

SOVEREIGN 3991

Chapter 3991: Let Me Test My Sword on You

Wanqi Yu Ning's face was full of wrinkles, and his body was very thin. He looked as though a gust of wind would be able to send him flying. At this moment, he looked at Ye Chen Feng and asked calmly, "Ye Chen Feng, why are you here?"

No emotions could be heard in Wanqi Yu Ning's voice. It was hard to tell if he did not care about Ye Chen Feng's provocative action, if he had a good temper, or if he was just skilled at hiding his emotions.

When Ye Chen Feng's eyes fell on Wanqi Yu Ning, his tone softened as he said, "Elder Yu Ning, you're from the same generation as my master so I should address you as 'junior uncle'. Elder Yu Ning, I'm sure you're aware of the incident outside of Seven Kills Valley, right?"

Ye Chen Feng stared at Wanqi Yu Ning silently after he finished speaking.

Wanqi Yu Ning fell silent for a long time after hearing Ye Chen Feng's words. Naturally, he was aware of the matter. Personally, he disagreed with snatching something that had been lost fair and square in such a manner. However, he could also understand his juniors' actions. Hence, he could bring himself to blame them. Moreover, he would not live for much longer. If Wanqi Jue lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, Wanqi Jue would not be able to live for long either. The loss of two intermediate Emperors of Gods would deal a huge blow to the Wanqi clan.

At this time, Wanqi Wu Ming said coldly, "Ye Chen Feng, I've already explained this to your senior brother, Zhen Yun Feng. Our Wanqi clan has also publicly apologized for this matter. In addition to that, our clan has also begun the search for the 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. We'll definitely send them to the Pure Yang Sect within 100 years. Does the Pure Yang Sect really want to turn against the Wanqi clan because of this matter?"

Despite Wanqi Wu Ming's cold tone, a hint of desperation could be seen in his eyes.

Wanqi Liu Su, the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan, said in an even icier tone, "Ye Chen Feng, if you leave now, the Wanqi clan will pretend like today's incident didn't happen. We won't hold you accountable for the deaths of our disciples. The Wanqi clan won't default on the promise Elder Wu Ming made to the Pure Yang Sect."

Many of those standing behind Wanqi Liu Su frowned upon hearing his words, but they remained silent and only looked at Ye Chen Feng coldly. After all, many disciples who died were from their factions. However, when they recalled the Wanqi clan's recent actions, they knew that Wanqi Liu Su was only trying to extinguish the Pure Yang Sect's flames of anger. They had expected the Pure Yang Sect to look for trouble with them, but they did not expect Ye Chen Feng to personally come to the Wanqi clan. All things considered, they knew that if Ye Chen Feng agreed to leave peacefully, the best way was to free him from all accountability regarding the disciples' deaths.

Upon hearing Wanqi Liu Su's words, Ye Chen Feng asked, amused, "What if I refuse to leave?"

"Refuse to leave?" Wanqi Liu Su's expression darkened immediately as he said, "Then, it depends on if you came on your own accord or under the orders of the Pure Yang Sect."

“What if I came here on my own accord?” Ye Chen Feng continued to ask.

This time, before Wanqi Liu Su spoke, Wanqi Wu Ming said, “If that’s the case, you won’t be able to leave the Wanqi clan’s estate without giving us an explanation.”

“Is that so?” Ye Chen Feng cocked an eyebrow and smiled mockingly as he looked at Wanqi Wu Ming and asked, “Do you think you alone can stop me?”

Wanqi Wu Ming’s expression soured immediately. Naturally, he knew he was no match for Ye Chen Feng alone.

Wanqi Jue, who was inwardly anxious, asked loudly, “What do you want, Ye Chen Feng?”

Apart from hostility, a hint of fear could also be seen in Wanqi Jue’s eyes.

“What do I want?” Ye Chen Feng smiled lazily as he said, “Wanqi Jue, I came here to look for you and Wanqi Wu Ming this time. Since you’re both here, let’s settle the matter now. Return the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to my junior nephew, kneel, and kowtow three times to him. After that, I’ll naturally let the matter go.”

Ye Chen Feng was very calm when he spoke.

Wanqi Jue’s expression changed immediately upon hearing Ye Chen Feng’s words. He roared, “Ye Chen Feng, are you trying to humiliate me?”

“So what if I am?” Ye Chen Feng said indifferently, “Since you dare to shamelessly snatch back what we won fair and square, you should’ve considered this outcome. Based on your attitude, it seems like you’re unwilling to meet my conditions?”

Nearing the end of Ye Chen Feng’s words, his tone turned icy.

“I’ll never do it!” Wanqi Jue said decisively.

“Very well,” Ye Chen Feng said with a smile, “I was hoping you’d respond this way, Wanqi Jue. Since this is the case, I’ll test my sword on you first.”

As soon as Ye Chen Feng’s voice fell, his eyes seemed to be covered with frost. He raised his hand, and a sword ray appeared in the air, followed by another figure.

The figure belonged to a young man dressed in a black robe. His face was hidden by a hood. His body exuded an extremely sharp sword intent.

As soon as Ye Chen Feng moved, the black-clad young man wielded the sword ray merged with Ye Chen Feng.

“Sword soul!”

As soon as Ye Chen Feng moved, the elders of the Wanqi clan, who just regained their senses, exclaimed in shock, disbelief, and horror.

“Ye Chen Feng!” The expression of Wanqi Jue, who was being targeted by Ye Chen Feng, changed drastically. He hastily moved to bring out his prominent divine artifact. He was just about to swing his seven-foot-long spear when he saw a black sword ray flashing past from the corners of his eyes.

“No...” Wanqi Jue cried out before his voice came to an abrupt stop. This was the only word he managed to say before he collapsed.

Just like that, Wanqi Jue, an intermediate Emperor of Gods and a Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan, died!

Swoosh!

Like a gust of wind, Ye Chen Feng reappeared in front of Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian. His face was expressionless as though nothing had happened.

Thump!

A loud noise rang in the air as Wanqi Jue’s body landed on the ground. The sound was magnified in the silence.

“Ye Chen Feng, how dare you kill a Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan?!” Wanqi Wu Ming asked as he glared at Ye Chen Feng with bloodshot eyes, looking as though he wanted to devour Ye Chen Feng.

Wanqi Liusu’s expression was dark as well. He did not expect Ye Chen Feng to possess a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul. After all, it was said that only advanced Emperors of Gods could nurture an artifact soul to completion. How was this possible?

At this moment, after catching the seven-foot-long spear that Ye Chen Feng threw over, Zhen Ping Fan, who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian, said sincerely, “Thank you, Junior Uncle Ye!”

The stolen prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was finally returned to Zhen Ping Fan.

Ye Chen Feng looked at Wanqi Wu Ming, who was glaring at him, and said calmly, “I welcome you to seek revenge for him.” After a beat, he added, “Don’t forget. I came this time not only to look for Wanqi Jue, but I came for you as well. Now that he’s dead, it’s your turn.”

Upon hearing Ye Chen Feng’s words, Wanqi Wu Ming’s expression changed drastically. The hostility was gone, replaced by fear. When he thought about the scene earlier, chills ran up his spine. He knew now that Ye Chen Feng had a prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul, Ye Chen Feng was no weaker than an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods. It was easy for Ye Chen Feng to kill Wanqi Jue, and even if he was stronger than Wanqi Jue, it would likely be easy for Ye Chen Feng to kill him as well.

“Ye Chen Feng...”

There were many rudimentary Emperors of Gods standing behind Wanqi Liu Su at this moment, and all of them were filled with panic and fear. It was as though they were facing a ferocious monster.

After all, Ye Chen Feng's prominent divine sword now had a complete artifact soul. In the past, Ye Chen Feng was already no weaker than Wanqi Yu Ning, the Wanqi clan's strongest powerhouse; now that Ye Chen Feng had a prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul, the gap between their strengths had widened even more. Moreover, Ye Chen Feng was in his prime while Wanqi Yu Ning was in his twilight years. Not only that, but Wanqi Yu Ning also had yet to fully recover from the injuries he sustained during his last Heavenly Tribulation.

'With Ye Chen Feng's current strength, he can destroy the Wanqi clan alone, right?'

All of them were horrified when they thought about this.

Similarly, Wanqi Liu Su also had this thought in mind. It was also the reason why he had stayed silent after Ye Chen Feng made a move. He truly did know what to say at this moment.

If Ye Chen Feng had said earlier that he had come under the orders of the Pure Yang Sect, Wanqi Liu Su could still discuss this with the Pure Yang Sect. Even if Ye Chen Feng intended to annihilate the Wanqi clan, there would be a few among them who would be able to escape. As one of the top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, they had deep roots and profound connections. They would be able to seek revenge in a righteous manner in the future. All in all, the Pure Yang Sect would have to be wary of the Wanqi clan's revenge.

However, Ye Chen Feng had come on his own accord. This meant that the Pure Yang Sect was free from all accountability. Moreover, he had the combat strength of an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods.

There was nothing Wanqi Liu Su could say or do now.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian had just recovered from the shock of witnessing Ye Chen Feng kill Wanqi Jue. 'So strong!'

Ye Chen Feng killed Wanqi Jue, a Golden Seat Elder from the Wanqi clan, with just one strike.

Wanqi Jue was not a weakling. He was a true blue intermediate Emperor of Gods even if he was not the strongest intermediate Emperor of Gods around. Even the talented Zhen Ping Fan, who was the strongest rudimentary Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect, was no match for him.

'As it turns out, an intermediate Emperor of Gods can unleash the power of a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul to such an extent.'

Due to his cultivation base, Duan Ling Tian did not have a clear look when Ye Chen Feng killed Wanqi Jue earlier. Nonetheless, he could sense how sharp Ye Chen Feng's divine sword's sword intent was. Although he also possessed a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul, he could not unleash such power since his cultivation base was only that of an intermediate Lord of Gods. The power he could unleash was far less than what Ye Chen Feng had unleashed earlier.

Meanwhile, Wanqi Wu Ming's back broke out in cold sweat after Ye Chen Feng said that it was his turn. He turned to look at Wanqi Yu Ning pleadingly.

From the beginning until now, Wanqi Yu Ning only stood at the side and looked at Ye Chen Feng silently.

Chapter 3992: The Strong Are Revered

When Ye Chen Feng brought out his prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul, Wanqi Wu Ming knew that no one in the Wanqi clan would be a match for Ye Chen Feng. He had only asked Wanqi Yu Ning for help not because Wanqi Yu Ning was the strongest person in the clan, but because of Wanqi Yu Ning's seniority. Even if Wanqi Yu Ning was not a match for Ye Chen Feng, he had higher seniority than Ye Chen Feng. Moreover, Wanqi Yu Ning always had a good reputation. He hoped that Ye Chen Feng would let him go for Wanqi Yu Ning's sake.

Wanqi Yu Ning, who had yet to speak until now, finally looked at Ye Chen Feng and said, "Ye Chen Feng, Wanqi Jue only had himself to blame for his death so the Wanqi clan won't hold you accountable for his death. As for the prominent divine artifact soul with an incomplete artifact soul, the Wanqi clan will honor the bet."

