen in the distant sky with a group of people.

“Elder Zhen, Elder Ye, the people from the Wanqi clan are about to set off as well. Let’s go over there to greet them. What do you think?” Yu Chang Lian asked Zhen Ping Fan and the Hidden Sword faction’s Nirvanic Elder for their opinions.

“Alright.”

Upon hearing Yu Chang Lian’s words, Zhen Ping Fan looked at Yu Chang Lian from the corners of his eyes for quite a while.

Yu Chang Lian wasted no time in leading the people of the Pure Yang Sect over to meet those from the Wanqi clan.

There were about 100 people in attendance from the Pure Yang Sect, and similar to the Pure Yang Sect, there were also about 100 people in attendance from the Wanqi clan.

When Duan Ling Tian’s group drew close, the other group that was just about to set off stopped moving as well,

“Greetings, Elder Wanqi,” Yu Chang Lian took the initiative to greet the burly old man leading the Wanqi clan.

Following that, Zhen Ping Fan said, “Senior Uncle Wanqi, it’s been a long time since we last met. You look as energetic as ever.”

The burly old man with distinct features and a dignified air was dressed in a loose dark golden robe. When he heard the greetings, he only looked at Yu Chang Lian indifferently. However, when his eyes shifted to Zhen Ping Fan, a faint smile could be seen on his usually stern face as he said, “Senior Nephew Zhen, so it’s you. Are you leading the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect this time?”

The old man was none other than Wanqi Jue, the Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan.

‘Wanqi Jue? So he’s the person whom Elder Yu held a grudge against for 30,00 years?’ Duan Ling Tian, who was standing in the crowd, looked at Wanqi Jue with a hint of pity at this moment.

“Mmm,” Zhen Ping Fan replied with a smile. Then, his eyes lit up when he shifted his gaze to the silver-clad young man standing side by side with a few elders behind Wanqi Jue. He asked, “Senior Uncle Wanqi, this must be your great-great-grandson, the prodigy, right?”

The handsome silver-clad young man looked stern and cold as he met Zhen Ping Fan’s eyes.

“Hong’er, this is your Junior Uncle Zhen. He’s the strongest among those at and below the realm of a rudimentary Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect,” Wanqi Jue said. Although he did not look back, it was clear he was speaking to the young man.

Upon hearing Wanqi Jue’s words, a very slight smile appeared on the young man’s stern face as he cupped his fists together and said, “Greetings, Junior Uncle Zhen. I’m Wanqi Hong.”

“Greetings,” Zhen Ping Fan nodded and said with a smile, “He’s truly outstanding. However, he’s no match for our Pure Yang Sect’s Duan Ling Tian.”

No one expected Zhen Ping Fan to say such a thing. It was abrupt and rather out-of-line. Everyone present, excluding Duan Ling Tian and Yu Chang Lian, was momentarily stunned.

Just as Wanqi Hong’s expression changed, the smile on Wanqi Jue’s face vanished immediately. Anger surged in his eyes as he looked at Zhen Ping Fan and demanded, “Zhen Ping Fan, what do you mean by that?!”

Chapter 3976: Provocation

The members of the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan and the other elder of the Seven Kills Valley, who were supposed to lead those from the Wanqi clan to the venue of the Trading Conference, were stunned. None of them expected that Zhen Ping Fan, who had been cordial just a moment ago, would abruptly and inappropriately belittle Wanqi Hong. Moreover, Zhen Ping Fan had said those words in front of Wanqi Jue. There was no one who did not know that Wanqi Jue was the proudest of his great-great-grandson, Wanqi Hong.

Wanqi Jue regarded Wanqi Hong as the face of the Wanqi clan. When he encountered intermediate Emperors of Gods, whom he was no match for, he would say, “Although I’m slightly weaker than you, it’s difficult for you to find someone among your descendants who’s a match for my great-great-grandson, Wanqi Hong.”

Wanqi Jue valued Wanqi Hong the most among all his descendants. Everyone in the top five emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion knew about this so it was impossible that Zhen Ping Fan, a Nirvanic Elder of the Pure Yang, was unaware of it. For this, everyone was dumbfounded by Zhen Ping Fan’s provocative words.

Although Duan Ling Tian and Yu Chang Lian were not confused like the others, they were still a little caught off guard. They knew Zhen Ping Fan would provoke Wanqi Jue into bet with him, but they did not expect him to do it as soon as he met Wanqi Jue.

Yu Chang Lian glanced at Duan Ling Tian before he said through Voice Transmission, “I really didn’t expect him to provoke Wanqi Jue now. I thought he would at least wait until we arrived at the venue of the Trading Conference.”

Duan Ling Tian smiled bitterly as he replied, “Me too.”

Apart from Zhen Ping Fan, Duan Ling Tian and Yu Chang Lian were the only ones present who were aware of Zhen Ping Fan’s reason for suddenly provoking Wanqi Jue.

“Is Zhen Ping Fan crazy?”

When the members of the Wanqi clan regained their senses, they looked at Zhen Ping Fan with hostile expressions on their faces. Although none of them were stronger than Zhen Ping Fan, the person leading them was Wanqi Jue, an intermediate Emperor of Gods, who was stronger than Zhen Ping Fan. Zhen Ping Fan was no match for their Wanqi clan's Golden Seat Elder at all.

"Elder Zhen..."

On the other hand, the members of the Pure Yang, including the Nirvanic Elder from the Hidden Sword faction, looked at Zhen Ping Fan's back with worried and skeptical expressions on their faces. They wondered why Zhen Ping Fan had angered Wanqi Jue.

"Zhen Ping Fan, what do you mean by that?!" Wanqi Jue asked in a deep voice.

Zhen Ping Fan's expression remained unchanged. Instead of responding to Wanqi Jue, he said, "Duan Ling Tian, come here."

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Duan Ling Tian felt rather speechless when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. Nonetheless, he still stepped forward and moved to stand next to Zhen Ping Fan.

Then, Zhen Ping Fan finally looked at Wanqi Jue and asked, "Senior Uncle Wanqi, do you know what I mean now?" Then, he pointed at Duan Ling Tian, who was standing next to him, and grinned as he said, "Duan Ling Tian from our Pure Yang Sect is superior to your great-great-grandson, Wanqi Hong in terms of looks and temperament, don't you agree? Everyone present has eyes, and they can all see this."

Zhen Ping Fan's grin grew wider and wider and he ignored the anger that continued to surge in Wanqi Jue's eyes.

