

## Chapter 4021: The Soaring Cloud Group Round

Duan Ling Tian knew how difficult it was for intermediate Lords of Gods to stabilize their cultivation bases in a short time. Without the help of the Five Divine Elements, he would not have been able to completely stabilize his cultivation base so quickly. For others, it would be impossible to achieve without some kind of fortuitous encounter.

Similarly, the others from the Pure Yang Sect were also shocked. The only person who was not shocked was Yuan Han Jin, Yang Qian Ye's master.

"Yang Qian Ye is so strong?"

"Yang Qian Ye really helped us vent our anger!"

"You're amazing, Yang Qian Ye! You almost killed him!"

"That's right! Although an intermediate Emperor of Gods was keeping watch, you still managed to fatally injure your opponent from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice!"

The dark clouds that loomed over the young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect dispersed after Yang Qian Ye defeated Bai Ming Zhong.

Ye Ying Cai and Yun Ye Wei were not only surprised, but their expressions turned solemn as well. After all, they did not pay attention to Yang Qian Ye previously, and he suddenly became as strong as they were. Moreover, they were not completely confident they could defeat Yang Qian Ye. It was only natural that their emotions were complicated.

With this fight, Yang Qian Ye was thrust into the spotlight, making his mark in the Seven Mansions Feast.

"Yang Qian Ye..."

"There's finally an outstanding prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect's Ping Sheng faction!"

"He's the granddisciple of the founder of the Ping Sheng faction, Yuan Ping Sheng!"

Despite the praises, Yang Qian Ye remained calm. In fact, if one was observant enough, one could even see a hint of gloom in the depths of his eyes.

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The following fights were uneventful.

Yun Ye Wei easily defeated his opponent as expected. Since his opponent was not from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, he was very restrained when he attacked.

At the end of the round, apart from the already famous prodigies from the Seven Mansions, there were more than a handful of people who stood out. They were dark horses like the Pure Yang Sect's Yang Qian Ye and the Howling Flames Sect's Lin Yuan.

Unlike Yang Qian Ye, Lin Yuan was the external help that the Howling Flames Sect recruited. However, since he had formally joined the Howling Flames Sect, even if people were dissatisfied, there was nothing they could do about it.

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The revival stage for the elite group round would start the next day. Based on the first round for the selection of the rookie group, most people knew the revival stage would not be that interesting. After all, who would foolishly choose to challenge a strong opponent?

The revival stage for the elite group round ended in just a few days since the number of participants was much smaller compared to before. There were quite a few participants with above average strength who failed to enter the elite group since all the weaker participants in the elite group had been challenged.

Similar to before, Lin Dong Lai said to those who failed to advance that if they were confident about ranking in the top 30, they would be allowed to enter the elite group. However, there would be consequences if they failed to rank in the top 30. In the end, no one dared to step forward. None of them were sure they could even pass the next round, let alone rank in the top 30.

Although luck was part of one's strength, only mediocre people would rely heavily on luck.

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"After the elite ground round, it'll be the Soaring Cloud Group round. It's mostly similar to the first two rounds. The difference is that during the revival stage, those who lost in the first stage are allowed to issue up to three challenges," Lin Dong Lai announced as he hovered in the air. He was also able to select one person to automatically enter the Soaring Cloud Group, and he chose Yang Qian Ye.

Most people sighed in relief when Yang Qian Ye was chosen. They were mostly the weaker participants. With Yang Qian Ye out of the picture, they would not have to face him. All of them were worried about ending up like Bai Ming Zhong, after all. As for the stronger participants, they did not care at all since this would not affect them. Moreover, they could also prove their strength later.

Lin Dong Lai explained the rounds in the Seven Mansions Feast again.

The Soaring Cloud Group round was also the third round of the Seven Mansions Feast. There were only 400 participants left at this time.

The elite group round originally had 800 participants, and at the end of it, there were only 400 people left.

The Soaring Cloud Group round had 400 participants, and at the end of it, there would be only 200 participants left.

The fourth round, called the Ambitious Group round, would have 100 participants at the end of it. The ranking for the top 100 participants would also be decided in this round.

Those who ranked in the top 100 would naturally be rewarded, and those who ranked in the top 30 would receive better rewards. Needless to say, those who ranked in the top ten had the best rewards.

After his explanation, Lin Dong Lai announced the start of the third round, the Soaring Cloud Group round.

Similar to the earlier two rounds, opponents would be decided based on the tokens they chose.

When Duan Ling Tian obtained his token, he discovered everyone from the Pure Yang Sect, including Zhen Ping Fan, were looking at him. The corners of his lips twitched immediately. Before Zhen Ping Fan spoke, he raised his token and imbued his Divine Energy into it. He had yet to see the word on his token, but when he saw the disappointed expression on Zhen Ping Fan's face, he knew the word he obtained this time must have been normal. It would have been strange if he obtained another weird word for the third time.

This time, Duan Ling Tian obtained the word 'universe'.

The others from the Pure Yang Sect looked away after they saw that Duan Ling Tian obtained a normal word.

Soon after, the Soaring Cloud Group round started.

The first few fights were boring until the Wanqi clan's Wanqi Hong was chosen to fight Jia Mu Lin, the prodigy from the Profound Jade Mansion's Fortune Sect.

Jia Mu Lin was one of the strongest disciples under the age of 10,000 in the Fortune Sect. His expression was solemn at this moment. Clearly, he felt the pressure of facing Wanqi Hong.

"Jia Mu Lin, I've heard of you. You're rather famous," Wanqi Hong said nonchalantly, "Do you want me to help you or are you going to surrender on your own?"

Jia Mu Lin took a deep breath before he cupped his fists together at Wanqi Hong and said, "Your reputation precedes you, Wanqi Hong. Perhaps, if you were still the strongest person under the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, I'd surrender. However, since that's no longer the case, I'd like to test my strength against yours."

Jia Mu Lin grinned at the end of his words.

Wanqi Hong was infuriated by the smile on Jia Mu Lin's face. His gaze turned frosty as he said, "If you have a death wish, I'll be more than happy to fulfill your wish!"

Wanqi Hong rushed out like a raging beast as soon as Lin Dong Lai announced the start of the fight.

Meanwhile, as Jia Mu Lin stepped back, Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, "This prodigy from the Fortune Sect deliberately provoked Wanqi Hong, hoping that Wanqi Hong will make mistakes due to his anger. However, if his strength isn't enough, he still won't be able to defeat Wanqi Hong even if Wanqi Hong makes mistakes."

Petty tricks and tactics were useless when faced with absolute strength, after all.

## **Chapter 4022: The Main Event**

Jia Mu Lin was indeed trying to provoke Wanqi Hong, hoping Wanqi Hong would lose his reason when angered. He knew Wanqi Hong was stronger than him, but he thought the difference between their strength was slight. Hence, he thought he would be able to seize the advantage and defeat Wanqi Hong when Wanqi Hong made mistakes due to his anger. However, things did not develop as he had expected.

‘Why is he so strong?’ Jia Mu Lin could barely fend off Wanqi Hong with his prominent divine artifact. His arms were trembling from the force of the attack.

When Wanqi Hong attacked for the second time, Jia Mu Lin’s prominent divine artifact was knocked out of his hands, and he was sent flying back.

Although Wanqi Hong had clearly defeated Jia Mu Lin, he still flew toward Jia Mu Lin.

“Stop!”

“I surrender!”

Lin Dong Lai and Jia Mu Lin exclaimed in unison.

Despite his anger, Wanqi Hong had to stop since Jia Mu Lin had surrendered. If he continued to make a move, Lin Dong Lai could charge him with a murder attempt. Based on the Seven Mansions Feast rules, Lin Dong Lai could kill him for that.

“Wanqi Hong has stabilized his cultivation base?” Ye Chen Feng could sense Wanqi Hong’s Divine Energy even though Wanqi Hong had held back.

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard about this from Ye Chen Feng. When he fought with Wanqi Hong previously, he knew Wanqi Hong was far from completely stabilizing his cultivation base.

Ye Chen Feng said, “Not long ago, I heard that the Wanqi clan spent a fortune in obtaining top lord-grade Limit Divine Pills that could help advanced Lords of Gods stabilize their cultivation bases...”

Duan Ling Tian nodded as realization dawned on him. He had heard of those top lord-grade Limit Divine Pills before. He usually refined ordinary lord-grade Limit Divine Pills, and even if he had abundant ingredients, he was not confident he could refine top lord-grade Limit Divine Pills.

At the same time, everyone was shocked by Wanqi Hong’s strength, especially those from the Fortune Sect. They knew how strong Jia Mu Lin was. In the Fortune Sect, only a few people could fight to a draw with him. However, he was defeated by Wanqi Hong with two moves.

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“How strong!”

“I didn’t expect him to be so strong! I didn’t expect much from him after he lost to Duan Ling Tian!”

“That’s right! When I heard he was defeated by Duan Ling Tian, I thought his title as the strongest person below the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion was empty. Perhaps, before Duan Ling Tian showed up, there was no one outstanding so the title went to him. However, that’s clearly not the case.”

“Hey, if he’s so strong, then how strong is Duan Ling Tian?”

The young disciples from the various forces were shocked by Wanqi Hong’s strength, and they were even more shocked when they thought about Duan Ling Tian who defeated Wanqi Hong in the past.

Wanqi Hong, who was flying back, naturally heard the conversations in his surroundings. He stopped in his tracks and frowned before he said loudly and confidently, “When Duan Ling Tian defeated me, my cultivation base in the realm of an advanced Lord of Gods was far from being stabilized. However, my cultivation base is completely stabilized now. If I fight Duan Ling Tian now, I’ll definitely defeat him!”

A commotion broke out after Wanqi Hong’s voice fell.

“As it turns out, he had yet to stabilize his cultivation base when Duan Ling Tian defeated him!”

“If that’s the case, Duan Ling Tian might not be able to defeat him again!”

“Duan Ling Tian might even be badly beaten!”

No one questioned the veracity of Wanqi Hong’s words. After all, it would be foolish for him to lie. Not only that, but it would also be humiliating for him if he was caught lying later.

‘How confident,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes narrowed imperceptibly. Then, he said to Zhen Ping Fan through Voice Transmission, “Elder Zhen, what do you think if I surrender during my fight and challenge Wanqi Hong during the revival stage? Do you think he’d be furious?”