The members of the Wanqi clan knew Wanqi Yu Ning's suggestion was their only way out at this moment even if they felt unwilling. If they stood their ground and opposed Ye Chen Feng, there would surely be a bloodbath. Most importantly, the Wanqi clan was no match for Ye Chen Feng now.

Wanqi Yu Ning continued to say, "Wanqi Wu Ming is an accomplice. He'll be grounded; he's prohibited from leaving the Wanqi clan's estate for 10,000 years. If he leaves, you can kill him."

Upon hearing Wanqi Yu Ning's words, Wanqi Wu Ming's expression soured immediately. Nonetheless, he remained silent. After all, the alternative was death.

"Apart from that, as a token of apology, the Wanqi clan will still give you 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills within 100 years," Wanqi Yu Ning said. After a beat, he asked, "Are you satisfied with this?"

Clearly, Wanqi Yu Ning had made a huge concession.

Duan Ling Tian, who was standing behind Ye Chen Feng, was visibly surprised that the strongest powerhouse in the Wanqi clan gave him so easily. At the same time, he also knew that today's matter would come to an end with Wanqi Yu Ning's words.

This time, the Wanqi clan's plan backfired, and they suffered a great loss.

'In fact, the Wanqi clan's previous actions are understandable. Their plan is quite fool-proof as well. Alas, they didn't expect that Elder Ye had successfully nurtured his artifact soul to completion,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

If Ye Chen Feng's prominent divine sword did not have a complete artifact soul, he would not have been able to force the Wanqi clan to give up the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, let alone force the Wanqi clan to make such a huge concession.

'As expected, the strong are revered. Elder Ye is a prime example of that...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as the desire to grow stronger burned in his heart after witnessing Ye Chen Feng in action today.

As Duan Ling Tian expected, Ye Chen Feng smiled faintly and said, "I'm not unreasonable. Since Elder Yu Ning has spoken, then let this matter end here."

The corners of the lips of everyone in the Wanqi clan twitched upon hearing these words.

Even the corners of Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian's lips upon hearing these words. The duo exchanged a glance tacitly.

If Ye Chen Feng was reasonable, he would not have broken the Wanqi clan's Guarding Formation as soon as he arrived and killed so many disciples from the Wanqi clan. If he was reasonable, he would not have attacked and killed Wanqi Jue without giving Wanqi Jue a chance at all.

Ye Chen Feng chuckled and said, "Let's just do as Elder Yu Ning suggested."

After Ye Chen Feng finished speaking, he lifted his hand casually and brought his emperor-grade flying ship out. Without another word to the people of the Wanqi clan, he left along with Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian.

After the trio left, silence permeated the sky above the Wanqi clan's estate even though there were quite a number of people gathered there.

After a while, Wanqi Yu Ning sighed heavily and said, "You should all discuss with me before taking action. I can see the bigger picture. I don't have much time left to live. When the time comes, I won't be able to bring my prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul with me. At that time, I'll naturally give it to Wanqi Jue."

Previously, Wanqi Yu Ning was kept in the dark when the decision was made to send Wanqi Wu Ming to help Wanqi Jue snatch back the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul from Zhen Ping Fan. Naturally, at that time, he was also unaware that Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Wu Ming had snatched the weapon back under Zhen Yun Feng's nose. He only found out about the matter after everything was said and done. Although he was frustrated, there was nothing else he could do. After all, they had already offended the Pure Yang Sect.

Moreover, after thinking about it, Wanqi Yu Ning thought that if he was privy to the situation, he might have felt hesitant but there was a possibility that he would eventually agree to snatch the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul back at the risk of offending the Pure Yang Sect as well.

It was true that Wanqi Yu Ning could not bring his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul with him after his death. However, all humans had selfish desires. If the Wanqi clan was not in danger, he wanted to leave his weapon to his grandson, a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. Moreover, there was still a chance for him to become an advanced Emperor of Gods after the Seven Mansions Feast. If he was successful, he would not die.

With all things considered, there was a chance Wanqi Yu Ning might not have objected even if he was involved in the decision-making process. After all, he was reluctant to give his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to Wanqi Jue unless it was absolutely necessary.

It was truly unfortunate that no one from the Wanqi clan knew that Ye Chen Feng had already nurtured his artifact soul to completion. They did not even consider this possibility.

Needless to say, if Wanqi Yu Ning knew about this, he would have definitely opposed the plan strongly and proposed to give his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to Wanqi Jue without hesitation.

Alas, there was no redo in life.

Wanqi Liu Su said with a sigh, "It's too late to say anything now. It's truly unexpected that Ye Chen Feng nurtured his artifact soul to completion. How on earth did he do it?"

Regardless of how Ye Chen Feng did it, the Wanqi clan could only admit defeat. No one expected the strongest powerhouse in the Pure Yang Sect would suddenly own a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul. With that weapon, his strength was on par with ordinary or weaker advanced Emperor of Gods.

At this time, Wanqi Yu Ning turned to the side and said solemnly, "Wu Ming, I said that earlier to preserve your life. I hope you understand."

Wanqi Wu Ming nodded with a grim expression on his face. "I understand, Uncle Yu Ning. It's a great blessing that Ye Chen Feng let me go today. It's also good for me to stay in the clan's estate. I'll use this time to cultivate and focus on breaking through to become an advanced Emperor of Gods."

Wanqi Yu Ning nodded in satisfaction upon hearing Wanqi Wu Ming's words.

At this moment, a figure suddenly flashed and prepared near Wanqi Yu Ning and the others.

"Ancestor."

The newcomer was none other than Wanqi Hong, Wanqi Jue's great-great-grandson. He was also the most outstanding prodigy in the Wanqi clan, making him the pride of the Wanqi clan.

Although Wanqi Hong lost Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, only a few blamed him. After all, he was young and reckless. Who was not impulsive when they were young? More than anything, most people blamed Wanqi Jue for being reckless and blinded by his pride.

"Little Hong, you... You saw everything?"

Although Wanqi Hong looked very calm, Wanqi Liu Su could sense the killing intent rising from Wanqi Hong's body.

Wanqi Hong looked at Wanqi Yu Ning and Wanqi Liu Su as he said solemnly, "Clan leader, Ancestor, if I rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast, we'll be given three slots. Since Elder Wu Ming is grounded, he won't be able to go to that place. If I rank in the top three, I hope you'll let me have one of the slots. I plan to give it to someone who will help me kill Ye Chen Feng! Of course, you can make the person I choose swear on the Devil's Heart Blood Oath if he becomes an advanced Emperor of Gods. You can make him swear to serve the Wanqi clan as a Revered Elder for 1,000 years."

Wanqi Hong had witnessed his great-great-grandfather's death earlier. He was filled with fury and despair at that time. However, after he calmed down, he began to think of ways to avenge his great-great-grandfather.

"What a filial child," Wanqi Yu Ning said with a sigh, "However, listen to me and let go of this grudge. At least, let it go for now. We know you're filial, but Ye Chen Feng isn't so easy to kill. He has a higher chance than all of us to become an advanced Emperor of Gods after the Seven Mansions Feast. Even if you manage to find someone and make him swear on the Devil's Heart Blood Oath to help you kill Ye Chen Feng, he might not be a match for Ye Chen Feng even if he successfully becomes an advanced Emperor of Gods."

Wanqi Hong said resolutely, "Elder, I've thought this through. If things happen as you said, then I'll seek revenge myself!"

...

During the journey back to the Pure Yang Sect.

In the emperor-grade flying ship.

Zhen Ping Fan asked Ye Chen Feng many questions. He even asked to have a look at Ye Chen Feng's prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul. He studied the sword curiously, looking like a child from the countryside who had arrived in a huge city for the first time.

Duan Ling Tian, who was sitting cross-legged in a corner, shook his head when he saw this. Nonetheless, he understood Zhen Ping Fan's feelings.

Ye Chen Feng said with a hint of helplessness, "Kid, you're already so old, but why are you more immature than Duan Ling Tian?"

Upon hearing this, Zhen Ping Fan glanced at Duan Ling Tian before he said with a grin, "Duan Ling Tian is just too embarrassed to come forward to have a look. I'm sure he's very curious about this prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul as well!"

Duan Ling Tian rolled his eyes inwardly. 'It's just a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul. What's the big deal? I have one as well. Moreover, I had it before Elder Ye has one.'

At this time, Duan Ling Tian recalled something. He was slightly anxious as he asked, "Huang'er, Elder Ye's artifact soul isn't aware of your existence, right?"

Chapter 3993: Does Your Master Lack Disciples?

"Master, he doesn't notice me," Huang'er replied, "He's a newly conceived artifact soul so his ability is limited. If you don't enter the realm of an Emperor of Gods in a few hundred or a thousand years, he might be able to discover my presence."

Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief upon hearing Huang'er's reply. He simply ignored her last sentence. If he was still unable to enter the realm of an Emperor of Gods after such a long time, he might as well kill himself.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan suddenly said, "Junior Uncle Ye, I totally forgot about Golden Seat Elder Wanqi Yu Ning until today. It just occurred to me that the Wanqi clan didn't need to offend us since Golden Seat Elder Wanqi Yu Ning won't live for long. At that time, he can just pass his weapon to Wanqi Jue, right?"

Ye Chen Feng smiled slightly as he said, "Of course, he can. However, do you think he'd be willing unless it's absolutely necessary? None of them expected me to possess a prominent divine artifact soul with a complete artifact soul so how could they know I'd come to their clan to snatch back the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul and kill Wanqi Jue?"

Zhen Ping Fan thought about it for a moment before he nodded. "You're right. I didn't think about this clearly. I forgot that they're unaware of your current strength, Junior Uncle Ye."

The prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul had boosted Ye Chen Feng's strength greatly to the point where he could easily intimidate the Wanqi clan and make them submit.

"Also, do you think Wanqi Yu Ning is so selfless?" Ye Chen Feng continued to say, "He has a son and a grandson. Although his son didn't live up to his expectations of becoming an Emperor of Gods and died long ago, he has a grandson who's a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. If it's not absolutely necessary, he definitely won't give his weapon to Wanqi Jue when he could give it to his grandson."

Zhen Ping Fan nodded in agreement. Then, after a moment, he shook his head and said, "I didn't think so deeply. I just thought that Wanqi Jue really died in vain. He was stubborn and didn't want to admit defeat. After snatching back his weapon, only a short time has passed before the weapon was snatched back again. Moreover, he even died."

"This is his fate," Ye Chen Feng said indifferently. In his eyes, Wanqi Jue was as insignificant as an ant. Even before his prominent divine sword had a complete artifact soul, he could kill Wanqi Jue with a strike from his sword. Although their cultivation bases were the same, his comprehension of the law was stronger, and his doppelganger from the law was not weaker than Wanqi Jue's bloodline power. Moreover, he had also comprehended the Sword Dao.