After listening to Zhen Ping Fan's words, Wanqi Jue looked at Duan Ling Tian indifferently before he said with a sneer, "So what if he's good-looking? Is he going to be a kept man? He's weak. If he doesn't rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast, he's going to get in trouble with the Pure Yang Sect, right? Based on what I know, your Pure Yang Sect has invested a lot of resources in him."

Wanqi Jue's sneer deepened as he spoke. Although it was his first time meeting Duan Ling Tian, he already disliked Duan Ling Tian due to Zhen Ping Fan's provocative words. Moreover, it was true that Duan Ling Tian's appearance and temperament were superior to those of his great-great-grandson.

Although Wanqi Jue was not afraid of Zhen Ping Fan, he could not say the same about Zhen Yun Feng, Zhen Ping Fan's father. After all, he was no match for Zhen Yun Feng. Moreover, Zhen Yun Feng was known for being overprotective of his family.

In the past, a rudimentary Emperor of Gods from a top emperor-rank force in the Eastern Ridge Mansion bullied and hurt Zhen Ping Fang, who had yet to become a rudimentary Emperor of Gods at that time. As a result, Zhen Yun Feng went to that top emperor-rank force and severely injured that rudimentary Emperor of Gods. Until now, that rudimentary Emperor of Gods had yet to fully recover from his injuries. There were even rumors that he might not survive his upcoming Heavenly Tribulation due to the injuries.

For this reason, due to his fear of Zhen Yun Feng, Wanqi Jue, who could not do anything to Zhen Yun Feng, could only vent his anger on Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, he already had a bad impression of Duan Ling Tian when he heard about Duan Ling Tian's refusal to join the Wanqi clan. Today's matter only served to exacerbate his anger.

Zhen Ping Fan maintained the smile even after he heard Wanqi Jue's words. He was clearly not angry at all. He turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and asked teasingly, "Duan Ling Tian, are you going to just stay silent and do nothing after you've been insulted?"

Upon hearing Zhen Ping Fan's words, Duan Ling Tian knew Zhen Ping Fan wanted him to provoke Wanqi Jue as well so that they could successfully get Wanqi Jue to agree to betting with them.

Duan Ling Tian frowned as he looked at Wanqi Jue and said, "Elder Wanqi, you said that I'm weak, but how much do you know about me? Although you're an elder, you can't spread rumors like that."

As Duan Ling Tian spoke, his voice turned frostier and frostier.

Wanqi Jue did not expect that Duan Ling Tian, a junior, would dare to speak in such a manner to him. He laughed angrily before he said, "What? Do you think I'm underestimating you, brat? In my eyes, you're nothing great."

Wanqi Jue looked at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously as he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian sneered. "It's only natural that I can't compare to you, who's an intermediate Emperor of Gods. I'm aware of the limitations of my strength. However, Elder Wanqi, I won't be any weaker than you if I live to your age."

Then, Duan Ling Tian looked at Wanqi Jue meaningfully after he finished speaking.

Wanqi Jue's expression darkened immediately. He naturally knew that Duan Ling Tian was not even 3,000 years old. At Duan Ling Tian's age, he had not even stepped into the realm of a Lord of Gods, let alone entered the realm of an intermediate Lord of Gods. Hence, he could not compare to Duan Ling Tian.

Sometime during the past two days, Wanqi Jue learned that Duan Ling Tian had broken through and become an intermediate Lord of Gods. He had learned about it from the people of the Wanqi clan who heard about it from the people of the Seven Kills Valley.

If it was not Yu Chang Lian, it had to be Dao Wei or Yu Chang Lian's other disciple who spread the news.

While Wanqi Jue's expression was still dark, Wanqi Hong, who wore a gloomy expression on his face, took two steps forward. Then, he stared at Duan Ling Tian murderously as he said, "Impudent! Duan Ling Tian, do you think a mere brat like you is worthy of being compared to my great-great-grandfather? So what if you're talented? Are you sure you'll be able to live to my great-great-grandfather's age? In this world, there are countless prodigies who die young..."

Before Wanqi Hong could speak again, Duan Ling Tian, whose expression and voice were icy, asked, "Wanqi Hong, are you threatening me?"

"So what if I am?" Wanqi Hong sneered. He was not afraid of Duan Ling Tian, who was an intermediate Lord of Gods, at all. Even if Duan Ling Tian was stronger and possessed strength comparable to ordinary advanced Lords of Gods, he was still not afraid of Duan Ling Tian. Although he had only become an advanced Lord of Gods not too long ago, and his cultivation base had yet to completely stabilize, he had already defeated many of the elders who were advanced Lords of Gods in the Wanqi clan. How could Duan Ling Tian, who was just a rudimentary Lord of Gods, compare to the elders of the Wanqi clan? Apart from that, he was also not worried about being attacked by the powerhouses from the Pure Yang Sect. After all, his great-great-grandfather was an intermediate Emperor of Gods. Even Zhen Ping Fan, the strongest among the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect, was no match for his great-great-grandfather even if Zhen Ping Fan was the strongest rudimentary Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect.

"Wanqi Hong..." Zhen Ping Fan's expression darkened. He was about to rebuke Wanqi Hong when Duan Ling Tian raised a hand to stop him.

At this time, many members of the Wanqi clan were looking at Duan Ling Tian derisively, waiting to watch a good show.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Wanqi Hong and said with a faint smile on his face, "Wanqi Hong, I heard that you've become an advanced Lord of Gods. Is that true?"

Upon hearing this, Wanqi Hong did not reply. Instead, he only raised his chin proudly, looking as though he could not be bothered to answer Duan Ling Tian's question.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say calmly, "In fact, even if you've become an advanced Lord of Gods, you're still nothing in my eyes. I could already defeat two intermediate Lords of Gods when I was a rudimentary Lord of Gods. Now that I've become an intermediate Lord of Gods, someone like you, who has just become an advanced Lord of Gods, isn't worth my attention at all."

The crowd was in an uproar as soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking. It was clear that he was deliberately provoking Wanqi Hong.

"Duan Ling Tian..." The expression on the Hidden Sword faction's Nirvanic Elder's face changed immediately. He would have confidence in Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian's opponent was any of the prodigies under 10,000 years old in the Seven Kills Valley, but his confidence wavered greatly since Duan Ling Tian's opponent was Wanqi Hong.

Wanqi Hong was the most outstanding prodigy of the Wanqi clan, and he had already become an advanced Lord of Gods before he even turned 10,000 years old. There were also rumors that he had defeated many advanced Lords of Gods despite only becoming an advanced Lord of Gods not too long ago.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian had just become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago.