Zhen Ping Fan was stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s words. When he recovered, he said, “It’s not just him, but the entire Wanqi Clan, especially Wanqi Yu Ning, will be furious.” After a beat, he added, “It’s useless even if you do that. He would still have three chances to challenge others to secure a place in the next round... unless you severely injure him to the point that he’s unable to fight again.”

Immediately after saying these words, Zhen Ping Fan hurriedly said, “I’m just joking! Don’t get any ideas!”

Zhen Ping Fan was worried Duan Ling Tian might do as he had said.

The Wanqi clan, especially Wanqi Yu Ning, would not let things slide if Wanqi Hong was injured to the point where he would no longer be able to participate in the Seven Mansions Feast. After all, without Wanqi Hong, Wanqi Yu Ning would lose the only chance he had of becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods. He looked calm and gentle, but he was known to be ruthless when he was young. He had annihilated a few small clans in the past over very trivial matters.

Although Duan Ling Tian would be safe under Ye Chen Feng’s protection, it was impossible for Ye Chen Feng to keep an eye on Duan Ling Tian all the time.

To Zhen Ping Fan's dismay, Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as he said, "Elder Zhen, what a brilliant idea! I should really severely injure him!"

Zhen Ping Fan said unhappily, "I said I was just joking, and I told you not to listen to me! If you do that, Wanqi Yu Ning and the Wanqi clan definitely won't let you go. He's like a cornered beast now. If he doesn't achieve a breakthrough soon, he's going to die! The Secret Holy Realm is his last chance. If you take that away from him, I won't put it past him to sneak into our sect just to kill you! If you want to do anything to Wanqi Hong, I suggest you wait until he secures his place in the top ten."

A hint of fear flashed in Duan Ling Tian's eyes when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's warning. If he destroyed the hope of a desperate and dying Wanqi Yu Ning, it was true that the chance of Wanqi Yu Ning risking his life to kill him was very high.

"I understand," Duan Ling Tian said, completely dismissing his earlier thoughts. Although he disliked Wanqi Hong, he was not going to risk his life and provoke a desperate and dying intermediate Emperor of Gods.

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The first stage of the Soaring Cloud Group round ended smoothly. The revival stage was much more interesting compared to those of the rookie group and elite group rounds.

Those who were eliminated in the first stage were given three chances to issue a challenge. Similar to the previous revival stages, the weaker participants were quickly challenged. Similar to before, no one dared to challenge participants like Duan Ling Tian and Ye Ying Cai.

In the end, there were about 200 people who would be advancing to the next round.

"The Ambitious Group round will commence in three days," Lin Dong Lai before dismissing everyone.

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After three days, the first stage of the Ambitious Group round started and ended when there were only 100 participants left.

Lin Dong Lai said, "After ten days, we'll determine the ranking of the top 100 participants. In the beginning, there'll be 30 seeded participants. You can also volunteer to be a seeded participant if you feel that you're strong enough. However, you'll be challenged by the other participants. The rankings aren't confirmed until the very end, and only those who managed to hold onto their ranks until the end are considered winners."

The crowd's excitement grew upon hearing that the main event of the Seven Mansions Feast was about to begin. Even the outstanding prodigies from various top forces in the Seven Mansions could not wait for the main event to begin.

At this time, a young disciple from the Pure Yang Sect, whose strength was comparable to that of Ye Ying Cai, opened his eyes that flashed with excitement. He muttered under his breath, "The long-awaited battle for the rankings is almost here..."

**Chapter 4023: Mo Luo Duo**

“Volunteer to be a seeded participant?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up upon hearing Lin Dong Lai’s words.

Just like Lin Dong Lai said, seeded participants would have to accept challenges from other participants. If one was not strong enough, it would be useless for one to volunteer to be a seeded participant since one would be knocked off one’s ranking very quickly. Moreover, one also risked injury that would affect one’s performance later on. For example, someone who could rank in the top 50 might not even be able to rank in the top 50 if he or she volunteered to be a seeded participant. Being challenged by other participants would inevitably result in injuries if one did not have sufficient strength.

“The various forces can select up to three people to volunteer as seeded participants. Three days later, I’ll send people to collect the list of names,” Lin Dong Lai said.

Many prodigies who planned to volunteer were disappointed when they heard Lin Dong Lai’s words. As it turned out, they had to be selected by their respective forces. Moreover, each force could only select three people.

“You may take your leave now, and we’ll gather again in ten days. At that time, we’ll announce the names of the 30 seeded participants.”

With that, the crowd began to disperse.

While Duan Ling Tian returned with the people from the Pure Yang Sect, he did not ask any unnecessary questions. After all, he knew he would definitely be selected as a seeded participant from the sect.

The young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect felt the same way as well.

“Duan Ling Tian will definitely be chosen as a seeded participant.”

“That’s right. However, I don’t know who the other two would be.”

Many of them looked at Ye Ying Cai, Yun Ye Wei, and the other three who were on par with the duo. Not counting Duan Ling Tian, these five people were the strongest disciples below the age of 10,000 in the Pure Yang Sect. Their strength was about the same.

After a while, someone said, “Wait! Don’t forget about the Ping Sheng faction’s Yang Qian Ye. Based on his performance previously, he’s no weaker than Ye Ying Cai.”

“You’re right! Yang Qian Ye is a possible candidate as well!”

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“I think Yang Qian Ye has a good chance of being selected.”

“I agree. If you ask me, I think Yang Qian Ye might even be slightly stronger than Ye Ying Cai and the others.”

The conversations made Ye Ying Cai and the other four look at Yang Qian Ye with a complicated gaze. After all, Yang Qian Ye, whom they had once overlooked, was now as strong as them or possibly stronger than them.

At this time, Yuan Han Jin said to Yang Qian Ye through Voice Transmission, "Currently, among the younger generation below the age of 10,000 in our sect, Duan Ling Tian is the only one stronger than you. However, as long as you work hard, you'll surpass him sooner or later. At that time, you'll be able to kill him and avenge your childhood friends. I have faith in you."

"Thank you, master," Yang Qian Ye replied indifferently through Voice Transmission.

Yuan Han Jin frowned slightly when he heard the indifference in Yang Qian Ye's voice. It might not seem significant to others, but to him, it was as though Yang Qian Ye had turned into a different person. After all, Yang Qian Ye had always been very respectful to him.

Yuan Han Jin wondered inwardly, 'What happened? Did his personality change due to what he experienced in the Supreme Divine Mansion? Hmm, that's likely the case...'

After that, Yuan Han Jin no longer dwelled on the matter.

Meanwhile, the young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect were still discussing among themselves.

'Hey, if Duan Ling Tian and Yang Qian Ye were chosen, do you think Ye Ying Cai will be chosen as well? After all, he's Elder Ye's granddisciple.'

Ye Chen Feng was famous in the Pure Yang Sect, after all. In the past, he was slightly stronger than Liu Feng Gu, who was also rather famous. Now that he possessed a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul, he was easily the strongest person in the Pure Yang Sect. Put everything aside, he led the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect to the Seven Mansions Feast and was in charge. If he really wanted Ye Ying Cai to be a seeded participant, it would be even easier than flicking his finger. Liu Feng Gu would definitely not object to it. As for the others, they did not have much say at all.

"I don't think so. Elder Ye isn't one to show favoritism."

"I agree."

Duan Ling Tian could not help but look at Ye Chen Feng when he heard the others talking about how fair and righteous Ye Chen Feng was. He would have been blinded by these words if he did not learn from Zhen Ping Fan how petty Ye Chen Feng could be. Of course, that did not mean Ye Chen Feng was not a good person. In the end, he thought to himself, 'Elder Ye isn't someone who would do something to give people grounds to criticize him...'

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Ten days later.

Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Pure Yang Sect were making their way to the Seven Mansions Feast's venue.

While making their way there, Ye Chen Feng said calmly, "Seven days ago, I submitted three names to be seeded participants to the Profound Jade Mansion. I chose Duan Ling Tian, Yang Qian Ye, and Yun Ye Wei."

As Duan Ling Tian expected, Ye Ying Cai was not chosen.



However, a few people were somewhat surprised.

Yun Ye Wei was stunned as well since he did not expect to be chosen. However, realization dawned on him when he received a Voice Transmission from the old man next to him.

Since Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu were in charge this time, it was inappropriate for them to choose Ye Ying Cai or the most outstanding prodigy from the Tyrannic Saber faction since others might accuse them of favoritism.

Among the five outstanding prodigies in the Pure Yang Sect, not counting Ye Ying Cai and Yun Ye Wei, one of them was from the Tyrannic Saber faction and the other two were from factions that had very good relationships with the Hidden Sword faction and the Tyrannic Saber faction. This meant that Ye Ying Cai, who was from the Lang Ji faction, did not have any connections to the Hidden Sword faction or the Tyrannic Saber faction.

‘So, they’re using me as a shield?’ Yun Ye Wei thought to himself helplessly. However, he did not take offense. He continued to think to himself, ‘There are only 30 seeded participants. Each force gets to recommend 3 participants. There are 28 forces so there’ll be 84 recommended participants. Out of 84 participants, only 30 will be selected. I don’t think I’ll be selected. Duan Ling Tian will definitely get selected, and Yang Qian Ye has a decent chance of being selected as well...’

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian also learned of the reason why Yun Ye Wei was selected instead of Ye Ying Cai from Zhen Ping Fan. He did not think too much of it, and he was sure Ye Ying Cai and the others who were not selected did not think too much about it as well. After all, whether they were seeded participants or not would not affect the outcome. They would still be able to rank in the top 30 if they were unseeded as long as they were strong enough.

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When the people from the Pure Yang Sect arrived, most of the forces had already arrived.

Soon after, Lin Dong Lai appeared again in a timely manner. He did not beat around the bush and said straightforwardly, “After several days of consideration, we finally selected 30 seeded participants from the lists we obtained from the various top forces in the Seven Mansions...”

Lin Dong Lai read out thirty names.

The 30 seeded participants were selected from all Seven Mansions, but not every force had the candidates they recommended selected. For example, no one from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Fortune Sect was selected.

Since the Fortune Sect, as one of the hosts of the Seven Mansions Feast this time, did not complain, the other forces, whose disciples were not chosen, did not complain as well. After all, if the host did not complain, what else could they say? Most importantly, being a seeded participant would not affect the final ranking at all.