Not only was Ye Chen Feng the strongest person in the Pure Yang Sect, but many people considered him to be the strongest person in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. However, he had no interest in sparring with the powerhouses from the other top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion so the title did not officially belong to him. This was all before his prominent divine sword gained a complete artifact soul. Currently, even without sparring with the others, he was confident no one in the Eastern Ridge Mansion would be able to survive if he struck with all his might.

After ending his conversation with Zhen Ping Fan, Ye Chen Feng turned to Duan Ling Tian, who was sitting in a corner in the flying ship, and asked with a smile, "Does your master have any plans to come to the Profound Energy Land?"

Duan Ling Tian knew Ye Chen Feng would ask this question at some point, but he was still slightly caught off guard by the abrupt change in topic. He replied, "Elder Ye, my master has already left the Devata Realm for a Realm of Gods. If he so happens to arrive in the Profound Energy Land, he said that he'll consider joining the Pure Yang Sect. However, he wasn't transported to the Profound Energy Land..."

Ye Chen Feng frowned slightly upon hearing these words. When his frown eased, he shook his head and said with a smile, "Perhaps, I didn't consider things properly. How can someone who mastered the Sword Dao to such a level in the Devata Realms be bound by the Pure Yang Sect?" Then, he added, "Duan Ling Tian, you have to work hard. Although your cultivation base has surpassed that of your master, your foundation isn't as good as his. After arriving at the Realm of Gods, his cultivation is going to improve by leaps and bounds. It's not difficult to raise one's cultivation base or deepen one's comprehension of the laws in the Realms of Gods. What's difficult is comprehending the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth in the Realms of Gods. However, your master's Sword Dao is close to breaking through to the next stage. Once he breaks through, as soon as he becomes a rudimentary Lord of Gods, he'll be able to kill even the strongest advanced Lord of Gods."

An envious expression appeared on Ye Chen Feng's face when he finished speaking as his eyes burned with the desire to reach such a stage in the Sword Dao. Alas, it would take him quite a while to reach such a stage.

Duan Ling Tian's heart moved upon hearing this. He was not aware that his master would be so powerful to the point where his master would be able to defeat the strongest advanced Lord of Gods as soon as his master became a rudimentary Lord of Gods. He knew even his master was unaware of this.

'If master's Sword Dao progresses to the next stage, he'll be able to kill the strongest advanced Lord of Gods as soon as he becomes a rudimentary Lord of Gods? I can't even do that now. Even if I completely stabilize my cultivation base now, I still won't be able to do it...'

Duan Ling Tian knew Ye Chen Feng had kept in contact with his master so Ye Chen Feng was privy to his master's level of comprehension of the law of time and such. He was sure Ye Chen Feng had already considered every factor before coming to such a conclusion.

While Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts, Zhen Ping Fan, who was standing next to him, was stunned. Then, he asked, "Junior Uncle Ye, you mean to say that Duan Ling Tian's master in the Devata Realm comprehended a higher stage of the Sword Dao compared to you?"

With Ye Chen Feng's words and the envious expression on his face, it was not difficult for Zhen Ping Fan to come to this conclusion. He also knew Ye Chen Feng meant it when he said Duan Ling Tian's master would be able to kill the strongest advanced Lord of Gods as soon as Duan Ling Tian's master became a rudimentary Lord of Gods. He knew Ye Chen Feng would not speak baseless words.

Ye Chen Feng nodded and said with certainty, "His stage is far above mine."

Zhen Ping Fan was shocked by Ye Chen Feng's response.

Ye Chen Feng continued to say, "Moreover, Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao is the same type as his master's. He's the one who taught Duan Ling Tian the Sword Dao so their paths are the same. This is also another thing I admire about him. Although I tried to teach my disciples the Sword Dao, none of them managed to comprehend it, not even the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao."

Ye Chen Feng sighed heavily after he finished his words

When Zhen Ping Fan returned to his senses, he looked at Duan Ling Tian with sparkling eyes as he excitedly, "Duan Ling Tian, does your master lack disciples?"

Duan Ling Tian was struck dumb by Zhen Ping Fan's question. 'I never knew Elder Zhen can be so shameless! He's 10,000 years older than my master, and yet, he wants to acknowledge him as his master!'

Ye Chen Feng looked at Zhen Ping Fan and asked playfully, "Brat, aren't you afraid your father will break your legs? Your father is your master, after all."

Zhen Ping Fan smiled and said confidently, "I believe my father will understand my decision! If I really manage to comprehend the Sword Dao, he'll praise me instead." Then, he turned to Duan Ling Tian and said excitedly, "Duan Ling Tian, why don't you ask your master if he has any intention of accepting

disciples? I don't mind being your junior brother. If you feel awkward about addressing me as your junior brother, I'll be the senior brother and protect you in the future! What do you think?"

Duan Ling Tian felt helpless and amused by Zhen Ping Fan. Nonetheless, he still ruthlessly destroyed Zhen Ping Fan's dream as he said, "Elder Zhen, I was able to follow the path of my master's Sword Dao because we were already on the same path when I was still in one of the mundane realms. With the same foundation, I was able to successfully continue down his path before forging a path of my own. I'm afraid it won't be the same for you..."

Zhen Ping Fan's excitement disappeared and was replaced with disappointment and unwillingness.

On the other hand, Ye Chen Feng's eyes lit up. "So that's why! If I want a disciple who can follow my path on the Sword Dao, I should find a disciple from the mundane realms! It makes sense. Those in the mundane realms are like uncut diamonds. If I nurture them, they'll become dazzling diamonds! Why didn't I think of this in the past?"

Ye Chen Feng became lost in his thoughts, muttering under his breath every once in a while. He seemed to be seriously considering looking for a disciple in the mundane realms.

Zhen Ping Fan was rather speechless. He said, "Junior Uncle Ye, you're thinking too much! Even if there's someone from the mundane realms who can follow your sword path, it won't be easy for him or her to come to the Realms of Gods from the mundane realms. Moreover, do you think everyone is as talented as you and Duan Ling Tian? Put everything else aside, you've had disciples in the mundane realms in the past. They followed your cultivation, and a few of them even came to the Profound Energy Land after attaining godhood. However, have any of them embarked on the same path as yours in the Sword Dao?"

Ye Chen Feng was pulled back to the earth upon hearing Zhen Ping Fan's words. Then, he asked Duan Ling Tian, "When you inherited your master's legacy in the mundane realm, did the legacy include ways to comprehend the Sword Dao?"

"No," Duan Ling Tian said with certainty as he shook his head, "My master left that before he even went to the Devata Realm. At that time, he had yet to comprehend the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao, let alone the real Sword Dao."

Ye Chen Feng looked disappointed upon hearing these words. "I thought he might have left his knowledge of the Sword Dao in the mundane realm. In that case, I guess there's no hope for me. I left my legacy in the mundane realm before. The Sword Dao I comprehended was derived from that. Some of my disciples in the mundane realm are the best in terms of talent and comprehension, but none of them comprehended my Sword Dao, not even the rudimentary form. Perhaps, my Sword Dao is only suitable for me, not others."

Chapter 3994: Ten Years Until the Seven Mansions Feast Begins!

The Seven Mansions Feast Ten Years Later!

Hearing Ye Chen Feng's heavy sigh, Zhen Ping Fan shook his head and said helplessly, "Junior Uncle Ye, don't be too greedy. You're already a genius, and yet, you still want to cultivate another genius?"

Ye Chen Feng glared at Zhen Ping Fang and said, "Brat, how am I greedy? Look at Duan Ling Tian and his master. Just you wait. If nothing happens to Brother Qing Yang, he'll definitely cause a stir in the Realms of Gods in the future. I can't speak much about other things, but in terms of Sword Dao, even Duan Ling Tian will find it difficult to surpass his master. It's almost impossible if you ask me."

No one understood Feng Qing Yang's Sword Dao more than Ye Chen Feng did, not even Duan Ling Tian. In Ye Chen Feng's opinion, Feng Qing Yang's Sword Dao was peerless. Although Duan Ling Tian's current attainment in the Sword Dao was not bad, it was not heaven-defying. In fact, Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao was still slightly weaker than his. Naturally, this was based on Duan Ling Tian's past performances. He knew there was a possibility that Duan Ling Tian was hiding his strength, but he thought the chances were low.

Although Ye Chen Feng did not attend the Trading Conference at Seven Kills Valley, he had already watched the recordings of Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong's fight through a Floating Image Pearl.

Zhen Ping Fan was stunned by Ye Chen Feng's words. He looked curious as he said, "I'm really curious about what kind of person he is. Even Junior Uncle Ye's Sword Dao can't compare to his..." Then, as though he thought of something, he said in a low voice, "Junior Uncle Ye, from what I know, comprehending any of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth can also help one become a supreme powerhouse in the future, right? Saying that, the requirements for the Sword Dao aren't low at all. Is it possible for Duan Ling Tian's master to become a supreme powerhouse in the future?"

Zhen Ping Fan naturally knew it was difficult to comprehend the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth in the Realms of Gods. The natives of the Realms of Gods who comprehended any of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth were considered future supreme powerhouses. For this reason, he thought this must be the same for Duan Ling Tian's master as well

Ye Chen Feng thought about Zhen Ping Fan's question for a moment before he said, "No one knows this for sure, not even me. Both of us have the potential to become supreme powerhouses in the future, but I think Brother Qing Yang has a higher chance than us in becoming a supreme powerhouse." Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian before he added, "Even Duan Ling Tian has a better chance than you and me."

Although Ye Chen Feng knew Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao was not comparable to Feng Qing Yang's Sword Dao, he did not forget Duan Ling Tian's shocking age.

During his previous visit to the lower realms, Ye Chen Feng had learned a lot about Duan Ling Tian's past. Most importantly, he learned that Duan Ling Tian was not just younger than 3,000 years old, but Duan Ling Tian was not even 1,000 years old; Duan Ling Tian was only slightly over 700 years old! He learned that Duan Ling Tian had concealed his bone age using a divine pill, making it seem like he was 2,700 years old.

This was one of the things Ye Chen Feng learned that Duan Ling Tian was unaware of. He did not expose Duan Ling Tian because he knew Duan Ling Tian must have his reason for doing so.

"Indeed, comparison is a thief of joy," Zhen Ping Fang said as he glanced at Duan Ling Tian and shook his head helplessly, "I dream of comprehending any of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, but after more than 10,000 years, I'm still nowhere close to doing so. However, you've already comprehended the

Sword Dao before you turn 3,000. During the Seven Mansions Feast, you'll definitely attract the attention of supreme-rank forces."

Previously, Zhen Ping Fang heard of how Duan Ling Tian said his aspiration lay beyond the Pure Yang Sect when Duan Ling Tian was on the Myriad Phenomena Island. At that time, he did not take those words to heart. He dismissed it as Duan Ling Tian's arrogance due to his talent. However, after learning that Duan Ling Tian comprehended the Sword Dao, he changed his mind. Duan Ling Tian's current strength alone was enough to attract the attention of supreme-rank forces.

"I'm just lucky," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile as he shook his head.