How could the Hidden Sword faction's Nirvanic Elder not be worried when Duan Ling Tian, who was an intermediate Lord of Gods for only two years, provoked Wanqi Hong, who was already an advanced Lord of Gods for 100 years?

Meanwhile, Wanqi Hong, who was briefly stunned, laughed heartily when he recovered his senses. It was as though he had heard the funniest joke in the world. As his laughter died away, his gaze turned frosty as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, don't tell me you think you're amazing just because you killed two intermediate Lords of Gods when you were a rudimentary Lord of Gods? Those two you killed were the weakest among intermediate Lords of Gods. I can kill them easily as well when I was a rudimentary Lord of Gods. You actually dare to compare me, Wanqi Hong, to that kind of trash?"

At the same time, the corners of Zhen Ping Fan's lips twitched. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian's words to be so ruthless and that Duan Ling Tian was so good at provoking others. If he were in Wanqi Jue or Wanqi Hong's shoes, he would not be able to endure listening to Duan Ling Tian's insults as well.

Chapter 3977: Rivalry

"In my eyes, you're just as useless as them," Duan Ling Tian said. At the same time, his energy surged as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Zhen Ping Fan's jaw dropped upon hearing these words. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian's surging made him worry that Duan Ling Tian would suddenly attack Wanqi Hong.

At the same time, both Wanqi Hong and Wanqi Jue's expressions changed immediately as well. Similarly, their energy surged. Wanqi Jue's energy was particularly terrifying.

Wanqi Jue's expression was extremely dark as he said, "Brat, are you seeking death?"

"Senior Uncle Wanqi," Zhen Ping Fan called out at this moment. He felt that if he did not step in now, Duan Ling Tian might provoke Wanqi Jue into attacking him. He continued to say, "Duan Ling Tian is very used to being called a prodigy. He's very talented so he finds anyone who's not as talented as him useless. In fact, he doesn't have any bad intentions at all."

As soon as Zhen Ping Fan spoke, the members of the Pure Yang Sect, who had been worried about Duan Ling Tian's safety, felt speechless again. Was Zhen Ping Fan trying to aggravate the situation or was he really trying to help Duan Ling Tian? His words clearly worsened the situation.

At this time, the Hidden Sword faction's Nirvanic Elder moved to stand next to Duan Ling Tian before he said calmly, "Elder Wanqi Jue, my master owes Duan Ling Tian a favor. Although I don't know what favor it is, he has once said that he'll kill anyone who threatens Duan Ling Tian's life to return the favor. This includes intermediate Emperors of Gods."

Wanqi Jue's expression changed drastically upon hearing these words. Then, he bellowed, "Ye Tong! Are you threatening me?"

Ye Tong, the Nirvanic Elder from the Hidden Sword faction, was also the disciple of Ye Chen Feng, the founder of the Hidden Sword Sect. As such, he knew who Ye Tong was.

Ye Tong smiled indifferently and said, "I dare not, Elder Wanqi Jue. I'm just giving you a reminder to avoid unnecessary trouble."

Wanqi Jue scoffed coldly. Although his gaze was cold when he looked at Ye Tong, he did not continue with the topic. After all, Ye Chen Feng was even more terrifying than Zhen Yun Feng. Even the other two Golden Seat Elders and the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan agreed that Ye Chen Feng was one of the two strongest people in the Pure Yang Sect. Zhen Yun Feng was perhaps the third strongest in the Pure Yang Sect at most. He was already afraid of Zhen Yun Feng, let alone Ye Chen Feng. Although he was older than Ye Chen Feng, age did not play a part in determining one's strength.

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Wanqi Jue also did not doubt Ye Tong's words not only because he knew Ye Tong was Ye Chen Feng's disciple, but also because he knew Ye Tong had great respect for Ye Chen Feng and would not lie about anything related to Ye Chen Feng.

Wanqi Jue's expression soured even more when he shifted his gaze back to Duan Ling Tian. His voice was incredibly icy as he said, "I'll let you off the hook today for the sake of Zhen Yun Feng and Ye Chen Feng. Otherwise, even if I don't take action, I'll let my great-great-grandson teach you a lesson on behalf of your elders."

In other words, Wanqi Jue implied that if he were to attack Duan Ling Tian, it would be considered an elder bullying a junior. However, it would be different if his great-great-grandson took action. Hence, even Zhen Yun Feng and Ye Chen Feng would not be able to criticize him.

Seeing that his great-great-grandfather had no choice but to back off, Wanqi Hong's expression darkened even more. He stared at Duan Ling Tian coldly as he asked in a low voice, "Duan Ling Tian, did you call me useless?"

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"Isn't it true?" Duan Ling Tian retorted. Clearly, he had no intention of giving in and was intent on provoking Wanqi Hong. He continued to say, "I'm not even 3,000 years old, but I'm already an intermediate Lord of Gods. Before turning 4,000 years old, I'm certain I'll become an advanced Lord of Gods. As for you, you're almost 10,000 years old, but you've only become an advanced Lord of Gods. Isn't that useless?"

Duan Ling Tian's words caused Wanqi Hong's face to turn red in anger as he looked at Duan Ling Tian with eyes like knives.

Needless to say, the other members of the Wanqi clan were furious as well. They really wondered how Duan Ling Tian survived to this day with his arrogance. They thought it was truly a miracle that he managed to survive up until now.

The members of the Pure Yang Sect were also stunned by Duan Ling Tian's behavior. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian to fearlessly provoke Wanqi Jue, Wanqi Hong, and the Wanqi clan.

'Duan Ling Tian, you're seeking death...'

Naturally, there were also people from the Pure Yang Sect who rejoiced at what they perceived to be Duan Ling Tian's impending misfortune. One of them was Lan Xi Lin from the Zheng Ming faction. He could not wait for Duan Ling Tian to get into trouble. He would be even happier if Duan Ling Tian was killed. Alas, he knew that it was unlikely for Duan Ling Tian to lose his life.

At the same time, Yu Chang Lian, the elder from the Seven Kills Valley, looked at Zhen Ping Fan in shock as he asked through Voice Transmission, "Elder Zhen, did you teach Duan Ling Tian to be so rude?"

Yu Chang Lian subconsciously thought that it had to be Zhen Ping Fan who taught Duan Ling Tian how to provoke Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Hong. Although he knew that it was part of the plan to provoke Wanqi Hong and Wanqi Jue, he thought that this was crossing the line. He wondered if Zhen Ping Fan was truly not worried that Wanqi Jue would target and kill Duan Ling Tian in the future. After all, Wanqi Jue was not a pushover and was very vengeful as well.