At this time, someone from the Feudal Lord Mansion said, "I remember that during the previous Seven Mansions Feast, Elder Ye from the Pure Yang Sect wasn't selected as a seeded participant as well. However, he was still ranked in the top 30 in the end."

Many people turned to look at Ye Chen Feng upon hearing these words.

Currently, Ye Chen Feng was the founder of the Hidden Sword faction and an Ascension Elder in the Pure Yang Sect. He was also the strongest person in the Pure Yang Sect and the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Most importantly, he was not even 20,000 years old.

During the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago, Ye Chen Feng was not even 10,000 years old. At that time, he was also selected to represent the Pure Yang Sect in the Seven Mansions Feast. Alas, he did not even rank in the top 20, let alone rank in the top 10.

"10,000 years passed in just a blink of an eye. 10,000 years ago, Elder Ye's peers were stronger than him, but 10,000 years later, none of his peers are a match for him. One shouldn't worry about temporary wins and losses; it's more important to take the bigger picture into consideration. Elder Ye is a good example of this..."

"I agree. Even if I'm not chosen as a seeded participant or I can't rank in the top 30, it doesn't mean that I'll be weaker than all my peers in the future! Who knows? I might even be stronger than the Wanqi clan's Wanqi Hong and the Pure Yang Sect's Duan Ling Tian after 10,000 years!"

At the same time, no one was surprised that Duan Ling Tian was selected as one of the 30 seeded participants. In fact, everyone would have been surprised if he was not chosen.

Wanqi Hong from the Wanqi clan was the only one chosen to be a seeded participant from the clan.

Apart from Duan Ling Tian, Yang Qian Ye from the Pure Yang Sect was also chosen to be a seeded participant, surprising everyone.

"The Pure Yang Sect's Yang Qian Ye kept such a low profile previously. If it weren't for his explosive performance that one time, the Profound Jade Mansion would not have chosen him to be a seeded participant."

"I've already said that Yang Qian Ye isn't any weaker than the five top prodigies from the Pure Yang Sect; he might even be stronger. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been chosen by the Profound Jade Mansion."

"There are only 30 seeded participants, and each force could only recommend three disciples. It's quite amazing that two participants were chosen from the Pure Yang Sect."

"It's not just the Pure Yang Sect. Two participants were selected from the Howling Flames Sect as well. Apart from the dark horse, Lin Yuan, the strongest prodigy under the age of 10,000, Mo Luo Duo, was also chosen!"

"It's not just that. Mo Luo Duo is widely acknowledged to be the strongest person under the age of 10,000 in the Profound Jade Mansion. He's not weaker than Wanqi Hong!"

"Do you think he's able to beat Duan Ling Tian?"

This was the first time Duan Ling Tian heard of Mo Luo Duo.

‘Mo Luo Do? The strongest person below the age of 10,000 in the Howling Flames Sect and the Profound Jade Mansion?’

#### **Chapter 4024: The Prodigies the Mansions Spent All Their Resources Cultivating**

Apart from the Pure Yang Sect and the Howling Flames Sect, there were also a few forces that had two of their disciples selected as seeded participants. However, most people were focused on the Pure Yang Sect and the Howling Flames Sect. This was because Duan Ling Tian, who rose to fame in the Seven Mansions recently, was in the Pure Yang Sect. As for the Howling Flames Sect, it was because they were one of the hosts of the Seven Mansions Feast. Moreover, Lin Dong Lai, an elder of the Howling Flames Sect, was also chosen to preside over the fights.

Needless to say, no one had anything to say about those from the Pure Yang Sect and the Howling Flames Sect chosen to be seeded participants. Their strength was obvious to all.

In contrast, most people were puzzled why another two participants, whose previous performances were only mediocre, were chosen to be seeded participants.

One of them was from the Autumn Leaves Sect in the Divine Morning Mansion. The Autumn Leaves Sect was one of the forces that had two of their disciples chosen to be seeded participants. One of them was a famous young prodigy, but the other person who was chosen performed mediocly so far and no one had heard of him before.

As for the other one, she was from the Yuwen clan in the Underworld Mansion. However, she did not carry the surname ‘Yuwen’. Similarly, her performance was tepid at best.

Needless to say, many began to discuss among themselves, puzzled.

“I’ve never heard of that Luo Yuan from the Autumn Leaves Sect nor have I heard of that Tuo Ba Xiu from the Yuwen clan. Their performances were average so why were they selected?”

Duan Ling Tian did not pay much attention to the fights so he did not know if someone performed outstandingly or not. He had never heard the names ‘Luo Yuan’ and ‘Tuo Ba Xiu’ before, but he dismissed it as him not paying attention to news about other prodigies. It was only when he heard the conversation in his surroundings that he discovered everyone had never heard of Luo Yuan and Tuo Ba Xiu as well. As such, he was also puzzled why those two who performed mediocly were selected.

‘Divine Morning Mansion... Underworld Mansion...’

Soon enough, a thought appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. Zhen Ping Fan had previously said that the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion would have outstanding prodigies representing them during the Seven Mansions Feast and that they were aiming to rank in the top three.

What was out of the ordinary was that the top forces in the Divine Morning Mansions and the Underworld Mansions had pooled their resources together and invested in the two prodigies. If the duo ranked in the top three, they would obtain six slots between them. There were six top forces altogether in the two mansions so each force would be given a slot.

Apparently, according to Ye Chen Feng, it was Zhen Ping Fan who had unknowingly given them this idea 10,000 years ago.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'If that's the case, then it's no surprise that they were chosen. They're definitely qualified to be a seeded participant. Since they're chosen, this means the Profound Jade Mansion is aware of this matter as well. However, they've been keeping such a low profile, why did the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion recommend them and thrust them into the spotlight now? It seems a little foolish to do this when they've yet to reveal their strength. It'd only draw criticism since most people would think it's unfair that they were chosen...'

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While Duan Ling Tian was still lost in his thoughts, an old man with a long beard and gray hair looked at Lin Dong Lai with a gloomy expression as he asked in a thunderous and deep voice, "Elder Lin, what's the meaning of this? The Autumn Leaves Sect didn't recommend Luo Yuan as a seeded participant. He's not among the three we recommended."

Immediately after that, a thin old man spoke up as well. "That's right. Elder Lin, our Yuwen clan didn't recommend Tuo Bai Xiu as well."

A commotion broke out as soon as the two old men spoke up.

Everyone was even more confused when they found out that these two unknown participants were not even recommended by their respective forces. Why were they chosen to be seeded participants then?

Everyone turned to look at Lin Dong Lai immediately, waiting for him to answer the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect and the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan. They were all curious and could not help but wonder what the Profound Jade Mansion was up to.

After all, it was inappropriate for the Profound Jade Mansion to select participants who were not recommended by their respective forces to be seeded participants. If it were just one person, perhaps, the Profound Jade Mansion could brush it off as a mistake. However, there were two of them. How could it be a mistake?

Everyone could not wait to hear what Lin Dong Lai had to say.

'So they were not recommended by their respective forces?' Duan Ling Tian was even more puzzled. Why did the Profound Jade Mansion take the initiative to make those two seeded participants when the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect and the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan did not recommend them? It was unprecedented.

Faced with everyone's questioning gazes, Lin Dong Lai did not look nervous at all. Instead, he said with a slight smile, "Although the duo was not recommended by their respective forces, we, from the Profound Jade Mansion, heard that the duo was outstanding. After all, the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion pooled all their resources to cultivate the duo for nearly 10,000 years. Hence, we took the initiative to make the seeded participants since we have high regard for outstanding prodigies. As for the two elders from the Autumn Leaves Sect and the Yuwen clan, I'm sure you're not worried that they would suffer a loss from being a seeded participant due to insufficient strength. After all, even if

the duo's previous performances were only average, they're not mediocre at all. At the very least, they're comparable to Duan Ling Tian, the prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect."

Before anyone could speak, Lin Dong Lai continued to say to Luo Yuan and Tuo Bai Xiu, "Both of you should reveal a little of your strength later so the others won't rashly challenge both of you. Once you show your strength, perhaps, you won't even have to fight anymore until it's time to fight for the top 30, top 10, or even top 3 places. Apart from that, it'll also let others recognize your abilities."

Many people were shocked that Lin Dong Lai compared the two inconspicuous participants to Duan Ling Tian. They were even more shocked when they heard that the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion pooled their resources to cultivate the duo for nearly 10,000 years.

"The two mansions invested all their resources on those two for almost 10,000 years?! Looks like they're determined to enter the Secret Holy Realm!"

"Each of them had the resources from the three top forces of the Mansion... I can't imagine how powerful they must be now..."

"They have to be very strong. Since they were selected by the top forces, they must be naturally talented to begin with. With all the resources given to them, they must be extraordinary!"

"That's right! If it weren't for Elder Lin from the Howling Flames Sect, I really wouldn't know these two outstanding prodigies from the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion!"

In fact, those who were shocked were the young disciples of the various forces from the Seven Mansions. After all, the high-ranking officials had long received news about Luo Yuan and Tuoba Xiu. The high-ranking officials were more surprised that the Profound Jade Mansion deliberately exposed the duo, the Divine Morning Mansion, and the Underworld Mansion.

The expressions of the two elders from the Autumn Leaves Sect and the Yuwen clan respectively soured as soon as they heard Lin Dong Lai's words. However, they were not very surprised that this happened, and they also knew there was nothing they could do about it.

During the previous Seven Mansions Feasts, there were forces who would deliberately expose each other's trump cards. In fact, the Divine Morning Mansion had once exposed the Profound Jade Mansion's trump cards. It was likely that this was the Profound Jade Mansion seeking revenge. Alas, the Underworld Mansion was dragged into the matter as well. That was not to say that the Underworld Mansion had never done such things before; it was just that they had never done it to the Profound Jade Mansion.

In any case, this matter passed very quickly. The Profound Jade Mansion was not held accountable, and no one kicked up a fuss either.

The participants with the potential to rank in the top ten and top three felt even more pressured by the sudden appearance of another two outstanding prodigies.

As for the weaker participants, who were unlikely to rank in the top ten, they were busy discussing among themselves. They were very excited and eager to watch the show.

“I really can’t tell that the two Mansions invested all their resources in those two...”

“Elder Lin compared them to Duan Ling Tian earlier... It shows how highly he thinks of them...”

“I just heard from my master that the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion are determined to have those two rank in the top three.”