Upon hearing this, Zhen Ping Fan glared at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Brat, even if you want to be modest, can you do it in another way? I'll beat you up if you say those words again! I can accept it if you say you comprehended the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao due to luck, but is the real Sword Dao something you can comprehend by relying on luck?"

After that, Zhen Ping Fang grilled Duan Ling Tian about the Sword Dao. He wondered if he could replicate Duan Ling Tian's success. He was a little unwilling to give up just like that. After all, it concerned the Sword Dao, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth.

Duan Ling Tian smiled and said, "Elder Zhen, if you're really interested, you'll have to wait until you meet my master in the future. He's now in another Realm of Gods. I'll introduce you to him if there's a chance in the future."

With this, Duan Ling Tian managed to stop Zhen Ping Fan's barrage of questions about the Sword Dao.

At this time, Ye Chen Feng said, "Duan Ling Tian, if possible, you should strive to rank first during the Seven Mansions Feast. If you're able to do that, the Pure Yang Sect will be given four slots to enter that place. At that time, I'll be able to ask the Pure Yang Sect to cultivate you and give you the best resources even if you will leave the sect eventually."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as soon as heard Ye Chen Feng's words.

The Pure Yang Sect was one of the top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, after all. They had plenty of cultivation resources that could help his cultivation. If they were willing to cultivate him, he would benefit greatly.

"Elder Ye, I'll do my best!"

Although Duan Ling Tian defeated Wanqi Hong; who was one of the strongest, if not the strongest, among the younger generation in the Eastern Ridge Mansion; he did not consider ranking first during the Seven Mansions Feast at all. He was not even sure if he would be able to rank in the top three. After all, the Eastern Ridge Mansions was not the only one participating in the Seven Mansions Feast. There were bound to be other outstanding prodigies from the other six Mansions.

...

Half a month after Ye Chen Feng, Zhen Ping Fan, and Duan Ling Tian returned to the Pure Yang Sect, the story of Ye Chen Feng killing countless disciples and Wanqi Jue in the Wanqi clan's estate and possessing a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul had spread far and wide in the Eastern Ridge

Mansion. Needless to say, it stirred up a commotion in the Eastern Ridge Mansion immediately, including the Pure Yang Sect.

“Elder Ye’s prominent divine sword has a complete artifact soul now?! He killed Wanqi Jue, a Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan and an intermediate Emperor of Gods, with just a strike from his sword?”

“I heard that Elder Ye’s strength now is comparable to an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods!”

“I didn’t expect that our sect would have such a powerful person!”

Similar to the disciples of the Pure Yang Sect, the high-ranking officials of the Pure Yang Sect were also discussing this matter.

“Elder Ye is so powerful. As long as he can enter that place after the Seven Mansions Feast, I’m sure he’ll break through and become an advanced Emperor of Gods, right?”

“I think that’ll certainly be the case...”

“With this, our Pure Yang Sect will gain at least one advanced Emperor of Gods!”

“Elder Ye is an intermediate Emperor of Gods now, but his strength is comparable to that of an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods. He must be among the strongest advanced Emperors of God after he breaks through, right?”

...

Contrary to the jubilant atmosphere in the Pure Yang Sect, the other top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion such as the Seven Kills Valley, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect were all feeling the pressure. Similar to the Wanqi clan, news of Ye Chen Feng possessing a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul was like a bolt of lightning on a sunny day.

“How did Ye Chen Feng do it? How did he nurture the artifact soul to completion when he’s just an intermediate Emperor of Gods?! I thought only advanced Emperors of Gods are capable of this?”

“There are precedents in the past... Most of those intermediate Emperor of Gods who achieved such a feat had fortuitous encounters...”

“Ye Chen Feng must have had a fortuitous encounter!”

Among the five top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, the Pure Yang Sect was already the most powerful, to begin with, even if the gap between their strengths were not big. However, the gap had widened considerably, overwhelming the other four forces, now that Ye Chen Feng possessed a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul. With this, they placed even greater importance on the Seven Mansions Feast that would start in ten years.

“Even if Duan Ling Tian wins a spot for Ye Chen Feng during the Seven Mansions Feast, we... we don’t know for sure that Ye Chen Feng will definitely become an advanced Emperor of Gods! If we get a spot, we also don’t know for sure that we’ll fail! In other words, there’s still hope for us!”

“In the coming years, I’ll do my best to cultivate the prodigies. I’ll do all I can and give them all I have!”

“If we don’t work harder, then we won’t have any hope of closing the gap between us and the Pure Yang Sect! At that time, the Pure Yang Sect will reign supreme in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.”

With this, the other four top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion began to energetically prepare for the Seven Mansions Feast.

...

Meanwhile, in a small independent realm located in a remote canyon in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

A person was in excruciating pain. Nevertheless, he gritted his teeth and bore the pain as he muttered determinedly, “I must rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast. I have to kill Duan Ling Tian and Long Qing Chong! Kill! I have to kill them!”

The young man fought with his life in the raging space. His resilience and tenacity were beyond the imagination of the average person. He fell down again and again, and he rose to his feet again and again, surviving under the harsh conditions.

...

At the same time, in the remote canyon outside of the independent realm.

An old man muttered to himself with bright eyes, “I didn’t expect him to be so tenacious. It’s likely that he’ll succeed! His strength will rise to a new level if he succeeds. At that time, he might be able to compete with Duan Ling Tian...”

Soon enough, the old man’s expression darkened when he recalled Duan Ling Tian’s performance in the Seven Kills Valley. “I really didn’t expect Duan Ling Tian to have comprehended the real Sword Dao.”

Chapter 3995: The Secret Holy Realm, A Realm Fragment!

In the Wanqi clan’s estate.

After a few years, Wanqi Hong finally received the lord-grade Limit Divine Pill that the Wanqi clan obtained for him. It would help him stabilize his cultivation in the realm of an advanced Lord of Gods.

“With this divine pill, my cultivation base will be completely stable before the start of the Seven Mansions Feast. At that time, I might be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian!”

Before receiving the lord-grade Limit Divine Pill, Wanqi Hong did not stay idle. He had been cultivating even harder than before, spurred by Wanqi Jue’s death due to the choice he made.

Duan Ling Tian was only his secondary target. His primary target was Ye Chen Feng.

He did not know if anyone in the Wanqi clan would be capable of seeking revenge from Ye Chen Feng in the future, and he also did not plan to pin all of his hopes on the Wanqi clan. He could only rely on himself to avenge his great-great-grandfather. He knew he was still very far from being capable of doing so, but he did not despair.

“I must surpass Duan Ling Tian first. After becoming the strongest among the younger generation in and around Eastern Ridge Mansion, I’ll continue working hard to surpass Ye Chen Feng. Ye Chen Feng is a lot

older than I am so it'd be difficult for me to catch up to him in 10,000 years. However, I remember he was not as strong as I am at my age."

In short, Wanqi Hong worked hard like he never did before.

...

In the Green Province Mansion.

The Green Province Mansion was located adjacent to the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Their prodigies would also be participating in the Seven Mansions Feast.

In the Marionette Villa's estate.

The Marionette Villa was one of the top three strongest forces in the Green Province Mansion. They had several intermediate Emperors of Gods and many other experts.

"Duan Ling Tian comprehended the Sword Dao? He defeated Wanqi Hong who had become an advanced Lord of Gods for 100 years when he had only become an intermediate Lord of Gods for two years?"

A young man, who had just come out from closed-door cultivation, wore a shocked expression on his face when he learned about this piece of news. Soon after, he smiled bitterly as he muttered to himself, "It seems like it's almost impossible for me to surpass him during the Seven Mansions Feast. I can only strive to rank in the top ten..."

The young man sighed before he returned to his room to cultivate again.

The young man was none other than the former prodigy of the Tai Yi Sect, Ximen Long Xiang.

...

With the Seven Mansions Feast drawing closer, the prodigies from the five major forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion and the other forces from the other six Mansions, such as the Green Province Mansion, were all cultivating diligently.

Not only was the Seven Mansions Feast important to them, but it was also important to the forces they belonged to. It was related to the Secret Holy Realm that opened once every 10,000 years.

...

In the Pure Yang Sect's Cloud Peak faction.

Zhen Ping Fan came to look for Duan Ling Tian to ask him questions about the Sword Dao. At some point, Duan Ling Tian asked about the mysterious place related to the Seven Mansions Feast.

Since it was not a secret, Zhen Ping Fan said, "The Secret Holy Realm was jointly discovered by the top forces in the Seven Mansions in the past. After discovering it, they worked together to open it..."

"The Secret Holy Realm? So one has a chance of becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods in there?" Duan Ling Tian asked. Although he found the name tacky, he knew it must be a miraculous place

considering it was a place that could help intermediate Emperors of Gods break through and become advanced Emperors of Gods.

“That’s right,” Zhen Ping Fan nodded and said, “In the Secret Holy Realm, there are fortuitous encounters that will help intermediate Emperors of Gods become advanced Emperors of Gods. Many advanced Emperors of Gods were born in the Secret Holy Realm since it was opened.”

Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, “What kind of place is the Secret Holy Realm? What is its origin? Was it left behind by a supreme powerhouse?”

Zhen Ping Fan shook his head and said, “Yes and no.”

Duan Ling Tian asked in confusion, “What do you mean? Please be more specific, Elder Zhen.”

Zhen Ping Fan nodded and said, “Let me give you a detailed explanation about the Secret Holy Realm. What do you know about supreme powerhouses and what do you think of them?”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up as he said straightforwardly, “I don’t know much about them. I only know they’re the most powerful beings in all the realms. Moreover, the 18 Realms of Gods are all created by 18 supreme powerhouses. There are also other supreme powerhouses, but they’re not as strong as the 18 supreme powerhouses who created the 18 Realms of Gods.”

Zhen Ping Fan nodded and said with a smile, “It’s good enough that you know these things.” Then, he continued to say, “Due to the rules, there can only be 18 Realms of Gods at a time. Unless one of the existing 18 Realms of Gods is destroyed by another supreme powerhouse, it’s impossible to create another Realm of Gods. When a Realm of Gods is destroyed, every living thing in the Realm of Gods will perish and turn into ashes. That Realm of Gods will be no different from a wasteland as its shattered pieces drift in the turbulent space. Do you know these things?”

“I’ve heard about it.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

With this, Zhen Ping Fan continued to say, “After killing a supreme powerhouse and the Realm of Gods he or she created, the killer won’t be able to plunder the destroyed Realm of Gods for resources. However, the killer, also a supreme powerhouse, can use a fragment of the Realm of Gods and mold it into a small independent realm with their energy. Since the small independent realm is a fragment of a Realm of Gods, it’s naturally unlike ordinary independent realms. It has absorbed all kinds of essences, after all. The killer will usually set up all kinds of Formations in there. All in all, it’ll be turned into a holy land for cultivation. This independent realm will then be thrown into the killer’s newly created Realm of Gods, waiting to be discovered.”

After Zhen Ping Fan finished speaking, he only looked at Duan Ling Tian with a smile.