The corners of Zhen Ping Fan's lips twitched when he heard Yu Chang Lian's Voice Transmission. He wanted to deny it, but in the end, he did not respond. After all, if he denied it and Yu Chang Lian spread word of it, Wanqi Jue would definitely target Duan Ling Tian in the future.

'Why didn't I realize Duan Ling Tian is so arrogant? Even I think he's too arrogant now and asking to be taught a lesson...' Zhen Ping Fan thought to himself, feeling rather speechless. Initially, he had been worried that Duan Ling Tian might not know how to provoke Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Hong. After all, if Duan Ling Tian failed to provoke them, their plan would fail. Who knew that Duan Ling Tian would go above and beyond in provoking them?

Wanqi Hong's eyes turned red in anger, and his body trembled as well.

However, Duan Ling Tian continued to say, "And, even if we disregard your age... Wanqi Hong, you're still just like trash that became an advanced Lord of Gods in my eyes."

Duan Ling Tian's words successfully and completely ignited Wanqi Hong's anger like a spark lighting up a powder keg. He said, burning with anger, "Duan Ling Tian, what do you mean by this? You think I, who have been an advanced Lord of Gods for 100 years, am not a match for you, who've just become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago? Do you really think that you're stronger than I am?"

Duan Ling Tian's expression was calm as he nodded and said, "Not bad. Although you're useless, you're quick to catch on. I guess you're not completely stupid."

Suddenly, Wanqi Hong, who had lost control of his anger earlier, calmed down after he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. Then, he said with a mocking smile on his face, "You think you're better than me? In that case, do you dare to fight me? You won't retreat like a coward, right? After all, you just said that I'm not as strong as you are in front of so many people. Of course, you can also take back your earlier words."

Then, Wanqi Hong took a step forward. His robe fluttered in the wind, and his temperament was majestic as he said, "Today, in front of so many elders, I, Wanqi Hong, a member of the Wanqi clan, challenge the Pure Yang Sect's Duan Ling Tian to a duel."

Wanqi Hong decided to directly challenge Duan Ling Tian since he knew he was at a disadvantage in a war of words. Duan Ling Tian claimed that he was weaker, giving him a chance to challenge Duan Ling

Tian. He was absolutely certain he would be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian, after all. With his victory, not only would he be able to save his great-great-grandfather from embarrassment, but he would also be able to preserve his dignity. Otherwise, if news spread that nothing was done after Duan Ling Tian provoked him over and over again, he, his great-great-grandfather, and the Wanqi clan would definitely lose their pride and dignity.

“Duan Ling Tian, accept the challenge!”

As soon as Wanqi Hong finished speaking, the members of the Wanqi clan could no longer sit still. They jeered at Duan Ling Tian and mocked him.

“Didn’t you say that you’re stronger than Senior Brother Wanqi Hong? You should prove it then!”

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re all talk! We all heard what you said earlier! You claimed that Senior Brother Wanqi Hong isn’t as strong as you!”

“That’s right! Now that Senior Brother Wanqi Hong challenged you, do you dare to accept the challenge? If not, it only goes to show that you’re bragging!”

“If you ask me, Duan Ling Tian’s all talk!”

The young disciples from the Wanqi clan were already angry, to begin with. Now that an opportunity presented itself, how could they not seize the opportunity to vent their anger?

On the contrary, everyone from the Pure Yang Sect was silent. It was not that they did not want to speak up for Duan Ling Tian, but they truly did not know what to say. After all, there was no way they could shout and tell Duan Ling Tian to accept Wanqi Hong’s challenge and defeat Wanqi Hong. In their opinion, this was impossible and was no different from fantasy.

Even Ye Tong, the Nirvanic Elder from the Hidden Sword faction, frowned slightly at this moment.

Just as Ye Tong was about to speak up, Duan Ling Tian said, “Wanqi Hong, you want to challenge me?”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes were narrowed, and a faint smile could be seen on his face.

“Do you dare to accept my challenge?” Wanqi Hong asked with a sneer on his face.

At this time, Wanqi Jue, who was standing next to Wanqi Hong, no longer looked angry. Instead, he looked at Wanqi Hong with a satisfied smile on his face. Earlier, he also realized that it was inappropriate for him to intervene in the conflict between juniors, Although he had hinted with his words earlier, he did not say anything to Wanqi Hong through Voice Transmission. As expected, his great-great-grandson understood him and did not disappoint him.

Duan Ling Tian yawned before he said lazily, “What’s there to be afraid of? However, I won’t bother to fight with trash like you unless there’s some kind of stakes involved. Otherwise, I might as well use the time to nap.”

Upon hearing these words, Wanqi Hong’s sneer deepened. “What do you want?”

In Wanqi Hong’s opinion, he would definitely win and obtain whatever it was Duan Ling Tian was going to use as a stake. Hence, it was impossible for him to refuse.

'It's finally happening...' Zhen Ping Fan thought to himself excitedly. Outwardly, he tried to maintain his composure and reminded himself inwardly over and over again, 'Zhen Ping Fan, calm down, calm down. Isn't it just a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul? It's nothing to get excited about...'

Then, Zhen Ping Fan, who was trying his best to look natural, shook his head and sighed as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, let's forget it. There's no hurry to fight and bet with him. It's not too late for you to do so after the Seven Mansions Feast is over."

Chapter 3978: Betting on 100 King-Grade Limit Divine Pills

After Zhen Ping Fan tried to dissuade Duan Ling Tian, and before Duan Ling Tian could respond, Wanqi Hong smiled mockingly and said, "After the Seven Mansions Feast ends? Duan Ling Tian, if we wait until then, I'm afraid you'll lose your courage to bet with me after seeing my strength. Now's the best time. Let's fight today. I want to see if you're really that strong or if you're all talk!"

"Let's do it today," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently with a nod, ignoring Zhen Ping Fan's words like Wanqi Hong.

"What do you want to bet with?" Wanqi Hong asked as the mocking smile on his face deepened. He said, "As long as it's something I or the Wanqi clan possess, I won't have any objection. What you have, the Wanqi clan definitely won't lack. What you don't have, the Wanqi clan definitely don't lack as well!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled upon hearing Wanqi Hong's words. He said, "Wanqi Hong, although your talent and strength are nothing, you're quite straightforward. Since that's the case, let's bet with a prominent divine artifact today."