“I thought Duan Ling Tian had a high chance of ranking in the top three. Similarly, I thought Wanqi Hong has a good chance of ranking in the top three. However, it seems like that might not be the case...”

“That’s right. Who would’ve thought the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion would do such a thing?”

“It’s not just Luo Yuan and Tuo Ba Xiu. There’s also an outstanding prodigy from the Consonance Mansion’s United Heavens Sect who just appeared recently...”

“Apart from that prodigy from the United Heavens Sect, Luo Yuan, Tuo Bai Xiu, Duan Ling Tian, Wanqi Hong, Lin Yuan, Mo Luo Duo, there are also the other top prodigies from the other forces. The competition for the top three places is very fierce this time!”

“It’s going to be interesting!”

The participants were still talking when Lin Dong Lai spoke again. His voice overwhelmed everyone’s voice as he said, “Now, the first round of the qualifying battle will begin. The other participants can now challenge the 30 seeded participants. Remember, you only have three chances to challenge the seeded participants.”

#### **Chapter 4025: Consecutive Challenges**

The 30 seeded participants were called to step forward so the unseeded participants could challenge them. Needless to say, the unseeded participants would only choose to challenge those they were sure they could defeat. It would be detrimental to them to challenge someone stronger after all.

“Unseeded participants have to issue their three challenges consecutively. If you feel you can’t defeat your opponent, you can surrender to conserve energy and avoid injuries. This will ensure you’ll be in good condition during your following challenges. As soon as you surrender, I’ll step in to stop your opponents from making another move,” Lin Dong Lai said, “Now, I’ll give the unseeded participants tokens to decide the order of the challenge. As for the 30 seeded participants, please step forward and stand in front of the people of your respective forces to make it easier for the unseeded participants to challenge you.”

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian and the other seeded participants moved into position.

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Qian Ye stood in front of the people from the Pure Yang Sect. There were two seeded participants from the Pure Yang Sect, after all.

Wanqi Hong also moved into his position in front of the people of the Wanqi clan. He was the only seeded participant from the Wanqi clan.

At the same time, Lin Dong Lai also tossed the tokens out. After all the unseeded participants obtained their tokens, he said, "Now, the participant with the number one, please come forward and issue your challenge. If you win, you'll take the place of your opponent and become a seeded participant. After that, you'll have to win three challenges to secure your ranking. However, as a new seeded participant, you can choose to refuse challenges on the first day."

Duan Ling Tian and the other young disciples had long heard about this from the elders of their respective forces so they were not surprised.

The participant, who obtained the number one, flew out. He was a prodigy from a clan in the Consonance Mansion. His strength was quite decent. During his last fight, he defeated his opponent within ten moves. Although he was not famous in the Seven Mansions since there were many more talented than him, he was also somewhat famous in the Consonance Mansion.

After a while, this prodigy from the Consonance Mansion challenged a seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion who was also somewhat famous in the Divine Morning Mansion.

In the beginning, the two participants seemed evenly matched, but in the latter half of the fight, the seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion gained the upper hand. After 50 moves, the seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion won, successfully defending his ranking. Based on the fight this time, it was clear that the seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion had held back in the previous rounds.

"He's quite smart. In fact, he could've defeated his opponent much sooner. However, to conserve energy, he dragged the fight out and used a little more Divine Energy to defeat his opponent after that. He'll be able to easily recover the Divine Energy he expended after this with a pill. With that, he'll be in peak condition for his next challenge."

Many people could see through the intentions of the seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion. This tactic was something one would only gain through experience.

Meanwhile, the unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion wore a gloomy expression on his face. He had assumed the person he challenged was on par with him at most; he was rather certain of his victory. To his dismay, he discovered his opponent had been hiding his strength. He had used up about 30 to 40% of his energy during this fight. Although he was not seriously injured, he was still affected and would not be in peak condition for his next fight.

.....

Lin Dong Lai looked at the participant from the Consonance Mansion and said expressionlessly, "You have to challenge your next opponent within seven and a half minutes."

The unseeded participant's expression turned even gloomier upon hearing this. Since he had to issue his challenge consecutively, he had no time to recover his energy at all. He was at a huge disadvantage. After a moment, he asked, "Elder Lin, based on what I'm told, if I give up my second challenge, I'll be given 15 minutes to rest before I have to challenge an opponent again, right?"

Lin Dong Lai nodded. "That's right. Do you want to give up your second challenge in exchange for a 15-minute break to rest and recover?"

“Yes,” the unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion said decisively. Then, without waiting for Lin Dong Lai to speak again, he sat cross-legged before he took a divine pill and began to recover his strength as much as he could.

Lin Dong Lai did not say anything and waited quietly.

At the same time, the others discussed among themselves as they waited.

“He’s quite smart.”

Many people praised the participant from the Consonance Mansion. After all, if he had issued a challenge immediately after losing his first challenge, he would undoubtedly be at a great disadvantage. Not only would he most probably lose his second challenge, but he would also likely lose his third challenge due to a chain effect. It was the best choice for him to give up his second challenge so he could recover his strength. With this, he had a higher chance of winning his third challenge.

“I’m glad I didn’t have to go first. At least, I learned something from this first fight. It’s better to conserve as much energy as we can during the first challenge. Unless we’re certain of our victory, it’s not worth going all out,” a prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion said with a sigh.

Someone smiled bitterly and countered, “It’s useless. What if your opponent is doing the same? For example, that seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion didn’t use his full strength, letting that unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion think they were on par with each other. The unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion was fooled; he thought his victory was certain so he went all out. That was when his opponent revealed his strength and dealt him a blow.”

“That’s right. This tactic is not completely reliable. It depends on your luck as well, and you have to have very good judgment.”

“I agree. In my opinion, it’s best to fight as though it’s your last challenge. The most important thing is to pick the right person to challenge!”

“Yes. Who knows if the person you challenge previously hid their strength? In any case, I think that seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion had already revealed his full strength earlier. If you’re confident, you should challenge him. There shouldn’t be any more surprises from him.”

“Those who are confident about challenging him should do it as soon as they can. After all, he can only be challenged for another two more times.”

“Hey, is it possible for a seeded participant to collude with unseeded participants? What if a seeded participant manages to convince three weaker unseeded participants to challenge him? After winning three challenges, his ranking would be secured!”

“It’s possible to do, but I don’t think anyone will do such a thing. After all, if one were caught, one would be disqualified immediately. The high-ranking officials here aren’t stupid. They’ll be able to see through such a trick easily.”

“That’s right. I don’t think such a thing had happened before in the history of the Seven Mansions Feast. No one would take such a risk unless they want to be disqualified.”



“Apart from that, there are also factors that make this trick hard to pull off. Take the seeded participant from the Divine Morning Mansion for example. Since he was challenged by the first unseeded participant, the second to the tenth unseeded participants won’t be able to challenge him. After he’s challenged by one of the unseeded participants with numbers from eleven to twenty, the 21st to 30th unseeded participants won’t be able to challenge him. This means, even if he manages to convince unseeded participants to help him, those unseeded participants will have to be in the right order.”

“Indeed, it’s not realistic. Moreover, how could a participant willingly give up just to help another participant?”

“That’s right, that’s right. All in all, this trick is useless and unrealistic. There are huge consequences as well. With so many intermediate Emperors of Gods around, the trick will be seen through in just an instance.”

There seemed like there were many loopholes, but it was truly not easy to exploit the loopholes. Moreover, the consequences were heavy, and no one dared to take the risk. Hence, in the history of the Seven Mansions Feast, such a thing had never happened.

...

15 minutes later.

The unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion rose to his feet. His eyes shifted to a prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion.

The prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion was very famous in the Feudal Lord Mansion, and he also had a slight bit of fame outside of the Feudal Lord Mansion.

The two participants did not waste time and began to fight. It did not take long for the seeded participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion to defeat the unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion. The seeded participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion had also hidden his strength in the previous rounds. In fact, he was even stronger than the first participant that the unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion had challenged. Even if the unseeded participant from the Consonance Mansion was in peak condition, he would still be unable to defeat the participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion.

For this reason, the participant from the Consonance Mansion was not dissatisfied when he left the battlefield. After all, it was not surprising that he lost when the gap between their strength was rather wide. Apart from that, the two opponents he challenged were the two he was most confident about defeating. He did not expect the duo to have hidden their strength. He was not confident about defeating any of the other 28 seeded participants. As such, he was convinced of his defeat.

Based on this, it could be seen that the Profound Jade Mansion had taken special care when selecting the 30 seeded participants.

The defeated participant from the Consonance Mansion thought to himself, ‘I wonder if anyone dares to challenge the two participants that the Divine Morning Mansion and Underworld Mansion spent all their efforts cultivating? If it were not for the reveal earlier, I actually planned to challenge both of them....’

In fact, many unseeded participants shared the same thought as him. Initially, they all planned to challenge the Autumn Leaves Sect's Luo Yuan and the Yuwen clan's Tuo Ba Xiu when Lin Dong Lai first announced their names. Needless to say, once Lin Dong Lai exposed the fact that the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion had given all their resources to the duo, everyone dismissed the idea of challenging the duo. Moreover, Lin Dong Lai also said the duo was comparable to Duan Ling Tian. They knew they were no match for Duan Ling Tian so how could they be a match for the duo?

...

After a while, the unseeded participant, who drew the number two, was called to step forward. Unsurprisingly, he did not challenge Luo Yuan or Tuo Ba Xiu. Even so, he failed to defeat his first opponent. Similar to the first unseeded participant, he gave up his second challenge to recover his strength, and he also failed his third challenge.

The third unseeded failed to win his challenges as well. In fact, the first seventh unseeded participants all failed their challenges.

However, things became more exciting when the seventh unseeded participant, who was from the Feudal Lord Mansion, stepped forward. To everyone's surprise, he challenged Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan. Most importantly, Tuo Ba Xiu was someone all the top forces in the Underworld Mansion cultivated; he was the person whom Lin Dong Lai said was comparable to Duan Ling Tian!

When Tuo Ba Xiu flew out, the seventh unseeded participant looked at Tuo Ba Xiu with an anticipatory expression as he said, "Tuo Ba Xiu, after listening to Elder Lin praising your strength, I really want to see your strength for myself!"