Duan Ling Tian did not know this so he was rather surprised. “Elder Zhen... You’re saying that the Secret Holy Realm the top forces in the Seven Mansions is actually a fragment of a destroyed Realm of Gods that was molded by the supreme powerhouse who created the Profound Energy Land?”

Zhen Ping Fan said, “Yes. The Secret Holy Realm is precisely a fragment of the Realm of Gods. Like I said, the supreme powerhouse will also set up Formations in there so that resources in there will regenerate

after they're exhausted. As for whether there's a limit to the regeneration, no one knows for the time being. However, I think it's likely that there's a limit. Since the Secret Holy Realm was found relatively recently, it has not shown signs of exhaustion yet. It's said that it'll take almost 10,000 years to completely regenerate so the top forces in the Seven Mansions, including our Eastern Ridge Mansion, agreed to only enter the Secret Holy Realm once every 10,000 years. The number of people who can enter is also limited. After many years of trial and error, we discovered it's best that only 24 people enter at a time. If only 23 people enter, the surplus of resources will go to waste; if 25 people enter, there won't be enough resources. In the beginning, the twenty four places were divided among the strongest powerhouses in the Seven Mansions through rounds of battles. However, that didn't last. After all, those who entered previously and became advanced Emperor of Gods would naturally be able to help those from their forces enter again due to the increase in strength. As such, the others would not have a chance to enter the place. For this reason, the majority of the forces changed the rule. To be fair, only those below the age of 10,000 can compete to determine who gets to enter the Secret Holy Realm. This also helps with the cultivation of the younger generation. Due to the meticulous cultivation from their respective forces, many young prodigies later became advanced Emperors of Gods without needing to enter the Secret Holy Realm."

Duan Ling Tian finally understood why the younger generation was competing for the intermediate Emperors of Gods to enter the Secret Holy Land. As it turned out, it was to prevent advanced Emperors of Gods from gaining an advantage, slowly monopolizing the Secret Holy Realm. After all, those from the other forces who failed to break through would definitely be at a disadvantage.

'The person who ranks first will be given four slots. The second and third place respectively will be given three slots each. From the fourth to the tenth place, they'll be given two slots each...'

After thinking about this, a question appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind. He asked, "Elder Zhen, what happens if two or more prodigies from the same force rank in the top ten? What if the slots they won exceed the number of intermediate Emperors of Gods in their force? Will the slots be given to the rudimentary Emperors of Gods in their force?"

Zhen Ping Fan nodded. "It depends. What you said is possible. However, it's a waste to give such a chance to a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. Some choose to give the slots away, and some even put it up for auction."

Chapter 3996: Departure

With Zhen Ping Fan's explanation, Duan Ling Tian finally had a better understanding of the Seven Mansions Feast's purpose. It was for the chance to enter the Secret Holy Realm.

The Secret Holy Realm was a fragment of a destroyed Realm of Gods that had been molded into a small independent realm. All intermediate Emperors of Gods, even those with low chances of becoming advanced Emperors of Gods, yearned for a chance to enter this place since it could help them break through and become an advanced Emperor of Gods.

'No wonder the Pure Yang Sect was willing to invest so many resources in me. As long as I rank in the top ten, two of them, at least, will be given a chance to become an advanced Emperor of Gods,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He also knew that if he managed to rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast, the Pure Yang Sect would reward him greatly.

That aside, after his feat at the Seven Kills Valley, the Pure Yang Sect was even more generous than before when they sent him cultivation resources. He knew the increase in their generosity was due to him triumphing over Wanqi Hong. After all, in the past, they only expected him to rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast. After his display of strength in the Seven Kills Valley, they were hopeful he would rank in the top three, hence, the increase in their generosity. Saying that, there would be no consequences even if he did not rank in the top three. What was important was ranking in the top ten.

Zhen Ping Fan said solemnly to Duan Ling Tian, "Cultivate diligently and try to improve a little more before the Seven Mansions Feast. From what I heard, there are two incredibly outstanding prodigies from two different forces in two different Mansions participating in the Seven Mansions Feast this time."

Zhen Ping Fan did not say this because he was worried about Duan Ling Tian being complacent. He only wanted Duan Ling Tian to be mentally prepared. He had long realized Duan Ling Tian was very mature despite his young age.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. He had never underestimated the prodigies from the other six Mansions. In fact, unlike the others, he also did not assume that all the other prodigies in the Eastern Ridge Mansion were weaker than Wanqi Hong. After all, it was not impossible for some forces to hide their strength and bide their time. If one kept a low profile and made a move at the critical moment, one could easily gain the upper hand. However, he did not think he would fall for such a trick since he rarely let his guard down. He had experienced many things from his time in the mundane realm until now, and he had learned not to underestimate his opponents. He also knew that a moment of carelessness could get one killed. In the past, he managed to kill many people because they had underestimated him.

...

Time passed quickly as the prodigies in the Seven Mansions cultivated diligently. In just a blink of an eye, there were only six months left before the Seven Mansions Feast began.

At this time, the top forces in the Seven Mansions also began to make preparations to set off to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast.

The Seven Mansions, including the Eastern Ridge Mansion and the Green Province Mansion, would take turns hosting the Seven Mansions Feast, which was held once every 10,000 years. This time, it would be hosted by the Profound Jade Mansion.

There were six top forces in the Profound Jade Mansion. Among them, there was a force with an advanced Emperor of Gods. This advanced Emperor of Gods had broken through in the Secret Holy Realm after one of the previous Seven Mansions Feasts. However, it was said that he did not have long to live since he was severely injured during his previous Heavenly Tribulation.

Duan Ling Tian, who heard about this matter from Zhen Ping Fan, was surprised. He asked skeptically, "He became an advanced Emperor of Gods 20,000 years ago, but he was still injured during his last Heavenly Tribulation?"

After an intermediate Emperor of Gods, who would not be able to survive his upcoming Heavenly Tribulation, became an advanced Emperor of Gods, his strength would increase significantly, allowing him to survive at least 20,000 years worth of Heavenly Tribulations.

“Was he severely injured before becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods? Did his old injuries drag him down even after he became an advanced Emperor of Gods?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Zhen Ping Fan shook his head. “No, that’s not it. Although he was injured when he was an intermediate Emperor of Gods, his injuries healed a few thousand years after he became an advanced Emperor of Gods. At that time, it was easy for him to survive the Heavenly Tribulations. However, as time passed, his cultivation hardly improved, and the Heavenly Tribulations became stronger and stronger. It became increasingly difficult for him to survive the Heavenly Tribulations. 8,000 years ago, he was injured by the Heavenly Tribulations for the first time after becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods. Although the injuries were not severe, they affected him. Moreover, with each Heavenly Tribulation, his injuries would increase...”

Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian after he listened to Zhen Ping Fan. As it turned out, it was because the other person’s speed of improvement could not keep up with the increasing difficulty of the Heavenly Tribulations. Moreover, there was even a period of time when there was no improvement in the other person’s cultivation.

Zhen Ping Fan said with a sigh, “The Heavenly Tribulation will only increase in difficulty when it comes every 1,000 years. Although he became an advanced Emperor of Gods, he’s progressing too slowly to keep up with the Heavenly Tribulations.”

A troubled expression appeared on Duan Ling Tian’s face at this moment. He thought of his family and wondered if he should dissuade his family from becoming Kings of Gods. Once they became a King of Gods, they would have to face the Heavenly Tribulation once every 1,000 years for the rest of their lives. If their speed of improvement was not fast enough, it was inevitable that they would be killed by the Heavenly Tribulation sooner or later. On the other hand, if they suppressed their cultivation and did not become Kings of Gods, they would be able to live forever, barring any accidents, even if they would be weak.

However, Duan Ling Tian knew that his family, even his children, were all adults. He shook his head and decided not to dwell on the matter. It was better to leave the decision up to them. Moreover, everyone had different thoughts.

Some people preferred to cultivate instead of suppressing their cultivation just to live for a long time. They found it more meaningful to cultivate and become stronger that even if they perished, they would not have any regrets and considered themselves to have lived a fulfilling life.

After dismissing that thought, Duan Ling Tian asked, “Elder Zhen, I heard I’ll be leaving for the Profound Jade Mansion within a month, but I don’t know specifically when. Do you know anything about that?”

The Seven Mansions Feast’s date had been fixed. Most people would arrive at the venue in advance.

A few days ago, Duan Ling Tian was jolted awake by a message informing him of their departure to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast in the Profound Jade Mansion within a month. Hence, he looked for Zhen Ping Fan today to find out the specific day of departure.

With Zhen Ping Fan's status, it was only natural that he was privy to such matters. He replied, "You'll be leaving in nine days."

With the day of departure drawing closer, Zhen Ping Fan also wanted to chat with Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, he would not have disturbed Duan Ling Tian's cultivation.

"Nine days? That's fast," Duan Ling Tian said after nodding.

...

In the Heavenly Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

"Master, how are you in the Realm of Gods?"

Duan Ling Tian was not the only one in closed-door cultivation recently. His doppelgangers in the lower realms were also in closed-door cultivation. After all, if his true body was in closed-door cultivation, his progress would be greatly affected if his doppelgangers did not cultivate at the same time.

After Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger from the law of time emerged from closed-door cultivation, he went to look for Feng Qing Yang's doppelganger to ask about Feng Qing Yang's situation in the Realm of Gods.

"I'm fine," Feng Qing Yang replied with a slight smile and did not explain further.

Duan Ling Tian did not continue asking. Over the years after leaving for the Realm of Gods, his master had never elaborated on his situation in the Realm of Gods whenever he asked his master about it. He knew his master did not want him to worry, but his master also did not want to lie to him. Hence, his master gave him very curt replies.

"The Seven Mansions Feast is about to start, right?" Feng Qing Yang asked.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. "That's right. There's only half a year left before the start of the Seven Mansions Feast. The Pure Yang Sect will set off in nine days to the Profound Jade Mansion. It's where the Seven Mansions Feast will be held this time."

"Are you confident?" Feng Qing Yang asked with a smile.

"I'm certain about ranking in the top ten," Duan Ling Tian replied with a faint smile, "As for the rank first or in the top three, I can't say for sure. After all, no one knows if there are any hidden prodigies from the other six Mansions or even the other forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. I won't be surprised if they hid their true strength."

...

Nine days later.

Two flying ships flew out of the Pure Yang Sect.

The people leading the entourage to the Seven Mansions Feast were intermediate Emperors of Gods. One of them was the founder of the Hidden Sword faction, Ye Chen Feng, and the other one was the founder of the Tyrannic Saber faction, Liu Feng Gu.

Although Liu Feng Gu was not as strong as Ye Chen Feng, he was stronger than the other intermediate Emperors of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect.

The two flying ships flew side by side at the speed of an advanced Emperor of Gods. One of them belonged to Ye Chen Feng, and the other belonged to Liu Feng Gu.