Wanqi Hong smiled disdainfully. "I thought you were going to come up with something amazing. As it turns out, you just want to bet using a prominent divine artifact? As expected of a country bumpkin. You came from the lower realm, after all. A prominent divine artifact is no better than garbage in my eyes. Why don't you up the stakes? From what I know, you can refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills, right? Why don't you put up 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills? I'll put up something of equal value."

100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills.

Wanqi Hong was indeed greedy.

"100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills?" At this moment, Duan Ling Tian realized he had misspoken. He had only said 'prominent divine artifact' and forgot to add 'with an incomplete artifact soul'. Since the mistake had been made, he thought that he might as well go with the flow. This would lessen the burden on Zhen Ping Fan and Zhen Yun Feng as well. Then, he frowned and said, "You're too greedy. You should know I can only refine a few every time. 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills? Aren't you asking for too much?"

Wanqi Hong sneered. "What? You can't even come up with such a small stake?"

"Small stake?" Duan Ling Tian smiled before he said, "Very well. If you want 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills from me, you should bring out a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian's voice fell, silence descended.

Zhen Ping Fan looked at Duan Ling Tian, slightly surprised. It seemed like Duan Ling Tian intended to use 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills to exchange for a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul for the bet. However, would Wanqi Hong agree to it?

100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills were indeed precious, but their value was not comparable to a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

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Many of the members of the Pure Yang looked at each other in confusion. They all wondered if Duan Ling Tian was intentionally being difficult as they discussed with each other through Voice Transmission.

The Wanqi clan shared the same thought as well, and all of them looked at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously.

“A prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul? I think he just doesn’t dare to fight with Senior Brother Wanqi Hong.”

“That’s right. He probably thinks that Senior Brother Wanqi Hong doesn’t have a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul so he intentionally said it.”

“Doesn’t he know that our ancestor has a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul even if Senior Brother Wanqi Hong doesn’t have one?”

“I’m afraid he really doesn’t know that our ancestor has a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.”

The members of the Wanqi clan looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was an idiot, and their contempt for him grew stronger.

“Duan Ling Tian, did you think you won’t have to fight because I don’t have a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul? If that’s the case, I’m afraid you still won’t be able to avoid fighting me. I don’t have a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, but my great-great-grandfather has one. I’m sure he’s more than willing to lend it to me,” Wanqi Hong said. He also thought that Duan Ling Tian was deliberately doing this to get out of fighting him.

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As soon as Wanqi Hong’s voice fell, Wanqi Jue frowned slightly and instinctively looked at Duan Ling Tian. When he saw the change in Duan Ling Tian’s expression, the frown on his face eased immediately. He was certain now that Duan Ling Tian was only using the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as an excuse to avoid fighting Wanqi Hong.

“Hong’er,” Wanqi Jue said to Wanqi Hong through Voice Transmission, “Tell him that you want 300 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills aren’t nearly enough for us to bet using a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.”

After seeing the change in Duan Ling Tian’s expression, Wanqi Jue was more than willing to bet with his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. He was certain that his great-great-grandson would not lose.

Wanqi Hong's lit up upon hearing Wanqi Jue's words. He sneered at Duan Ling Tian and said, "You must be joking. You want to use 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills in exchange for a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul?" He did not wait for Duan Ling Tian to speak as he continued to say, "If you bet with 300 king-grade Limit Divine Pills, I'll borrow my great-great-grandfather's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to bet with you."

Duan Ling Tian sneered. "Wanqi Hong, are you too afraid to bet with me? I'm curious, does the Wanqi clan even have 300 king-grade Limit Divine Pills and prominent divine artifacts with an incomplete artifact soul? 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills for a prominent divine artifact soul with an incomplete artifact soul. Take it or leave it. In any case, you're nothing in my eyes. It's not too late for me to prove my strength when I defeat you during the Seven Mansions Feast."

After Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he turned around, looking like he was about to leave.

As expected...

"Fine! We'll bet with 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills and a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul!" Wanqi Hong quickly said when he saw Duan Ling Tian was about to leave. He was convinced that Duan Ling Tian was only trying to avoid fighting him. Moreover, Wanqi Jue had also sent him a message to agree to Duan Ling Tian's condition.

Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Hong were certain of their victory, and 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills were not too bad.

Meanwhile, Zhen Ping Fan's mind went blank. He could not believe Wanqi Jue agreed so readily to betting with 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills and a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

King-grade Limit Divine Pills were undoubtedly rare. Even the famous alchemists in the Eastern Ridge Mansion could not refine them often and could only refine a few. However, the value of 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills was still not comparable to that of a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Especially in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, it was considered a precious treasure.

Usually, only those at or above the realm of an intermediate Emperor of Gods were able to make a prominent divine artifact give birth to an incomplete artifact soul. Even then, it was a long and arduous process. As for those below the realm of an intermediate Emperor of Gods, they could only obtain it using other means.

For example, Hong Yun Xiao, the elder from the Seven Kills Valley whom Duan Ling Tian met in the Flying Dragon Sect and Tai Yi Sect's Imperial War Realm, possessed a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, but he obtained it out of sheer luck.

"Duan Ling Tian, you keep coming up with excuses. Don't tell me you're really afraid of accepting the challenge?" Wanqi Hong asked when he saw Duan Ling Tian did not turn around even after he had agreed to Duan Ling Tian's condition. He continued to say derisively, "If you're afraid, just admit it. As it turns out, the prodigy that the Pure Yang Sect brags about is nothing more than a braggart. Fortunately, you didn't join our Wanqi clan."

Duan Ling Tian turned around, feigning an expression of frustration. He said coldly, “Wanqi Hong, you said you agreed to my condition and that you’ll borrow the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul from your great-great-grandfather. Has he agreed to it? If he doesn’t agree and you lose, from whom should I collect the prominent divine artifact? Even if I kill you at that time, I won’t be able to obtain a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.” His tone turned disdainful as he continued to say, “In my opinion, you should discuss with your great-great-grandfather first. I’ll give you a few days to come to an agreement with him. I can’t be bothered to waste my time on you now.”

As soon as Duan Ling Tian’s voice fell, Wanqi Jue looked at Duan Ling Tian with a mocking expression and said, “I agree. Duan Ling Tian, there are times when you’ll have to pay the price for bragging. However, if you kneel and apologize to us today, we’ll let you off the hook.”