#### **Chapter 4026: The Seeded Participant From the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice**

Tuo Ba Xiu was a beautiful young woman. Her hair was tied up, and she was dressed in a loose black robe. All in all, she was dressed like a man, and it did not detract from her beauty at all. If she was dressed like a woman, there was no doubt that she would be even more stunning. Her expression was as cold as her voice as she said to the seventh unseeded participant who challenged her, "Make your move."

"Very well."

The seventh unseeded participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion charged out with a prominent divine artifact in his hand as he mobilized his Divine Energy. Since Lin Dong Lai had compared Tuo Ba Xiu to Duan Ling Tian, it was clear that she was very outstanding. As such, he did not dare to be reckless and did not hold back his strength at all.

Tuo Ba Xiu did not move despite her opponent charging toward her menacingly. However, her loose black robes fluttered wildly in the wind.

Swoosh! Swoosh Swoosh!

When the participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion drew close, a storm of ice and snow suddenly raged around Tuo Ba Xiu. A freezing energy swept out immediately for thousands of miles with her body in the center.

In just an instant, the participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion was frozen. If one looked close enough, one would be able to see the fear brewing in the depths of his eyes.

Everyone was still shocked by Tuo Ba Xiu's display when Lin Dong Lai suddenly said, "Your opponent just admitted defeat to me through Voice Transmission."

Then, Lin Dong Lai waved his hand, melting the ice and snow immediately.

Tuo Ba Xiu withdrew her Divine Energy and silently left the battlefield.

The participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion was pale and trembling violently after Lin Dong Lai saved him.

"Do you want to continue?" Lin Dong Lai asked. Then, he added without waiting for the other party's reply, "I advise you to give up your second challenge since you're seriously injured. Otherwise, it'll definitely affect your performance in the future..."

"I give up. Elder Lin, thank you for saving my life," the participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion said after taking a deep breath. He still felt afraid when he thought about the earlier scene. If Tuo Bai Xiu did not hold back, he would have died as soon as he was frozen.

.....

'The rudimentary form of the Mastery Dao?' Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air as he looked at the figure in the distance. His eyes were shining at this moment. Perhaps, the people present on the scene were not familiar with the Mastery Dao so they were unable to sense Unless one studied the Mastery Dao and was familiar with it, it was difficult even for an Emperor of Gods to detect it. Since he had also comprehended the Mastery Dao, he naturally could sense it.

The Mastery Dao was different from the Weapon Dao. If the Mastery Dao was used along with the profundities of a law, it was almost undetectable. On the contrary, there was almost no way to conceal the Weapon Dao.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised to discover that Tuo Ba Xiu, the disciple from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan, had comprehended the rudimentary form of the Mastery Dao. His expression was slightly solemn as he thought to himself, 'So this is the ability of the prodigy whom the Underworld Man poured their resources into...'

Earlier, Tuo Ba Xiu did not use a prominent divine artifact. She only used her law of ice along with her Mastery Dao.

Based on that alone, Duan Ling Tian speculated that Tuo Ba Xiu was not any weaker than Wanqi Hong. Needless to say, Wanqi Hong from the past, whom he had defeated in Seven Kills Valley, was much weaker than Tuo Ba Xiu.

Similarly, everyone was also shocked by Tuo Ba Xiu's performance and was fervently discussing among themselves.

“Tuo Bai Xiu is really terrifying!”

“The law of ice she comprehended is extremely powerful! That person from the Feudal Lord Mansion didn’t even have a chance to get close to her before he was frozen!”

“It’s not surprising considering the Underworld Mansion invested all their resources in her...”

“It’s true that the Underworld Mansion played a big part, but I’m sure she was already highly talented to begin with. If we were in his shoes and were given so many resources, we might not even be as powerful as she is now.”

“I agree.”

Everyone thought that it was really enviable that Tuo Ba Xiu received the collective resources from the top forces in the Underworld Mansion. However, no one denied her talent and comprehension skills. If she was only average, she would not have been chosen by the Underworld Mansion to begin with. If she was not talented, she would not have grown so strong even if she was given a lot of resources.

“If Tuo Ba Xiu is so strong, then Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion’s Autumn Leaves Sect can’t be any weaker. No wonder Elder Lin compared them to Duan Ling Tian!”

“That person from the Feudal Lord Mansion probably did not expect this when he wanted to satisfy his curiosity. As the saying goes, ‘Curiosity killed the cat.’”

“That’s right. He clearly only challenged her because he was curious!”

“Now, he ruined his chances completely.”

“I’m afraid no one will dare to challenge Tuo Ba Xiu and Luo Yuan after this.”

“Of course! Who will challenge Luo Yuan after seeing Tuo Ba Xiu’s strength? After seeing that person from the Feudal Lord Mansion no one will dare to challenge the duo!”

At this time, the unseeded participant who drew the number eight flew into the battlefield. It was none other than Lan Xi Lin, the great-grandson of Lan Zheng Ming, the founder of the Pure Yang Sect’s Zheng Ming faction.

Lan Xi Lin could also be considered outstanding among the younger generation in the Pure Yang Sect even if he could not compare to the likes of Ye Ying Cai and Yun Ye Wei. His strength was only behind the other five top young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect, not counting Duan Ling Tian.

Lan Xi Lin looked around. His eyes stopped briefly on the seeded participant from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice. However, he dismissed the idea of challenging that person since he knew he was no match for the other party. Even if he wanted to show off his strength to his peers and bring glory to the Pure Yang Sect, he was aware of his limitations. His rationality won over his impulse. Finally, his eyes landed on a figure from the Consonance Mansion.

Alas, although Lan Xi Lan was careful with his choice, he was still defeated by the seeded participant from the Consonance Mansion within 30 moves.

Lan Xi Lin was not discouraged by his defeat. After all, from the beginning, he held very little hope of ranking in the top 30. Those few who were stronger than him were not even chosen to become seeded participants. He only participated to gain experience and as a formality.

'I'm really lucky I managed to enter the Ambitious Group. I just hope I won't get kicked out of the top 100...'

Those in the Ambitious Group would have to fight for their ranks. There were about 100 people, or to be precise, there were 102 people in the group. As such, in the end, there would be two people who failed to rank in the top 100.

In fact, the rewards for those who ranked in the bottom of the 100 places were not worth mentioning. However, the prestige of ranking in the top 100 was quite high. One could proudly tell others that one ranked in the top 100 during the Seven Mansions Feast.

...

The challenges continued. However, none of the first 30 unseeded participants won their challenges. The 30 seeded participants were like unmovable mountains, blocking the others from grasping victory in their hands.

"The 31st unseeded participant, please enter the battlefield," Lin Dong Lai said.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian saw Ye Ying Cai, who was standing nearby, flying out.

"It's Ye Ying Cai!"

Ye Ying Cai was a famous prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect. Before Duan Ling Tian joined the Pure Yang Sect, he and Yun Ye Wei were the top two prodigies among the younger generation in the Pure Yang Sect. When the prodigies of the Pure Yang Sect were mentioned, everyone would think of them. However, people would only think about Duan Ling Tian now when the prodigies of the Pure Yang Sect were mentioned. The others were completely overshadowed by Duan Ling Tian.

'Don't tell me he's planning to challenge that seeded participant from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice?' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly when he saw Ye Ying Cai looking at the only seeded participant from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice.

In just a moment, Duan Ling Tian obtained his answer.

"I challenge Hu Chai Yi of the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice," Ye Ying Cai said calmly without a change in his expression when Lin Dong Lai asked him whom he would like to challenge.

Hu Chai Yi was a tall and burly young man; he was nearly two meters tall. He was dressed in a loose blue robe. When he flew out, his figure was like a tower. His appearance was ordinary, but he left a deep impression on everyone. His face was angular and sharp, looking like it was carved by a knife.

Hu Chai Yi looked at Ye Ying Cai icily as soon as he arrived and said, "Ye Ying Cai, you almost killed my junior brother. I was wondering if you'd challenge me, but I really didn't expect that you really dared to challenge me. This is great. I'll be able to avenge my junior brother."

Ye Ying Cai was the catalyst of the feud between the younger disciples of the Pure Yang Sect and the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice. He had dealt a heavy blow, seemingly for no reason, to Wang Yi Shan, his opponent, severely injuring Wang Yi Shan. Although Hu Chai Yi was not very close to Wang Yi Shan, they were from the same sect after all. Moreover, usually, Wang Yi Shan would greet Hu Chai Yi respectfully whenever they encountered each other in the sect. Wang Yi Shan also helped Hu Chai Yi with many trivial matters. It was only natural that he would avenge Wang Yi Shan now that the chance presented itself to him. This was something everyone in the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice was aware of.

#### **Chapter 4027: The Unkempt Middle-Aged Man**

The fact that the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice's Hu Chai Yi was chosen as a seeded participant meant that he was very outstanding. Even among the other outstanding young prodigies in the alliance, he was superior to them.

Not many people in the Eastern Ridge Mansion knew the extent of Hu Chai Yi's strength. Even in the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, no one had seen him fight with all his might. When he defeated his opponents in the past, he had done so without breaking a sweat.

For this reason, the young disciples in the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice trusted Hu Chai Yi's strength unconditionally. Hu Chai Yi was the strongest person under the age of 10,000 in the alliance after all.

Unlike the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, before Duan Ling Tian's appearance, the Pure Yang Sect had a few top prodigies whose strengths were on par with each other. Needless to say, after Duan Ling Tian joined, he became the strongest person below the age of 10,000 in the Pure Yang Sect.

Taking all things into consideration, it was not surprising that the young disciples of the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice did not think Ye Yin Cai was worthy of being compared to Hu Chai Yi.

"Pft! Ye Ying Cai actually challenged Brother Hu! He's seeking death!"

"Ye Ying Cai is the cause of the conflict between us and the Pure Yang Sect. He injured one of our members first! He really deserves to die!"

"That's right! I hope Brother Hu kills him! Even if Brother Hu can't kill him, I hope Brother Hu will cripple him!"

"Ye Ying Cai is the granddisciple of Ye Chen Feng, the founder of the Pure Yang Sect's Hidden Sword faction. Most importantly, Ye Chen Feng is the strongest person in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Even if the Howling Flames Sect's Elder Lin doesn't save Ye Ying Cai, I'm afraid it'll be difficult for Brother Hu to kill him with Ye Chen Feng around."