Duan Ling Tian, Zhen Ping Fan, and the others from the Cloud Peak faction who were attending the Seven Mansions Feast rode in Ye Chen Feng's flying ship. The people from the Zheng Ming faction, which Lan Xi Lin belonged to, also rode in Ye Chen Feng's flying ship. This time, Lan Zheng Ming, the founder of the Zheng Ming faction, was also present.

'I really didn't expect a scoundrel like Lan Xi Lin would have such a wise and sensible great-grandfather like Elder Zheng Ming,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Today was the first time he met Lan Zheng Ming. After meeting Lan Zheng Ming, he found Lan Zheng Ming very friendly. It was as though he had known Lan Zheng Ming for many years.

Lan Zheng Ming even brought Lan Xi Lin to Duan Ling Tian and very straightforwardly said that if Lan Xi Lin deliberately caused trouble for him in the future, he should kill Lan Xi Lin. Lan Zheng Ming said very clearly that he would not be held accountable.

Lan Xi Lin's face paled upon hearing Lan Zheng Ming's words. If Duan Ling Tian went crazy and killed him even though he did not provoke Duan Ling Tian, would he not die in vain then?

Lan Xi Lin was naturally unaware that after Lan Zheng Ming interacted with Duan Ling Tian, being the smart person he was, Lan Zheng Ming had already determined Duan Ling Tian was not such a person. Hence, he was not worried when he made such a statement.

Chapter 3997: Ye Ying Cai

"Is he Duan Ling Tian?"

"He's really young."

"Duan Ling Tian not only looks young, but he's really young. He's not even 3,000 years old!"

Duan Ling Tian attracted the attention of many people from the factions in the Pure Yang Sect after they boarded the flying ship. Previously, there were many people who questioned his ability, but after the incident in Seven Kills Valley, no one doubted him anymore, and they thought his reputation was well-deserved.

Many among the younger generation in the flying ship were at Seven Kills Valley previously so they had personally witnessed Duan Ling Tian's strength. For this reason, even those who were not in attendance

were convinced. Apart from the confirmation from the others, they also watched the recordings from Floating Image Pearls.

At this moment, a handsome young man dressed in a white robe with an extraordinary bearing walked over to Duan Ling Tian. Earlier, he had been expressionless. However, in front of Duan Ling Tian now, he was smiling politely.

When Duan Ling Tian was looking at the young man curiously, Zhen Ping Fan, who saw this, said through Voice Transmission, "This is Senior Brother Ye Tong's last direct disciple."

An old man appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind at the mention of Ye Tong. Ye Tong was the Nirvanic Elder in the Hidden Sword faction who also attended the Trading Conference at Seven Kills Valley. Since Ye Chen Feng was leading the entourage to the Seven Mansions Feast this time, Ye Tong stayed back in the Pure Yang Sect.

Similarly, because Zhen Ping Fan was leading the entourage from the Cloud Peak faction, Zhen Yun Feng stayed behind in the Pure Yang Sect. Not counting the Sect Leader of the Pure Yang Sect, there were only two Emperors of Gods in the Cloud Peak faction, after all. It would not do to have both Emperors of Gods absent.

As for the Sect Leader of the Pure Yang Sect, he would not usually attend events unless it was important. After all, he was in control of the sect's Guarding Formation. If anything were to happen, he might not be able to rush back in time.

The white-clad young man seemed aloof but he was polite when he said, "I'm Ye Ying Cai, the disciple of Nirvanic Elder Ye Tong of the Hidden Sword faction."

Due to Ye Chen Feng and Ye Tong, Duan Ling Tian had a very good impression of the Hidden Sword faction. He said with a smile, "I've heard of you, but I didn't know you're Elder Ye Tong's disciple. Elder Ye Tong is really lucky to have an outstanding disciple like you."

Duan Ling Tian had heard of Ye Ying Cai a long time ago. Before he joined the Pure Yang Sect, Ye Ying Cai was one of the most powerful among those below the age of 10,000 in the Pure Yang Sect. He knew Ye Ying Cai was Ye Chen Feng's granddisciple, but he was unaware that Ye Ying Cai was Ye Tong's direct disciple. This was because Ye Chen Feng had quite a few disciples in the Hidden Sword faction, among which two of them were rudimentary Emperors of Gods.

Ye Ying Cai shook his head. He said solemnly, "How can that be? I'm the one who's lucky to have him as my master. He's the reason for my achievements."

Based on Ye Ying Cai's expression, Duan Ling Tian could tell that Ye Ying Cai respected Ye Tong greatly. Hence, his impression of Ye Ying Cai rose.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan sent another Voice Transmission.

"Ye Ying Cai was originally from a lord-rank clan. However, his clan was destroyed by an Emperor of Gods from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice when he was just an infant. Back then, Junior Uncle Ye happened to pass by and saw him swaddled in a piece of cloth. Junior Uncle Ye pitied him so he saved him. When Junior Uncle Ye stepped forward, the Emperor of Gods from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice didn't object. However, after returning to the Pure Yang Sect, a few people from the Alliance of

Benevolence and Justice came over to look for Junior Uncle Ye. They wanted Junior Uncle Ye to promise them that he won't tell Ye Ying Cai the truth of what happened. After all, they did not want an enemy from the Pure Yang Sect. For this reason, very few people know about Ye Ying Cai's origin. Only a few people from the Hidden Sword faction and our Cloud Peak faction know about this. I'm only telling you this because I know you can keep a secret. Make sure you don't let it slip. Otherwise, there'll be trouble."

Duan Ling Tian agreed.

"Ye Ying Cai thinks he's an orphan whom Junior Uncle Ye brought back to the Pure Yang Sect," Zhen Ping Fan said.

At the same time, Ye Ying Cai continued chatting with Duan Ling Tian and asked about his cultivation before he finally excused himself.

Duan Ling Tian could feel the shift in Ye Ying Cai's attitude after they chatted. In the beginning, there was a trace of arrogance in Ye Ying Cai's eyes, but as they continued to chat, the arrogance gradually disappeared.

This was because Ye Ying Cai found that the answers Duan Ling Tian had given him when he asked about Duan Ling Tian's cultivation were very thought-provoking. Moreover, the answers also convinced him that the gap between him and Duan Ling Tian was justified.

Ye Ying Cai also learned that Duan Ling Tian seemed to have many skills because he had accumulated those skills since the time he was in the mundane realm. After being in the mundane realms, Devata Realms, and a Realm of Gods, it was not surprising that he had an arsenal full of skills. Although the skills were not particularly powerful, they were quite helpful at times. They also helped with his cultivation. Even if the help was not significant, it still made cultivation smoother.

With Ye Ying Cai serving as an example, many of the young disciples began to approach Duan Ling Tian to greet him. Many of them were friendly and outgoing.

Duan Ling Tian did not put on airs just because he was outstanding so he left a good impression on those who approached him.

"Senior Brother Duan, you're really amazing! You actually defeated Wanqi Hong! You'll definitely rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast!"

"Senior Brother Duan, after the Seven Mansions Feast, let's drink together! It's my treat! I have some good wine that was brewed from precious ingredients in my family. We'll celebrate your victory at that time! Let's get drunk!"

"Senior Duan, you're a prodigy so you must spend a lot of time cultivating. In the future, if you need help with any trivial matters, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Although I'm not as talented as you, it won't be a problem for me to handle trivial matters"

The group of young people was happy to befriend Duan Ling Tian since he was not arrogant. Moreover, his talent and comprehension skills were in a different league that they did not think there was a point

in feeling jealous at all. At most, a few of them felt envious. Apart from that, they knew they had nothing to lose by befriending Duan Ling Tian. In fact, they might even benefit from it. It would be harder to befriend Duan Ling Tian once he grew stronger.

While the young people chatted, the elders from the various factions in the Pure Yang Sect looked at Duan Ling Tian with admiration.

“He’s so outstanding, and yet, he’s not arrogant at all. If he’s willing to stay in our sect, when the time comes, I don’t think anyone will object if the sect leader passes the mantle to him.”

“Alas, that’s unlikely to happen. In the past, he had made it clear to the people from the Yu Yang faction that his goal lies beyond the Pure Yang Sect. He’ll leave sooner or later. He’s really admirable. If it were someone else, they might have accepted the Yu Yang faction’s offer without revealing their intention to reap the benefits before leaving. Duan Ling Tian truly has a great character.”

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that he had received so many praises.

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At the same time, in the other flying ship from the Pure Yang Sect that belonged to Liu Feng Gu, the founder of the Tyrannic Saber faction.

The people onboard were chatting in groups of threes to fives. They were a few people who were the subject of everyone’s gaze.

These few people were like Ye Ying Cai. They were among the strongest prodigies in the Pure Yang Sect.

In a corner, a figure sat cross-legged alone as though he had been forgotten by everyone on the flying ship.

Upon seeing this, a middle-aged man asked the old man next to him, “Senior brother, what’s wrong with Qian Ye? Why does it feel like he’s turned into a different person?”

The old man was Yuan Han Jin, the adopted son of Yuan Ping Shen, who was the founder of the Ping Sheng faction. He was also Yang Qian Ye’s master.

The middle-aged man was Yuan Han Jin’s junior brother, a Transcendence Elder of the Pure Yang Sect.

Upon hearing this question, Yuan Han Jin glanced at the gloomy Yang Qian Ye sitting in a corner before he shook his head and said, “He probably has yet to recover from his father’s death.”

Upon hearing this, Yuan Han Jin’s junior brother’s eyes flashed before he said through Voice Transmission, “Senior brother, I’ve inquired about Qian Ye’s father’s death. It’s said his father is killed by Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. Do you really not plan to help him? Although you can’t attack him openly in the Flying Dragon Sect, it shouldn’t be a problem if you lie in wait and attack when he leaves the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate, right?”

Chapter 3998: The Howling Heaven Sect’s Secret Weapon?

Upon hearing his junior brother’s words, Yuan Han Jin glanced at him and said through Voice Transmission, “This matter is none of your business, and there’s no need for you to express your

opinions. It's best for Qian Ye to personally avenge his father. Don't speak nonsense to him. You'd only mislead him into thinking that I'm unwilling to help him seek revenge."

Yuan Han Jin's voice turned frosty near the end of his words.

Yuan Han Jin's junior brother nodded hastily and said, "I understand, senior brother. I won't intervene in this matter. You're right. It's best for Qian Ye to personally avenge his father. Look at how the desire for revenge drove him to work so hard."

Yuan Han Jin's junior brother glanced at Yang Qian Ye who was sitting cross-legged and cultivating.

"It's good that you understand," Yuan Han Jin said. His frosty expression thawed as he said through Voice Transmission again, "There's one more thing. I think it's okay to tell you this. Qian Ye has already become an intermediate Lord of Gods, and his cultivation base has also stabilized. Additionally, his comprehension of the law has also improved. Except for Duan Ling Tian, no one below the age of 10,000 in the Pure Yang Sect is his match."

A hint of pride could be heard in Yuan Han Jin's voice as he spoke.

Yuan Han Jin's junior brother was shocked by this revelation. "What?! Qian Ye is so strong now? How's that possible?"