In Wanqi Jue’s opinion, now that it was certain they had a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, Duan Ling Tian might lose his courage. He was worried that Duan Ling Tian would really back out of the fight so he intentionally came up with such a harsh and humiliating demand to force Duan Ling Tian to accept the challenge. Moreover, 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills were at stake. Regardless of what kind of king-grade Limit Divine Pills they were, even the Wanqi clan would find it difficult to gather that number of king-grade Limit Divine Pills without taking a few decades or even 100 years. Since he was certain of Wanqi Hong’s victory, how could he pass up such a good deal?

“Impossible!!” Duan Ling Tian resolutely rejected Wanqi Jue’s suggestion. Then, he said, “Very well. I accept the challenge. If I lose, I’ll give you 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. It’s easy for me to refine 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pill, after all.”

At this time, Duan Ling Tian did not seem very confident when he spoke.

Upon seeing this, the members of the Wanqi clan laughed at Duan Ling Tian. They thought that they had successfully forced Duan Ling Tian into accepting the challenge. They were all certain that they would win 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills.

While everyone in the Wanqi clan was gloating, those from the Pure Yang Sect wore sour and dissatisfied expressions on their faces. After all, Duan Ling Tian’s actions were a humiliation to them.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian said through Voice Transmission, “Elder Zhen, please ask Elder Yu Chang Lian to invite the Valley Master of the Seven Kills Valley here to be a witness. If the Valley Master can’t come, any intermediate Emperor of Gods will do.”

The corners of Zhen Ping Fan’s lips twitched upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. ‘This kid is really ruthless and meticulous. Is he worried Wanqi Jue would go back on his words after losing?’

Chapter 3979: Take It Easy

The Eastern Ridge Mansion’s Trading Conference this time was being held at the Seven Kills Valley.

Apart from the Pure Yang Sect, the Seven Kills Valley, and the Wanqi clan, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect would also be attending the Trading Conference. Among these top five emperor-rank forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, the Pure Yang Sect, the Seven Kills Valley, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect were sects while the Wan Qi clan was, as its name suggested, a clan. As for the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, it was neither a sect nor a clan; it was an alliance

formed by a group of sectless cultivators. Those in the alliance had more freedom compared to those from sects. Nonetheless, the operation of the alliance was no different than that of a sect.

At this moment, the elders in charge of leading the entourage from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect to the venue of the Trading Conference respectively, received news about Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong's fight. They wasted no time in informing the others about it.

"I just received news that the prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect, Duan Ling Tian, will be fighting Wanqi Hong, the prodigy from the Wanqi clan. They're also betting on the fight."

Those from the two forces were surprised and curious when they heard about the fight.

"How did those two get into a fight?"

"Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong are both prodigies in their respective forces. Wanqi Hong has always been the most outstanding among the younger generation in the Wanqi clan. As for Duan Ling Tian, I received news not long ago that he has already become an intermediate Lord of Gods. It's almost impossible to find someone among the younger generation in the Pure Yang Sect who's a match for him."

"Betting? What are they using to bet?"

The elders of the Seven Kills Valley responsible for leading the two forces respectively quickly explained the matter to them. With that, they soon learned that the initiator of this incident was Zhen Ping Fan, the Nirvanic Elder from the Pure Yang Sect. Zhen Ping Fan belittled Wanqi Hong, angering both Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Hong at the same time. They also heard that Duan Ling Tian, the prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect, refused to back down. Apparently, Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong were arguing and insulting each other for quite a while until they finally decided to fight. On top of that, Duan Ling Tian was going to bet with 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills while Wanqi Hong was going to bet with Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. If Duan Ling Tian won, he would get Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul; if Wanqi Hong won, he would get 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills.

"Are the people from the Wanqi clan stupid? The stakes are clearly not of equal value! How can 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills compare to a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul?"

"Didn't you hear? The Wanqi clan demanded 300 king-grade Limit Divine Pills, but Duan Ling Tian refused, saying that it was 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills or nothing. After that, the Wanqi clan agreed to Duan Ling Tian's condition."

"I can understand why the Wanqi clan accepted the bet even though the stakes are not in their favor. After all, they're certain they'll win. It's no loss to them at all. It doesn't matter if they give into Duan Ling Tian's demand."

"It's said that Wanqi Hong has become an advanced Lord of Gods about 100 years ago. On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian has only become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago. Their strengths aren't on the same level at all."

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“That’s right. Although Duan Ling Tian killed two intermediate Lords of Gods when he was just a rudimentary Lord of Gods, Wanqi Hong was also capable of such a feat when he was a rudimentary Lord of Gods.”

“I heard that Wanqi Hong fought against three intermediate Lords of Gods from the Wanqi clan alone and defeated them within ten moves when he was a rudimentary Lord of Gods!”

“Hey, I just heard from the Wanqi clan. It’s said that it was not Duan Ling Tian’s intention to fight with Wanqi Hong, but he refused to back down. It’s said that he deliberately made things difficult by proposing to bet with a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. He thought Wanqi Hong didn’t have a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, and as such, he wouldn’t have to fight Wanqi Hong. Alas, he was unaware that Wanqi Jue possessed a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul and was forced into accepting the challenge.”

“It seems like there won’t be any suspense at all during the fight.”

When the people from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect arrived at the venue of the Trading Conference, they saw the people from the Pure Yang Sect and Wanqi clan had arrived as well. Many of those from the Seven Kills Valley were also present.

Perhaps, news of the upcoming fight had spread so more and more people from the Seven Kills Valley arrived at the venue.

The venue was located in a vast valley. A huge stone platform stood in the middle of the valley, occupying nearly half the area there.

At this time, many people could be seen hovering above the stone platform and standing at the sides of the stone platform.

“Elder Wan Qi.”

“Elder Zhen.”

The people from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect went over and greeted those from the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan. It did not take long for their attention to shift to Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong. Most of them recognized Wanqi Hong since Wanqi Jue brought his beloved great-great-grandson with him to many events in the past. As for Duan Ling Tian, most of them were seeing him for the first time today.

An elder from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, who was an Emperor of Gods, looked at Duan Ling Tian and said with a regretful expression, “Duan Ling Tian, I’ve long heard about you. It’s our loss that you didn’t join our alliance.”

The Vice Sect Leader of the Dragon Martial Divine Sect, who led the entourage to the Trading Conference, looked at Zhen Ping Fan and complained, “Elder Zhen was too domineering when we tried to recruit you in the Flying Dragon Sect. He drove all the men we sent away.”