"That guy is really lucky to have such a grandmaster!"

Under the hostile gazes of the people of the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, Ye Ying Cai made his move. In just a moment, he was engaged in a fierce fight with the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice's Ye Ying Cai.

In the first ten moves, the duo was evenly matched. After that, Hu Chai Yi slowly gained the upper hand. His attacks that were directed at Ye Ying Cai were fierce and deadly.

After another twenty moves, Ye Ying Cai was already severely injured. However, he gritted his teeth and refused to surrender.

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Seeing this, Hu Chai Yi was about to attack again. However, before he could do so...

"I'll surrender on his behalf."

Hu Chai Yi looked at the source of the indifferent voice. He was slightly startled when he met a piercing gaze. When he recovered, he hurriedly averted his eyes, unable to meet the other person's eyes. With just a look, he felt as though his heart had been pierced with 10,000 arrows, and he felt like he could not breathe. Most importantly, the alliance leader was completely unaware of what had happened.

'So this is the strength of the strongest person in the Eastern Ridge Mansion? He's an intermediate Emperor of Gods, but so is our leader. Why is the gap between them so wide?'

Since Ye Chen Feng had surrendered on behalf of Ye Ying Cai, Hu Chai Yi did not dare to attack again. There were no rules prohibiting and allowing elders to surrender on their disciples' behalf during the Seven Mansions Feast so the matter was rather vague. Nonetheless, he did not dare to act rashly. After all, Ye Chen Feng was not someone he could afford to provoke. He could only resist his urge to attack Ye Ying Cai again.

"Grandmaster..." Ye Ying Cai called out with a bitter expression on his face. All of a sudden, he spat out a mouthful of blood, and his face turned pale immediately.

Lin Dong Lai looked at Ye Ying Cai and asked, "Do you want to issue your second challenge?"

"Ye.."

Before Ye Ying Cai could say yes, Ye Chen Feng said again, "Forfeit your second challenge. Issue your third challenge after 15 minutes."

Then, Ye Chen Feng tossed a bottle of pills over to Ye Ying Cai.

Ye Ying Cai caught the pill bottle and raised his head to look at Ye Chen Feng. When he saw Ye Chen Feng's calm gaze, he felt guilty. He even had the urge to cry.

Many people, including Duan Ling Tian, thought Ye Ying Cai was too impulsive.

'In the beginning when I just joined the sect, the sect was very hopeful that I could rank in the top ten. Based on their reaction at that time, it was clear that they did not expect any of their young disciples to be able to rank in the top ten. I thought their reaction was a little exaggerated and assumed that at least a few disciples would be able to rank in the top ten. As it turns out, I was wrong. Apart from Yang Qian Ye, it won't be easy for the others to rank even in the top 30, let alone the top ten.'

At this time, Duan Ling Tian also realized what a huge feat it was for Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng to rank in the top 20 and the top 30 respectively in the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago. At the very least, the duo's strength back then was not any weaker than Ye Ying Cai and Yun Ye Wei.

"Elder Ye, don't you think that was an exciting fight?" Ren Tie Qiu, the Leader of the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, asked through Voice Transmission in a gloating tone. He was clearly seizing the opportunity to mock Ye Chen Feng to vent his dissatisfaction.

Ye Chen Feng was indifferent as he replied with a question, "Shall we spar after the Seven Mansions Feast? I'm sure it'll be exciting as well."

These words were very effective in shutting Ren Tie Qiu up. He no longer spoke after that.

Meanwhile, the others finally began to feel that something was amiss when they recalled Ye Ying Cai's previous performance.

"Hey, doesn't it feel like Ye Ying Cai is targeting the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice? Does he have a grudge against them?"

"Who knows? However, the Pure Yang Sect and the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice are both from the Eastern Ridge Mansion. It's not surprising if they have conflicts."

"Ye Ying Cai was too impulsive. That Hu Chai Yi was selected as a seeded participant. Clearly, Hu Chai Yi's strength is not simple, but he still went and challenged Hu Chai Yi. In the end, he's the one who suffered a loss."

15 minutes passed in just a blink of an eye.

At this time, Ye Ying Cai, who was seriously injured earlier, seemed to have been reborn. It seemed like he was completely healed.

Upon seeing this miraculous healing effect, people began to discuss among themselves again.

"The divine pill Elder Ye gave him is definitely not an ordinary divine pill! What kind of ordinary divine pill would have such an extraordinary healing effect?"

"Isn't it obvious? I just wonder what kind of healing divine pill it was. Even a lord-grade Limit Divine Pill won't be able to produce such a miraculous effect in such a short time, right?"

"Could it be an... emperor-grade divine pill?!"

"That's possible. Moreover, it's likely not just an ordinary emperor-grade divine pill. There are few emperor-grade divine pills I know that have such an effect."

"Don't tell me it's an emperor-grade Limit Divine Pill?!"

"Of course not! At least in the Seven Mansions, I've never heard of anyone capable of refining emperor-grade Limit Divine Pills. In fact, I don't know if such a person exists in the Profound Energy Land"



“I read in one of the ancient records that there was a person who could refine emperor-grade Limit Divine Pills. You’re right, such a person is a rare existence no matter the era!”

Even Duan Ling Tian was surprised by the divine pill’s miraculous effect.

‘It has to be an emperor-grade divine pill. No lord-grade divine pills are capable of this, not even lord-grade Limit Divine Pills!’

Duan Ling Tian could refine lord-grade Limit Divine Pills now, but there were still a few complicated lord-grade Limit Divine Pills that he could not refine. He had tried to refine emperor-grade divine pills as well, but each of his attempts had ended in failure and wastage of rare ingredients. Ingredients to refine emperor-grade divine pills were rare and precious. Even a secondary ingredient to refine emperor-grade divine pills could be a primary ingredient to refine some lord-grade divine pills.

At this time, Ye Ying Cai looked around before his eyes locked on a figure.

The other party was a prodigy from Frozen Mountain Manor, one of the four top forces in the Feudal Lord Mansion. He was the strongest young disciple in the Frozen Mountain Manor and was also the only one chosen to be a seeded participant from the Frozen Mountain Manor. Appearance-wise, he looked like a middle-aged man. He did not shave the stubbles on his face, and he was casually dressed in a shabby robe. He held a wine gourd in his hand, and after entering the battlefield, he even took a few swigs from the wine gourd.

‘This person...’ Duan Ling Tian looked at the unkempt middle-aged man. Although this was his first time seeing the other party, his instinct and experience told him that such an eccentric character was either true to his appearance or very powerful. However, he had a feeling that there was much more than meets eyes with the middle-aged man. Moreover, how could a simple person be selected as a seeded participant?

When Ye Ying Cai saw the middle-aged opponent drinking on the battlefield, he could not help but frown slightly. He said, “The fight has started.”

“You go first,” the middle-aged man said as he put down the wine gourd in his hand. Then, he wiped his mouth with his sleeve before he continued to say with a grin, “Otherwise, I’m afraid you won’t have a chance to attack at all.”

The middle-aged man’s words caused Ye Ying Cai’s expression to darken slightly, and they caused a stir as well.

“This person from the Frozen Mountain Manor is really arrogant!”

“His previous performances were only average, right? The strength he displayed so far isn’t as strong as that of Ye Ying Cai.”

“Don’t forget he’s chosen as a seeded participant...”

While everyone was still talking, Ye Ying Cai, who wore a sour expression on his face, finally made his move. A prominent divine sword appeared in his hand as he mobilized his Divine Energy and cast the law he comprehended. He did not hold back at all.

Ye Ying Cai did not dare to hold back because he had received a Voice Transmission from Ye Chen Feng, his grandmaster. Ye Chen Feng had warned him not to underestimate the middle-aged man and also told him that the middle-aged man was not weaker than Hu Chai Yi. These words sobered him up immediately.

‘Hm?’ Duan Ling Tian noticed Ye Ying Cai’s subtle change, and he instinctively turned to look at Ye Chen Feng who was sitting on the small floating island. He was sure Ye Chen Feng had something to do with Ye Ying Cai’s sudden change in attitude.

#### **Chapter 4028: Ye Ying Cai Was Defeated**

Ye Ying Cai was not as relaxed as before; his expression was serious.

The crowd could sense the change as well.

The next moment, Ye Ying Cai flew out with his sword toward the participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion’s Frozen Mountain Manor.

“I’ve not heard of this person from the Frozen Mountain Manor....”

“It doesn’t matter. He has to be strong to be selected as a seeded participant. Previously, I was still wondering why so many unknown figures were selected as seeded participants. The Profound Jade Mansion must have insider information.”

“Right. Not only are there the two hidden trump cards from the Divine Morning Mansion and the Underworld Mansion, but there’s also this unknown person from the Feudal Lord Mansion’s Frozen Mountain Manor.”

“It’s not just that, but all the famous young disciples from the Frozen Mountain Manor weren’t selected to be seeded participants at all.”

“Earlier, they said his name is Wang Xiong, right?”

At this time, Ye Ying Cai, who was fast approaching Wang Xiong, cast his profundities from the law. Along with his Divine Energy, he imbued them into his prominent divine sword. Soon enough, dazzling sword rays shot out.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sword rays weaved into a net that surrounded Wang Xiong in just an instant.

Many people felt anxious on behalf of Wang Xiong at this moment, but Wang Xiong’s expression remained the same. However, his gaze turned piercing as he tossed his wine gourd up into the air. Light burst forth from the wine gourd, and a huge translucent barrier in the shape of a wine gourd quickly shrouded him. Streaks of gray energy intertwined with mustard yellow energy around the barrier, forming an iron wall.

Clank! Clank! Clank! Clank! Clank!

The sword rays landed on the gourd-like barrier, creating metallic sounds. However, they did no damage at all.

Ye Ying Cai did not stop. He continued to attack with all his might. However, it did not take long before his expression changed. He discovered that no matter how hard and how long he attacked, he could not break his opponent's defense at all.

At this time, a burst of energy swept out from the gourd-like barrier with a flash of light, destroying all the sword rays around it before it swept toward Ye Ying Cai.

Ye Ying Cai continued to attack as he retreated. However, just like before, his attacks did not even leave a dent in his opponent's defense. Fortunately, he had speed on his side. Although his opponent was considered fast among those who comprehended the law of earth, his opponent's speed was still slower than his.

The tables turned in just a blink of an eye.