He knew Yang Qian Ye was outstanding among the younger generation, but it was not to this extent. How could he not be shocked that Yang Qian Ye was now only second to Duan Ling Tian or possibly on par with Duan Ling Tian?

"You'll be able to see for yourself once the Seven Mansions Feast starts," Yuan Han Jin said, not caring that his junior brother was skeptical, "That aside, think about it. When have I ever lied to you?"

The middle-aged man looked apologetic upon hearing these words. He said, "Senior brother, it's not my intention to doubt your words. I was just too shocked."

Yuan Han Jin's junior brother naturally knew there was no reason for Yuan Han Jin would lie to him. Moreover, the truth would be eventually revealed during the Seven Mansions Feast. However, he was just truly shocked and puzzled. How could Yang Qian Ye become an intermediate Lord of Gods, stabilize his cultivation base, and improved his comprehension of the law in such a short time? Even if Yang Qian Ye was talented, this kind of progress was abnormal considering Yang Qian Ye did not show such potential previously. He wondered inwardly, 'Is it because he's driven by his father's death? I wonder if my disciples will progress so quickly if I kill their family members?'

The middle-aged man, Yuan Han Jin's junior brother, quickly dismissed this thought. 'No, no, I can't do that. They'll hate me to the bones if they find out about it.'

The middle-aged man glanced at Yuan Han Jin as a thought appeared in his mind. He shuddered as he thought to himself, 'Based on my investigation, Long Qing Chong isn't cruel nor bloodthirsty... Even when the 10,000 Devils Sect behaved foolishly in the past, after punishing them, Long Qing Chong spared the life of Lan Qing, the Sect Leader of the 10,000 Devils Sect. However, the recording from the Floating Image Pearl can't be fake. I wonder why Long Qing Chong suddenly decided to kill Lan Qing? I can't think of a motive at all. Did someone ask Long Qing Chong to kill Lan Qing?'

A chill ran up the middle-aged man's spine the more he thought about this matter. He could not help but wonder if his senior brother instructed Long Qing Chong to kill Yang Qian Ye's father.

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After the two emperor-grade flying ships from the Pure Yang Sect left the Pure Yang Sect's estate, they traveled at the speed of an advanced Emperor of Gods. Their speed slowed down to that of a rudimentary Emperor of Gods shortly after they left the Eastern Ridge Mansion. With this, the young disciples could finally see their surroundings clearly.

At this time, Lan Zheng Ming's voice rang in the air. His voice was just loud enough to be heard by those who were not cultivating so it did not affect those who were cultivating at all.

"We're now in the Green Province Mansion."

Only at this time did the young disciples realize they had left the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

"The Green Province Mansion? So this is the Green Province Mansion."

"This is my first time leaving the Eastern Ridge Mansion. The scenery in the Green Province Mansion doesn't seem much different from that of the Eastern Ridge Mansion."

"How can they be different when the Eastern Ridge Mansion and the Green Province Mansion are located on the same stretch of mountain range?"

Most of the young disciples rose to their feet and looked at their surroundings curiously.

Duan Ling Tian was also looking around. It was also his first time leaving the Eastern Ridge Mansion since he came to the Profound Energy Land.

Lan Zheng Ming continued to explain, "There are four top emperor-rank forces in the Green Province Mansion: the Howling Heaven Sect, the Marionette Villa, the Frost Divine Sect, and the 10,000 Swords Fortress. They have one less force compared to our Eastern Ridge Mansion. Similar to the Eastern Ridge Mansion, three of their forces are sects while the 10,000 Swords Fortress is a sword clan."

Duan Ling Tian and the other young disciples listened to Lan Zheng Ming attentively. Although they had heard about the Green Province Mansion, they did not know much about it.

"The Howling Heaven Sect is the strongest force in the Green Province Mansion. During the previous Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago, a disciple from the Howling Heaven Sect's managed to rank in the top ten and obtained two slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm. One of the powerhouses from the sect entered the Secret Holy Realm and successfully broke through, becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods. He became the first person in the Green Province Mansion in 20,000 years to become an advanced Emperor of Gods."

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian was reminded of what an elder from the Seven Kills Valley said when he was still in the Imperial War Realm's Peace City. At that time, that elder was bickering with a Silver Marionette Elder from the Marionette Villa over their personal and respective forces' achievements.

Duan Ling Tian and the other young disciples gained a lot of new knowledge as they continued listening to Lan Zheng Ming. They learned that there were many outstanding young prodigies in the Green Province Mansion as well.

“The Howling Heaven Sect has a young prodigy. He fought the Wanqi clan’s Wanqi Hong 1,000 years ago. At that time, he was only slightly weaker than Wanqi Hong. However, currently, it’s likely that he has already surpassed Wanqi Hong.”

Upon hearing this, a young disciple asked, “Elder Zheng Ming, since he was weaker than Wanqi Hong 1,000 years ago, even if it’s just slightly, why do you think he’s already surpassed Wanqi Hong? It’s not like Wanqi Hong hasn’t been improving. Moreover, Wanqi Hong is already an advanced Lord of Gods.”

When that person lost to Wanqi Hong 1,000 years ago, Wanqi Hong was still an intermediate Lord of Gods. Now that Wanqi Hong was already an advanced Lord of Gods, why did Lan Zheng Ming say that person had likely surpassed Wanqi Hong?

Lan Zheng Ming smiled and said, “What if I tell you that the prodigy from the Howling Heaven Sect was only about 5,000 years old 1,000 years ago? Although there’s no news, I think it’s likely that he’s also become an advanced Lord of Gods. Not only that, I think he might have broken through before Wanqi Hong did.”

“I didn’t know the Howling Heaven Sect has such an outstanding prodigy! I never heard of him before!” a young disciple said with a sigh.

“That’s right. From what I heard, I only know about a few prodigies who are about 8,000 to 9,000 years old in the Howling Heaven Sect. I had no idea they had a prodigy who’s about 6,000 years old. It seems like the Howling Heaven Sect deliberately kept his existence a secret.”

“It’s as Elder Lan said. That prodigy is likely stronger than Wanqi Hong now. He might even be on par with Duan Ling Tian.”

The younger disciples instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian as they discussed among themselves.

At this time, Lan Zheng Ming smiled and said, “Duan Ling Tian, don’t underestimate that prodigy from the Heaven Howling Sect if you encounter him.”

“Elder, thank you for the reminder. I won’t let my guard down,” Duan Ling Tian said. His heart had skipped a beat earlier when he heard Lan Zheng Ming’s words. As he had expected, there were monstrous prodigies from the other Mansions. He was also right when he speculated that the other forces might keep the existence of these prodigies a secret. With this, he felt the pressure on his shoulders growing heavier.

Chapter 3999: The Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 Years Ago

One of the forces in the Green Province Mansion had already hidden their trump card. Who knew if the others were doing the same? Although monstrous talents were not common, out of so many forces, there was bound to be more than one who had a trump card. In fact, Duan Ling Tian thought that it was possible that the other four forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion had trump cards up their sleeves as

well. There was a possibility that Wanqi Hong might not be the Wanqi clan's most outstanding prodigy below the age of 10,000.

Saying that, previously, Zhen Ping Fan had also told Duan Ling Tian that it would be difficult for the other forces to hide such a matter from the Pure Yang Sect. Based on Zhen Ping Fan's words, the Pure Yang Sect even knew about the number of illegitimate children that the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan had. The Pure Yang Sect was even aware of the inner conflicts between the Emperors of Gods in the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice. With this, he knew that the Pure Yang Sect had planted many spies in the four major forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Conversely, he also knew the other forces must have planted spies in the Pure Yang Sect as well. However, he was not sure if their network was as wide as the Pure Yang Sect. After all, Zhen Ping Fan had said the other four forces' intelligence network was not as good as the Pure Yang Sect. As the oldest force in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, the Pure Yang Sect had generations to build their network.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'Based on Elder Zhen's words, there shouldn't be any more surprises from the Eastern Ridge Mansion. However, we don't know about the other Mansions...'

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"Elder Zhen, how long will it take for us to arrive in the Profound Jade Mansion? And where will the Seven Mansions Feast be held in the Profound Jade Mansion?"

At this time, they had been traveling in the Green Province Mansion for half a month now and had yet to leave the Green Province Mansion. During this time, Lan Zheng Ming had been enthusiastically explaining the customs in the Green Province Mansion and the stories of the major forces here, keeping the young disciples entertained. For this reason, all of them found him very kind and amiable.

Zhen Ping Fan said, "Usually, it wouldn't take so long. However, we still have a lot of time left. We'll arrive in a month or two."

At this time, Duan Ling Tian suddenly recalled something. He asked, "Elder Zhen, 10,000 years ago, Elder Ye and you weren't even 10,000 years old, right? Did both of you participate in the Seven Mansions Feast as well?"

10,000 years ago, Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng were below the age of 10,000 so they were eligible to participate in the Seven Mansions Feast at that time.

"Yes, we did participate in the Seven Mansions Feast," Zhen Ping Fan said. His gaze was slightly complicated as he glanced at Ye Chen Feng, who was sitting cross-legged nearby. He continued to say, "I ranked 12th during the Seven Mansions Feast, and Junior Uncle Ye ranked somewhere below the 20th place."

Duan Ling Tian was shocked that Zhen Ping Fan did not rank in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast. He was even more shocked that Ye Chen Feng ranked below the 20th place. He could not conceal his shock as he asked, "What happened?"

After all, Zhen Ping Fan was the strongest person in the Pure Yang Sect below the realm of an intermediate Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect. As for Ye Chen Feng, he was the Pure Yang Sect's most outstanding prodigy, becoming an intermediate Emperor of Gods at such a young age. However,

none of them ranked in the top ten, and one of them even ranked below the 20th place. How could Duan Ling Tian not be shocked?

Zhen Ping Fan was not surprised by Duan Ling Tian's reaction. He could naturally see through Duan Ling Tian's thoughts. He asked with a smile, "Based on my and Junior Uncle Ye's current achievements, do you find it hard to believe that none of us ranked in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago?"

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Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Zhen Ping Fan shook his head and said, "The truth is Junior Uncle Ye and I only made rapid progress after passing the age of 10,000. This is especially true for Junior Uncle Ye who came from the lower realm. When he participated in the Seven Mansions Feast, he had only just become an intermediate Lord of Gods. His cultivation base was comparable to yours now, but his comprehension wasn't as profound as yours. In fact, he only managed to rank in the top 30 due to him mastering the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao. I understand how you feel now. Those who were unaware of this matter were shocked as well when they found out."

After a brief pause, Zhen Ping Fan continued to say, "In other words, one's achievements before the age of 10,000 aren't an indication of their life achievements. In contrast to my and Junior Uncle Ye's case, there were those who ranked in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago who are now weaker than I am, let alone Junior Uncle Ye. Some of them had even passed away. My father used to say that I might have ranked in the top 3 if I didn't waste my time and focused on cultivating instead. At that time, I was very persistent about comprehending different kinds of laws because I wanted to see if I could increase my strength by combining different laws. Alas, my experience failed. It's truly impossible to cast more than one law at the same time. Even those from the lower realm aren't exempted from this rule even if they could use doppelgangers of a different law." A bitter smile appeared on his face as he continued to say, "I still can't figure out why I wasted my time on such an absurd matter. Did I think I was better than all the other prodigies? If I didn't waste my time, perhaps, I'd be an intermediate Emperor of Gods by now. I was truly young and foolish."