At this moment, Wanqi Hong looked at Duan Ling Tian and said impatiently, “Duan Ling Tian! Can we fight now? Let’s hurry up and end this. I’m going to trade for the things I want using your 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills.”

Wanqi Hong was clearly confident he was going to obtain 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills.

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. "Wanqi Hong, you're too arrogant. The fight has yet to start, but you're already so confident you'll obtain the 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills."

Just as Wanqi Hong was about to retort, many respectful voices rang in the air.

"Valley Master."

"Valley Master!"

Duan Ling Tian and the others looked in the direction of the commotion. With just a glance, they saw a tall middle-aged man dressed in a green robe. His face was as smooth as jade, and he had a mole on his glabella. Two old men that looked like sages followed him from behind. Streaks of colorful energy trailed behind them, making them look like immortals descending to the mortal world.

In just a blink of an eye, the green-clad middle-aged man and the two old men arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian and the others.

Then, the leaders of the entourage from the other four forces such as Zhen Ping Fan and Wanqi Jue stepped forward to greet the green-clad middle-aged man.

"Senior Uncle Wei."

"Valley Master Wei."

The green-clad middle-aged man was Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of the Seven Kills Valley. Although his name sounded tacky, he had the highest status among the current generation in Seven Kills Valley. There were also rumors that he was only second in strength to the old ancestor of the Seven Kills Valley.

After greeting everyone, Wei Chun Dao said with a smile, "I heard that two young men from the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan respectively are going to fight, serving as the opening ceremony of the Trading Conference? I also heard that the stakes are high. Why don't we change the stakes to avoid damaging the relationship between the two forces?"

Wei Chun Dao's gaze fell on Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong as he spoke.

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, Wanqi Hong beat him to it. "Valley Master Wei, I don't have any objections to your suggestion. However, someone had firmly declared that he wouldn't bother fighting me if I didn't use a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to bet. Since I've taken out a prominent divine artifact soul with an incomplete artifact soul, it's naturally impossible to reduce the stakes on his side."

Wanqi Hong pushed the blame on Duan Ling Tian, clearly stating that it was Duan Ling Tian who was unwilling to heed Wei Chun Dao's suggestion.

Wei Chun Dao turned to look at Duan Ling Tian immediately.

Duan Ling Tian was naturally aware of Wanqi Hong's intention. However, he only said lazily, "Like I said, I won't bother fighting with you without a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul on the line. However, if you want to go back on your words, I won't object either."

Despite his lazy tone, Duan Ling Tian's eyes darted around.

In the eyes of the crowd, Duan Ling Tian looked like he was panicking inwardly.

Those from the Wanqi clan naturally grew even more confident upon seeing this.

Wanqi Hong hurriedly said, "There's no need to change the stakes! I won't go back on my words! I'm going to be getting 100 king-grade Limit Divine Free for nothing. Why would I go back on my words?"

Upon seeing this exchange, Wei Chun Dao also knew that there was nothing more he could do or say. Hence, he said, "Since this is the case, I won't persuade both of you anymore. The fight is in Seven Kills Valley so both of you should take it easy, alright? It'd be a great loss to the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan if they lose either one of you."

As soon as Wei Chuan Dao finished speaking, Zhen Ping Fan hurriedly said, as though he was worried Wanqi Hong would kill Duan Ling Tian, "That's right. Don't go too far. There's no need to fight to the death."

When Zhen Ping Fan saw that everyone was looking at him, he said, somewhat embarrassed, "I agree with Senior Uncle Wei. Neither the Pure Yang Sect nor the Wanqi clan can afford to lose them."

"That's fine by me," Duan Ling Tian said.

Wanqi Hong laughed. "Duan Ling Tian, I thought you were fearless. I didn't expect you to be so afraid of death."

Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently, "I'm worried that you'll die. I don't think Elder Wanqi Jue will be able to take it if he loses his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul and his great-great-grandson at the same time."

Chapter 3980: Imminent

Duan Ling Tian's words caused Wanqi Hong to freeze for a moment. When he recovered, he said with a sneer as his eyes burned with killing intent, "You're still so stubborn, huh? Duan Ling Tian, be careful. Even if I go easy on you, you might still end up seriously injured."

At this moment, Wanqi Hong had made up his mind. Even if he could not kill Duan Ling Tian, he was determined to severely injure Duan Ling Tian before Zhen Ping Fan and the others could make a move to save Duan Ling Tian.

"We'll see about that," Duan Ling Tian replied calmly.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan looked at Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of Seven Kills Valley, and asked, "Junior Uncle Wei, can you preside over their fight?"

"Alright." Wei Chun Dao nodded. Since he was the Valley Master of Seven Kills Valley, it was most appropriate for him to preside over the fight.

After that, Duan Ling Tian said to Wanqi Hong indifferently, "Wanqi Hong, since Valley Master Wei is presiding over the fight, let's hand over the stakes to him before we fight. I'll be able to rest assured with this. If you can do it, you can forget about fighting."

As Duan Ling Tian spoke, his eyes kept darting around nervously.

In the eyes of those from the Wanqi clan, it looked as though Duan Ling Tian was uneasy and was still trying to get out of the fight.

Wanqi Hong, who felt the same way, said with a sneer, "Duan Ling Tian, you're still trying to escape the fight at this time?"

Then, Wanqi Hong looked at Wanqi Jue.

Wanqi Hong did not need to say anything before Wanqi Jue raised his hand. Black mist swirled around his hand before they finally solidified into a seven-foot-long spear. The spear did not look extraordinary, but its aura emitted a heavy pressure. This was his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete soul, the Hidden Dragon Black Jade Spear. He carried this spear with him wherever he went.

"This is Elder Wanqi Jue's Hidden Dragon Black Jade Spear?"

Many elders from the Seven Kills Valley who rushed here to watch the show exclaimed excitedly.

"Elder Wanqi Jue is using his Hidden Dragon Black Jade Spear to bet when the other party is only betting with 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills? This news is going to cause a commotion when it spreads."

"Isn't he worried about losing the Hidden Dragon Black Jade Spear?"

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"It's obvious that he's only using it to bet because he's certain he'll win."

More and more people from the Seven Kills Valley began to gather. They looked at Duan Ling Tian, wondering if he would be able to win. Most of them were certain he was going to lose or that his chances of winning were very small. If they were to bet on the fight as well, they definitely would not bet on Duan Ling Tian.