Ye Ying Cai who was on the offensive earlier was forced to defend himself since he could not break Wang Xiong's defense.

A small commotion broke out among the crowd. They were shocked by Wang Xiong's performance.

"Wang Xiong's defense is terrifyingly strong!"

"He comprehends the law of earth, after all. The law of earth is known for its defense."

"He's really amazing! Ye Ying Cai uses the sword so his offenses and defenses are quite balanced. However, he still can't break Wang Xiong's defense!"

"That's right. The only thing that Wang Xiong is lacking is speed. Otherwise, Ye Ying Cai would've been defeated by now."

Wang Xiong's defense did not only shock the young disciples, but even a few high-ranking officials seemed surprised.

At this time, someone said loudly to an elder from the Frozen Mountain Manor with a sigh, "Elder Qi, I didn't expect the Frozen Mountain Manor to hide such an outstanding prodigy. Did you recruit him for the Seven Mansions Feast?"

This question attracted the attention of the people in the surroundings. They turned to look at the people from the Frozen Mountain Manor in unison.

The person who led the entourage from the Frozen Mountain Manor here was an old man with a ruddy face dressed in a cyan robe. He smiled as he calmly said, "Wang Xiong grew up in the Frozen Mountain Manor since he was young. However, not many people know about him since he doesn't usually cultivate in our estate. He only returned recently to participate in the Seven Mansions Feast. Although you've not heard of him before, you should've heard of his father. His father is Wang An Chong."

Someone exclaimed, "Wang An Chong? Elder Qi, are you talking about Wang An Chong who ranked in the top ten during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago?"

During the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago, one person from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor managed to rank in the top ten, and it was none other than Wang An Chong.

"That's right," the elder from the Frozen Mountain Manor said and nodded.

With this, people began to gossip again.

"So he's Wang An Chong's son?"

Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng, who both heard the words of the elder from the Frozen Mountain Manor, exchanged a look and saw the surprise in each other's eyes. They both knew Wang An Chong since they all participated in the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago. In fact, Wang An Chong even defeated them. However, Wang An Chong was a good man, and he had a very good temper as well. As such, the duo hit it off with Wang An Chong even though it was their first meeting. The duo considered him a friend at that time. It was unfortunate that not long after the Seven Mansions Feast ended, they received news that Wang An Chong had died outside of the Feudal Lord Mansion due to an accident. At that time, the duo felt rather sad and lamented that the good died young.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian learned from Zhen Ping Fan that Wang Xiong's father had once defeated Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago. He also learned that Wang An Chong ranked in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast at that time, but unfortunately, Wang An Chong passed away not long after.

Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly. 'What a coincidence. As it turns out, his father defeated Elder Ye and Elder Zhen 10,000 years ago...' He looked at the fight in front of him and continued thinking to himself, 'Wang Xiong is going to win...'

Although Ye Ying Cai had the advantage in speed, Duan Ling Tian knew Wang Xiong was going to win based on Wang Xiong's strength. Wang Xiong's attacks seemed unorganized and random; he kept attacking even his attacks seemingly missed. However, Duan Ling Tian could see that the attacks were in fact very well thought out.

"Amazing!" Ye Chen Feng suddenly exclaimed.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian and the others saw that Wang Xiong's attack that seemingly missed did not dissipate at all. On the contrary, they suddenly turned into mustard yellow pillars of light. The pillars of light formed a cage around Ye Ying Cai, and the cage was slowly shrinking.

'He's been preparing for this!' Ye Ying Cai finally realized something was wrong. He tried to escape but found that he was unable to do so. Clearly, Wang Xiong had been preparing this since the beginning and made his move once he was confident enough to do so.

'Since I can't escape, I'll have to try and break the cage!'

Ye Ying Cai attacked the cage with all his might. Under his attack, minute cracks began to form on the sturdy cage. Upon seeing the cracks, he was overjoyed. However, his expression changed in the next second. While he was attacking the huge cage, Wang Xiong had already arrived. He was left with no choice but to fly away.

Wang Xiong continued chasing Ye Ying Cai.

At the same time, the huge cage continued to shrink. There was only so much space for Ye Ying Cai to move around, and it was shrinking. When he could no longer move around, he was forced to confront Wang Xiong. He knew he could not break through Wang Xiong's defense, and he would be severely injured by Wang Xiong's attack. In the end, he could only say helplessly, "I surrender."

Although Ye Ying Cai felt unwilling, he knew nothing could be done about it. If he did not surrender, he would be severely injured, and it would affect his performance later. He knew he had no hope of ranking in the top 30, but he still hoped to rank in the top 40 or 50 so as to not bring shame to the Pure Yang Sect.

"Good match," Wang Xiong said goodnatureedly with a grin, "You're stronger than I imagined. I couldn't tell you were still holding back your strength and speed during your previous fight."

Ye Ying Cai smiled bitterly. During his fight with the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice's Hu Chai Yi, he did not intend to dodge or maintain a distance from Hu Chai Yi. He only wanted to fight Hu Chai Yi directly. As such, he did not show his true speed.

This was also the reason Wang Xiong had said Ye Ying Cai should make his move first, otherwise, Ye Ying Cai might not have had a chance to do so. He had underestimated Ye Ying Cai's speed.

"You're very strong. I lost fair and square," Ye Ying Cai said seriously.

With this defeat, Ye Ying Cai was knocked out of the top 30 rankings of the Seven Mansions Feast. However, he did not look discouraged after leaving the battlefield. Instead, his eyes shone as though he was in high spirits. It seemed like he had figured some things out.

Upon seeing this, Ye Chen Feng smiled. He said, "You're still young, and the possibilities in the future are endless. There are many people stronger than you today, but that may not be the case 10,000 years later..."

Ye Ying Cai's eyes shone even brighter upon hearing these words. He was reminded again that his grandmaster did not even rank in the top 20 during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago. However, 10,000 years later, his grandmaster had far surpassed the top 20 participants from that time!

## **Chapter 4029: Luo Yuan**

The challenges continued.

At the end of the day, none of the 30 seeded participants had been defeated. On the contrary, none of the challengers won.

So far, Ye Ying Cai was the only one among the outstanding disciples from the Pure Yang Sect who had fought during this round. However, the expressions on the faces of the other outstanding disciples like Yun Ye Wei were solemn. At this time, they finally realized why they were not chosen as seeded participants. All of the seeded participants who were chosen were incredibly strong.

After everyone was dismissed, Duan Ling Tian returned and cultivated quietly as usual. He did not feel much pressure for now. He would continue to watch the fights if no one challenged him, and he would fight if he was challenged.

'The Profound Jade Mansion must have done their research... The seeded participants they chose are all outstanding. Not only that, they even manage to choose those hidden participants...'

Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan and Wang Xiong from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor, who were challenged today, were examples of participants who had hidden their strength. No one had heard of them until the Seven Mansions Feast, and they only shot to fame during their fights today.

"I wonder if anyone will succeed in their challenge tomorrow. If not, then this round is nothing but a warm-up for the seeded participants. Even then, not many seeded participants even have a chance to warm up..."

...

The next day.

Duan Ling Tian followed the people from the Pure Yang Sect to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast as usual.

The fights continued.

When the first unseeded participant of the day appeared, everyone was surprised when he looked at one of the participants from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect and said loudly, "Brother Luo Yuan, I'd like to challenge you. Although I'm no match for you, I wish to witness your strength."

This participant came from the same force as Wang Xiong, who defeated Ye Ying Cai yesterday; he came from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor. He was also a famous young disciple in the Frozen Mountain Manor.

"He challenged Luo Yuan?!"

"Although Luo Yuan has yet to show his strength, based on Tuo Ba Xiu's strength, there's no doubt that he's very strong. I didn't think anyone would dare to challenge Luo Yuan..."

Duan Ling Tian was also slightly surprised that someone dared to challenge Luo Yuan. He wondered inwardly, 'Is he really just challenging Luo Yuan to witness Luo Yuan's strength or is he testing the water for Wang Xiong?'

Although Wang Xiong's overall performance yesterday was not earth-shaking, his defenses were undoubtedly almost invincible. His defenses alone made him very outstanding. However, was it enough to defeat Luo Yuan?

Duan Ling Tian followed the directions of everyone's gaze and looked at where the people from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect were. He saw an aloof young man dressed in a dark cyan robe flying out.

With this, Lin Dong Lai, the elder from the Howling Flames Sect who was overseeing the fights, said, "If there's no further question, you may begin."

As soon as Lin Dong Lai's voice fell, the participant from the Frozen Mountain Manor made a move. He brought his prominent divine artifact out and charged out.

Luo Yuan calmly brought out a huge hammer that was two meters long. The head of the hammer seemed the size of a small hill. In contrast to his skinny frame, the hammer looked even bigger. He did not hesitate as he waved the hammer, imbuing it with his Divine Energy and the law he comprehended.

Just like Tuo Ba Xiu, Luo Yuan did not comprehend one of the Four Supreme Laws or one of the Five Elemental Laws. Instead, he comprehended the law of thunder, one of the derivative laws.

Bang!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, the two opponents collided.

A powerful shockwave rippled out, but Lin Dong Lai waved his hand, dispelling it before it could spread. As an intermediate Emperor of Gods, it was easy for him to deal with the shockwave. However, a hint of surprise could be seen on his face when he looked at Luo Yan. Clearly, he did not expect Luo Yuan to be so strong.

At this time, Luo Yuan held his hammer in one hand and was standing motionlessly.

On the other hand, the participant from the Frozen Mountain Manor was sent flying back. Not only did his attack fail to land, but his prominent divine artifact had been knocked out of his hand as well. His arms were broken, and he vomited blood as he flew back. His aura was greatly weakened as well. If Lin Dong Lai did not intervene in time, his injuries would have been severe. No, he would have died if Lin Dong Lai did not intervene in time.

Luo Yan glanced at the participant from the Frozen Manor Mountain, who barely managed to stabilize his footing, as he asked nonchalantly, "I hope I didn't disappoint you."

A bitter expression appeared on the pale face of the participant from the Frozen Mountain Manor upon hearing these words. He said, "I was too arrogant. I'm utterly convinced by your strength. As expected of someone who's highly anticipated to rank in the top three of the Seven Mansions Feast."