Duan Ling Tian was surprised that Zhen Ping Fan attempted to cast different laws at the same time. It was an impossible feat since it was a rule dictated by the heavens. He thought to himself, 'Elder Zhen must have been crazy to attempt such a thing back then. If he had openly told people about this, he would have been beaten. It's true that wisdom comes with age...'

"Junior Uncle Ye didn't waste his time like I did. He came from the lower realm so his cultivation base was very weak when he first arrived in the Profound Energy Land. It was only when he joined the Pure Yang Sect that his cultivation base improved by leaps and bounds. In less than 20,000 years, he had become an intermediate Emperor of Gods and also surpassed the other intermediate Emperors of Gods in our sect, including my father," Zhen Ping Fan said. His expression was slightly complicated as he spoke about Ye Chen Feng.

Ye Chen Feng was not only about Zhen Ping Fan's age, but he had also witnessed Ye Chen Feng's growth in the Pure Yang Sect. In the beginning, he had viewed Ye Chen Feng as his competitor. However, he was knocked down to the point of despair after watching the speed at which Ye Chen Feng improved.

10,000 years ago, Ye Chen Feng was no match for Zhen Ping Fan. However, after the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago, Ye Chen Feng's cultivation base rose rapidly and surpassed not only him, but his father as well. In his opinion, Ye Chen Feng was a monstrous prodigy who defied common sense.

Duan Ling Tian instinctively looked at Ye Chen Feng, who was sitting cross-legged in a corner with his eyes closed. His eyes glinted with a hint of anticipation as he thought to himself, 'I wonder how long it'll take for me to possess Elder Ye's strength or even surpass his strength...'

In the end, it took the entire remaining time of the journey for Duan Ling Tian to get over the shock of finding out Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng were only average among the younger generation 10,000 years ago.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, "Elder Zhen, among those who ranked in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast, who has the highest cultivation base now? What's his or her cultivation base?"

Zhen Ping Fan smiled disdainfully as he said, "Only eight out of ten of them are still alive. One of them who died ranked second back then. The person who ranked first only became a rudimentary Emperor of Gods 500 years ago. As for the person who ranked third, he's an advanced Lord of Gods. It's said that he's on the brink of becoming a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. However, I think it's just a rumor. It's not that easy to break through, after all. The person from the Howling Heaven Sect who ranked 9th back then is still an advanced Lord of Gods as well..."

Chapter 4000: Snow Forest City

Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly upon hearing Zhen Ping Fan's words.

Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng were proof that nothing was permanent. 10,000 years ago, they were not considered outstanding and did not even rank in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast. However, 10,000 years later, there was no one in the Seven Mansions who did not know them. This was especially true for Ye Chen Feng and his famous Sword Dao.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan looked at Ye Chen Feng and said, "Junior Uncle Ye, there's a city in front of us. Should we rest there for two days before continuing on our journey? If you're agreeable to the idea, we should inform Senior Uncle Liu."

The young disciples' eyes lit up when they heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. All of them had grown bored after spending such a long time on the flying ship.

In fact, even Lan Zheng Ming and the other elders were also looking forward to a short break. However, they did not show their eagerness to rest since it would be inappropriate. Moreover, they also know it was not unusual to take breaks when traveling to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast. It was like that in the past as well.

“Alright,” Ye Chen Feng said after opening his eyes. Then, he sent a message to Liu Feng Gu, who was on the other flying ship.

Ye Chen Feng looked at the young disciple on board and said, “We’ll continue on our journey in a few days. Don’t cause any trouble. However, the Pure Yang Sect isn’t afraid of trouble. If someone looks for trouble with any of you, you don’t have to be polite. Saying that, it’s best to make your identity clear first. If the other party doesn’t back off and insists on looking for trouble even after knowing you’re from the Pure Yang Sect, you don’t have to show them any courtesy.”

Although Ye Chen Feng looked very elegant and calm, he had a very strong and unyielding spirit.

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In the other flying ship.

Liu Feng Gu readily agreed to Ye Chen Feng’s suggestion.

The young disciples on Liu Feng Gu’s flying ship were delighted as well when they found out they would be taking a short break in the city up ahead.

Liu Feng Gu was much more straightforward with the young disciples compared to Ye Chen Feng. He said, “Whoever causes trouble during this time will be sent back to the sect immediately! If someone looks for trouble with you, tell the other party you’re from the Pure Yang Sect. If the other party still insists on looking for trouble, you don’t have to be polite. If you’re no match for the other party, ask for help from your peers or look for the elders.”

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Soon enough, the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect arrived in a city in the Green Province Mansion. It was called Snow Forest City. It was under the control of an ordinary emperor-rank force in the Green Province Mansion that only had one Emperor of Gods.

The Pure Yang Sect’s members disembarked from the flying ships under the lead of Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu. Their presence quickly attracted everyone’s attention in the city.

Even when they entered a large inn, Duan Ling Tian saw people following them in. However, when they revealed they were from the Pure Yang Sect to the innkeeper, all of them left one after another.

The innkeeper said, “Elder Ye, Elder Liu, our clan leader just found that you’re here. He hopes to visit both of you. May I ask if it’s convenient for you? Our clan leader has admired both of you for a long time. It’s an honor that you and the members of your clan are staying here. The clan leader has instructed me not to accept any payment from you. This is just a small token of sincerity from our Xue clan.”

The innkeeper was a member of Snow Forest City’s Xue clan. When he found out the group of people was from the Pure Yang Sect, he had immediately informed his clan leader. This message caused a stir in the Xue clan immediately. After all, despite being an emperor-rank force as well, the Xue clan could not compare to the Pure Yang Sect at all.

Apart from that, the Xue clan had also received news that Ye Chen Feng was now in possession of a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul. This meant that his strength was now comparable to an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods. With all things considered, it was only natural that the Xue clan considered the Pure Yang Sect to be on par with the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect.

After exchanging a look with Liu Feng Gu, Ye Chen Feng said with a nod, "Very well. Tell him to come."

It would be inappropriate to reject the other party when the other party was so enthusiastic and welcoming. Not only would it be inappropriate and rude, but it would also be seen as arrogant. All in all, it would give the Pure Yang Sect a bad reputation.

The innkeeper was ecstatic seeing that Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu agreed to the visit. Then, he quickly ordered the servants to prepare the rooms for the young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect. As for the elders, he arranged for a courtyard for each of them.

Unlike the other young disciples, Duan Ling Tian was arranged to stay in a secluded courtyard. After settling down, he decided to leave and wander the city. He had not stepped foot out of the Pure Yang Sect in a while now so he wanted to take the opportunity to relax. When he was at the entrance of the inn, he saw a few young disciples as well. It was clear that they were also going to explore the city.

At this moment, Ye Ying Cai, who had just arrived, saw Duan Ling Tian looking around at the entrance. He asked, "Duan Ling Tian, shall we take a walk together?"

Duan Ling Tian nodded without hesitation. He did not mind a companion. They could chat while they strolled around the city. Moreover, Ye Ying Cai was Ye Tong's direct disciple, and Ye Ying Cai himself seemed like a good person as well.

At the same time, the other young disciples, who had seen Duan Ling Tian earlier, could only give up on inviting him to join him after Ye Ying Cai spoke up first. They did not ask to join Duan Ling Tian and Ye Ying Cai because they were put off by Ye Ying Cai's aloofness.

"Ye Ying Cai is cold toward everyone except for Duan Ling Tian," one young disciple said.

"Hey, if you have Duan Ling Tian's talent and comprehension skills, don't you think Ye Ying Cai will treat you differently as well? He's only willing to associate with those stronger than him or those who are a match for him. He's not even close to the young disciples in the Hidden Sword faction, let alone us."

Duan Ling Tian and Ye Ying Cai had not gone very far so they could still hear the conversations between the young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect. Duan Ling Tian instinctively glanced at Ye Ying Cai to see his reaction. Ye Ying Cai was as indifferent as usual, looking as though he could not care less about those words.

As though he did not notice Duan Ling Tian's gaze, Ye Chen Feng asked, "Duan Ling Tian, I heard my grandmaster say that you're from a mundane realm like him?"

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian replied with a nod.

Ye Ying Cai said with a sigh, "That's amazing. The person I admire the most is my grandmaster. The main reason is due to him coming from a mundane realm. Because of him, I once went to a mundane realm. When I arrived, I discovered that the cultivation environment in the mundane realm was even worse than what the rumors said. I couldn't understand how such a place gave birth to such an amazing person like my grandmaster." After a beat, he added, "Now, there's another person I admire. I heard from my master that when my grandmaster was 10,000 years old, my grandmaster was not even as strong as you when you're not even 3,000 years old."

Ye Ying Cai shone with determination as he said very straightforwardly, "Although your speed of progress is faster than my master's in the early phase, I think I still can catch up to you. After all, you're only an intermediate Lord of Gods now. I see you as a goal for me to surpass. I just hope it'll be more of a challenge!"

Ye Ying Cai was very confident about surpassing Duan Ling Tian.

"I'll be waiting for you to surpass me," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile. He did not take offense to Ye Ying Cai's words since he knew Ye Ying Cai did not have malicious intent; it was just healthy competition and a healthy dose of confidence. Moreover, this showed that Ye Ying Cai had an indomitable spirit. This would make Ye Ying Cai's cultivation journey smoother. If Ye Ying Cai had low self-esteem, it might give birth to negative thoughts, and Ye Ying Cai would not be so motivated.

The duo continued to wander the city.

When Duan Ling Tian saw something interesting, he would enter the shops and look around.

On the other hand, Ye Ying Cai did not seem to be interested in anything at all.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised. A talent like Ye Ying Cai would only be interested in valuable and rare items. It was even more unlikely for Ye Ying Cai to be interested in the medicinal ingredients that caught his attention.

Just when Duan Ling Tian was walking into a shop, he saw two people at the entrance.

"Senior Brother Fu Qi, look! I didn't lie to you! There's someone who looks exactly like you!"

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he saw one of the two people standing at the entrance of the shop, blocking his and Ye Ying Cai's path.

Ye Ying Cai seemed shocked as well.

The person who had spoken was staring at Ye Ying Cai as she spoke to the young man next to him.

The young man wore a light green long robe. He was handsome and had a gentle air about him. Most importantly, the reason Duan Ling Tian and Ye Chen Feng were shocked was due to the young man's resemblance to Ye Ying Cai. Except for their temperaments, they looked identical.

"This..." Duan Ling Tian was at a loss for words when he saw how identical they were. He could not help but wonder inwardly, 'Could it be his twin brother? However, Ye Ying Cai was brought back by Elder Ye when he was still a baby. Elder Zhen didn't mention anything about Ye Ying Cai having a twin brother...'