Just as Wanqi Jue was about to hand his spear to Wei Chun Dao, an old man from the Wanqi clan suddenly called out, "Elder!" Then, he continued to say in a deep voice, "Forget it. There's no need to gamble with your prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul just because of a petty conflict between the young ones. It's fine if you win, but if you lose..."

The old man did not finish his sentence, but his words seemed to wake many members of the Wanqi clan up. Indeed, they were certain they would win. However, what if they lost on the off chance? What should they do at that time? If they lost the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, it would affect the overall strength of the Wanqi clan. It was not just Wanqi Jue who would be affected, after all.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian smiled and said, "That's right, Elder Wanqi Jue. Perhaps, you should just forget it. I'll definitely defeat Wanqi Hong today. It must not be easy for your prominent divine artifact to give birth to an incomplete artifact soul. There's no need to use it to bet on your useless great-great-

grandson. If you want to withdraw, I won't have any objections. I'm sure your great-great-grandson won't dare to object as well."

Then, Duan Ling Tian's smile widened before he continued to say, "However, let me remind you that there's no way I'm fighting if you don't bet with a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul."

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's seemingly uneasy expression was gone, replaced by an expression of anticipation.

Wanqi Hong's expression changed slightly upon hearing these words. Then, he looked at Wanqi Jue, slightly nervous. Even if he was certain he would win, ultimately, the decision still lay with Wanqi Jue since the prominent divine artifact belonged to Wanqi Jue. He wanted to tell Wanqi Jue that he was certain he would not lose and was willing to do anything if he really lost.

At this moment, another two senior members of the Wanqi clan spoke up to dissuade Wanqi Jue. Although the risk was very minimal, they still thought it was not necessary to take such a risk just because of a petty conflict between the young generation. After all, it involved a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul,

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan also said, "That's right, Senior Uncle Wanqi. Why don't we just forget it?"

Initially, Zhen Ping Fan did not speak up. Why would he dissuade Wanqi Jue? Wanqi Jue losing his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul meant that he would be gaining it. However, after receiving a Voice Transmission from Duan Ling Tian asking him to speak up, he suddenly realized that dissuading Wanqi Jue at this moment would only agitate Wanqi Jue more.

Nonetheless, Zhen Ping Fan still prayed inwardly, 'Wanqi Jue, you old geezer, don't go back on your words. What are you afraid of? Do you not have any confidence in your great-great-grandson? Your great-great-grandson became an advanced Lord of Gods about 100 years ago while Duan Ling Tian only became an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago.'

Ye Tong, the Nirvanic Elder from the Hidden Sword faction, also said, "Elder Wanqi, let's forget it."

Ye Tong did not speak up because he received a message from Duan Ling Tian. He only spoke up to get Duan Ling Tian out of what he perceived was a quandary. He did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat Wanqi Hong and was trying to save Duan Ling Tian from embarrassment and having to give up 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. It was best if the fight did not happen.

Seeing a group of people dissuading Wanqi Jue, Wei Chun Dao withdrew his outstretched hand as well. Then, he said, "Senior Brother Wanqi, why don't you just forget about the fight?"

At this time, many people thought that Wanqi Jue was likely to give up since there were so many people dissuading him. Hence, they were a little disappointed, thinking that they would not be able to watch Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong fight.

Wanqi Jue's body trembled slightly before he tossed the spear in his hand to Wei Chun Dao and said loudly, "I believe in my great-great-grandson!"

Upon seeing this, Wanqi Hong could barely contain his excitement. He said, obviously delighted, "Don't worry, great-great-grandfather! I definitely won't disappoint you!"

Wanqi Hong had been worried Wanqi Jue would listen to the others. He finally felt relieved when he saw the spear was now Wei Chun Dao's hand. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said scornfully, "Duan Ling Tian, we've handed the prominent divine artifact to Valley Master Wei. It's time for you to bring out 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. Don't tell me you don't have them on hand..."

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian's expression changed a few times as the smile on his face vanished. Then, he said with a frown, "Of course I have them..."

Then, Duan Ling Tian proceeded to bring out a lot of pill bottles and placed them in a spare spatial ring before handing it to Wei Chun Dao. "Here, Valley Master Wei."

Duan Ling Tian wore a grave expression on his face at this moment, but inwardly, he was very excited. He had finally succeeded.

"Duan Ling Tian, this is all thanks to your quick thinking! If I were in his shoes, I'd be fooled as well!" Zhen Ping Fan said excitedly through Voice Transmission. Earlier, he had felt that Wanqi Jue would refuse to bet with his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul after everyone dissuaded him. However, Duan Ling Tian's acting clearly convinced Wanqi Jue of Wanqi Hong's guaranteed victory. He had never been to Earth, also known as Yan Huang Realm, otherwise, he would have thought Duan Ling Tian was good enough to be an award-winning actor.

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Although Duan Ling Tian was excited, his excitement did not cloud his mind. He said, "Elder Zhen, don't be excited yet. After all, we don't know if Wanqi Hong has hidden his strength. It won't be difficult for me to defeat him if his strength is just like what we'd learned. If not, it won't be easy for me to defeat him."

Duan Ling Tian had a certain understanding of the difference between the Divine Energies of an intermediate Lord of Gods and an advanced Lord of Gods. He knew it was not simple to overcome the difference. Moreover, Wanqi Hong's comprehension of the law was not weaker than his. It was not surprising since Wanqi Hong was the most outstanding prodigy in the Wanqi clan.

"Just do your best. It doesn't matter if you can't win, but you must fight to a draw. We can't allow them to win," Zhen Ping Fan replied.

After a moment, Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of Seven Kills Valley, instructed the crowd to retreat further away.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong both flew up into the air.

With this, a huge fight was about to start. It was imminent.

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At this time, far away from the Seven Kills Valley in the Pure Yang Sect's Cloud Peak faction.

Zhen Yun Feng, the founder of the Cloud Peak faction, was also surprised when he learned from his son that Wanqi Jue had taken the bait. He was even more surprised when he learned about Duan Ling Tian's stakes. He murmured to himself, "Is Wanqi Jue crazy? He's betting with his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul when Duan Ling Tian is only betting with 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills? He won't default on the bet when he loses, will he? No, I have to go there. Who knows if that Wanqi Jue will be shameless enough to try and snatch the prominent divine artifact from them when they're returning to the Pure Yang Sect..."

As soon as Zhen Yun Feng finished speaking, he did not hesitate as he brought a flying ship out, leaving the Pure Yang Sect for the Seven Kills Valley at the fastest speed possible.