Following that, the participant from the Frozen Mountain Manor spat out another mouthful of blood. He looked at Lin Dong Lai and said dejectedly, "Elder Lin, thank you for saving my life. I give up on my remaining two challenges."

He had no choice but to give up due to his injuries. If he did not recover from his injuries in time, his condition would worsen, and he might be knocked out of the top 100 places.

As the two opponents returned to their respective places, the crowd was busy discussing among themselves.

“So strong!”

“He’s really terrifying!”

“It seems like Luo Yuan is stronger than Tuo Ba Xiu!”

After watching Tuo Ba Xiu fight, everyone knew Luo Yuan could not be weak. After all, Luo Yuan also received the collective resources from the top forces in the Divine Morning Mansion. However, they did not expect that his attack would be so overwhelmingly crushing as opposed to Tuo Ba Xiu who only froze her opponent. Due to his crushing attack, some people speculated that he was stronger than her. However, there were more people who did not think so. Just because Tuo Ba Xiu’s attack was not as aggressive as that of Luo Yuan, it did not mean that she was weaker. Unless the duo fought, no one could say for certain who was stronger.

‘I really wonder which one of them is stronger,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself curiously. From what he had seen, Luo Yuan was stronger than Wanqi Hong whom he had defeated at the Seven Kills Valley.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Wanqi Hong.

Wanqi Hong’s expression was rather solemn. It was obvious that he was feeling the pressure.

At this time, Liu Feng Gu, who was seated next to Ye Chen Feng and Zhen Ping Fan, said with a sigh, “Luo Yuan is very strong. The Divine Morning Mansion really went to great lengths to prepare for the Seven Mansions Feast.”

Zhen Ping Fan chuckled and said, “So did the Underworld Mansion...” Then, he glanced at the people in his surroundings before he continued to say, “If those two manage to rank in the top three, the other Mansions will likely follow the example of the two Mansions for the next Seven Mansions Feast.”

“You think the other Mansions are also going to invest all their resources in one young disciple?” Liu Feng Gu said.

Zhen Ping Fan nodded. “That’s right. If they do that, there’s a high chance the participants representing them will rank in the top ten even if they don’t rank in the top three. If they have a few of such participants who rank in the top ten, they’ll be able to obtain a few slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm, which is no different from ranking in the top three...”

The person who was ranked first would obtain four places to enter the Secret Holy Realm while those who ranked second and third would obtain three slots respectively.

Liu Feng Gu shook his head. “I don’t think so. It involves too many things. Not every force will agree to it, especially if they’re confident about their young disciples.”

Zhen Ping Fan said with a smile, “It doesn’t matter if one force disagrees. Take for example our Eastern Ridge Mansion. If our Pure Yang Sect disagrees, the other forces can still continue with the plan...”

Zhen Ping Fan and Liu Feng Gu were not speaking through Voice Transmission so Duan Ling Tian and the others overheard their conversation. Many of the disciples, who were very young, wore solemn expressions on their faces. After all, if the Pure Yang Sect agreed to such a plan, it would make the competition even tougher if the Pure Yang Sect only chose to give their resources to one or two chosen young disciples.



Duan Ling Tian naturally did not care about this since it did not affect him. He would not stay in the Pure Yang Sect for long, after all.

The day ended, and none of the challengers succeeded. It was the same the day after.

The 30 seeded participants were like insurmountable mountains, preventing the others from climbing up the ranks.

### **Chapter 4030: Ye Chen Feng's Path**

The final round of the Seven Mansions Feast was where participants were ranked. During the first stage, the 30 seeded participants would be challenged by the other participants.

The Profound Jade Mansion had carefully and accurately chosen the 30 seeded participants. As such, at the end of the first stage, none of the seeded participants was defeated. Apart from that, seeded participants like Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong were not challenged at all due to their shocking strength.

“We’ll soon enter the second stage to battle for our ranks... In the beginning, the remaining 72 participants will fight for the 31st to the 100th place. Two participants will be knocked out of the top 100 places...”

Duan Ling Tian heard the hushed conversations in his surroundings as he left the venue with the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect. Seeded participants like him and Wanqi Hong would not be involved in the second stage of the battles of the ranking, and they would only fight during the third stage.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Yang Qian Ye from the corners of his eyes as they returned to their temporary accommodations. He had been surprised by Yang Qian Ye’s performance. Although Yang Qian Ye was challenged twice, he defeated his opponents. Yang Qian Ye took some time to defeat his first opponent, but he easily defeated his second opponent with three moves. Yang Qian Ye’s performance put Ye Ying Cai and the others to shame.

At the same time, a few elders gathered around Yuan Han Jin as they sighed enviously.

“Elder Yuan, your disciple is really amazing!”

“I never knew he was so heaven-defying in the past.”

“That’s right. You’re amazing as well being able to discover such a hidden gem!”

“Elder Yuan, I’m really jealous that you have such a talented disciple.”

Yuan Han Jin, who was suddenly thrust into the spotlight, felt rather proud when his disciple was praised despite the modest expression on his face.

‘They’re unaware of my disciple’s true strength. With his strength, he has a high chance of ranking in the top ten!’

If Yang Qian Ye managed to rank in the top 10, he would obtain two slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm. At that time, one of the slots would be given to Yuan Han Jin’s father. This was Yuan Han Jin’s

goal all along. After all, in his opinion, even if Duan Ling Tian ranked in the top three and obtained three slots, he was certain his father would have no chance of entering the Secret Holy Realm. The three slots would definitely be given to Zhen Yun Feng, Ye Chen Feng, and Liu Feng Gu. After all, Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu were one of the strongest intermediate Emperors of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect, and Zhen Yun Feng was the founder of the Cloud Peak faction that Duan Ling Tian belonged to. Perhaps, if Duan Ling Tian ranked first and obtained four slots, his father might have had a slight chance of entering the Secret Holy Realm.

Meanwhile, although the elders of the Pure Yang Sect were praising Yang Qian Ye at this time, they did not think he had a chance of ranking in the top 10. To them, it would be good enough if Yang Qian Ye managed to rank in the top 30. If he managed to rank in the top 20, he would definitely bring glory to the Pure Yang Sect's Ping Sheng faction.

At the same time, Ye Chen Feng spoke to Duan Ling Tian.

“Duan Ling Tian, there are a few participants who exceeded our expectations. Their existence has greatly increased the uncertainty of the Seven Mansions Feast. In the past, all of us thought it wouldn't be a problem for you to rank in the top three with your strength based on the previous Seven Mansions Feasts. Who knew some Mansions would go to such lengths to nurture their young disciples? I didn't think much of it in the beginning, but the strength of Tuo Bai Xiu and Luo Yuan from the Underworld Mansion and the Divine Morning Mansion respectively has greatly exceeded my expectations. With their strength, they'd easily rank at the top during the previous Seven Mansions Feasts. Apart from that, there's also Lin Yuan, the external help that the Howling Flames Sect recruited. Although he has yet to reveal his strength, I think he should be comparable to Tuo Ba Xiu and Luo Yuan. On the contrary, that famous young prodigy, Mo Luo Duo, shouldn't be a match for you. There are also another two participants you should watch for. They're Han Di from the United Heavens Sect and Yuan Mo Yu from the Howling Heaven Sect. These people I mentioned should be at least on par with Wanqi Hong. You shouldn't underestimate Wanqi Hong as well. Although you defeated him previously, it was because he had yet to stabilize his cultivation base and he underestimated you. If you fight him, you shouldn't hold back at all.”

Ye Chen Feng carefully pointed out the stronger participants whom he thought Duan Ling Tian should watch out for. These people were all strong contenders for the top three places. Previously, he was quite confident Duan Ling Tian would be able to rank in the top three, but the unexpected appearances of Tuo Ba Xiu, Luo Yuan, Lin Yuan, Han Di, and Yuan Mo Yu made things uncertain.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by Ye Chen Feng's words. His words matched the six out of the 30 seeded participants who caught his eyes. They were Han Di from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect, Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect, Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan, Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect, Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion's Howling Flames Sect, and his old rival, Wanqi Hong, from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Wanqi clan.

During this time, Wanqi Hong had provoked Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, but he mostly ignored Wanqi Hong. However, he had to admit that he was rather surprised by Wanqi Hong's

performance. Nonetheless, although Wanqi Hon was much stronger than before, he was the weakest compared to the other five participants.

Ye Chen Feng said again, "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. In the beginning, the sect only hoped you'd be able to rank in the top ten. It doesn't matter even if you fail to rank in the top three; it's enough to rank in the top ten. The sect will still be pleased with the two slots you'll obtain for ranking in the top ten." After a beat, he added, "Many people assumed I'd be given one of the slots, and I don't deny that. I was also eager to enter the Secret Holy Realm. However, after the completion of the artifact soul of my prominent divine sword, I discovered there's another way for me to break through and become an advanced Emperor of Gods. I'm quite confident I'd be able to break through without needing to enter the Secret Holy Realm. Moreover, there's a chance that entering the Secret Holy Realm might delay my breakthrough. That aside, you should know that if you obtain two slots, one of them will definitely go to Senior Brother Yun Feng."

In fact, Duan Ling Tian did feel the pressure. He was worried Zhen Yun Feng would not be able to enter the Secret Holy Realm if he only obtained two slots. After all, he was from the Cloud Peak faction. As such, he was relieved when he heard Ye Chen Feng's words. Apart from that, he was also shocked when he heard that Ye Chen Feng found a new path to break through and become an advanced Emperor of Gods without needing to enter the Secret Holy Realm. Based on what he knew, it was truly difficult to become an advanced Emperor of Gods; it was naturally easier to break through with fortuitous encounters. However, Ye Chen Feng's innate talent was clearly high enough for him to break through and become an advanced Emperor of Gods without the help of fortuitous encounters.

When Duan Ling Tian recovered his senses, he quickly said, "Congratulations, Elder Ye!"

"Keep this matter to yourself. I haven't even told Zhen Ping Fan about this. After you secure your rank in the top ten, I'll inform Senior Brother Yun Feng and him about it," Ye Chen Feng said.

Duan Ling Tian smiled. "Alright. I won't tell Elder Zhen about it."

"Rest well during these few days. It's fine if you don't go to the venue during the second stage to determine the 31st to the 70th ranking. I'll remind you when it's your turn," Ye Chen Feng said.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "No, it's fine. I want to watch the fights. I won't be able to improve my strength again in such a short time. Perhaps, I might be able to learn something from the fights."