

SOVEREIGN 971

Chapter 971: Being Framed

Duan Ling Tian had broken through his cultivation base and comprehended the Third Level Advanced Wind Concept, and he rushed out like lightning. The Heaven and Earth Phenomenon above his head followed him like his shadow.

When the khaki energy rumbled below Duan Ling Tian's feet, it was as though he resonated with the ground. He traveled across a few caves after he stepped out.

Apart from the bolts of rampant purple lightning rumbling around the khaki energy, there were waves of green energy following it.

Moreover, there was a faint layer of energy on his body that acted as a pathfinder as Duan Ling Tian was rushing. Upon closer inspection, it was a wave of sword-shaped energy.

Meanwhile, ancient horned dragons' silhouettes flew above his head when he was rushing. He looked menacing.

Due to the rapid speed, it was difficult for one to see how many ancient horned dragons' silhouettes were there.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian halted his movement, the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon above his head would be crystal clear. There were a total of 1,150 ancient horned dragons' silhouettes.

A Third Level Void Transformation with an Origin Energy boost that was as powerful as the strength of four hundred ancient horned dragons.

The Third Level Advanced Wind Concept also had the strength of four hundred ancient horned dragons.

The combination of the three remaining types of Ninth Level Void Interpretation Concepts was as powerful the strength of three hundred ancient horned dragons.

Altogether, it had the strength of 1,100 ancient horned dragons!

The extra fifty ancient horned dragons' strength came from Duan Ling Tian's resonance with the Earth Energy with the help from Earth Concept and the earth. It was half the power of the Earth Concept.

Duan Ling Tian was driven by the strength of the 1,150 ancient horned dragons, and he was as fast as wind and thunder. Many martial artists would not be able to catch up with his speed due to how fast he was.

"Hmm?"

It was unknown how long had passed when Duan Ling Tian stopped moving, and he did not look too good.

"Chen Wei!"

Duan Ling Tian revealed a cold gleam in his eyes that seemed as though he was going to devour the next person he saw alive when he saw the body lying on the ground.

It was Chen Wei, a person that he knew.

He had already known Chen Wei before he joined Five Element Sect.

Although their first meeting ended on an unpleasant note, it was actually caused by Chen Wei being deceived by his birth brother.

Duan Ling Tian actually liked Chen Wei as a person.

Before entering the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, Chen Wei was an active person. However, he was now just a cold body. Moreover, it was obvious that he had been dead for many days.

'Bang!'

Duan Ling Tian was solemn as he lifted his foot and stomped on the ground.

'Rumble! Rumble!'

...

All of a sudden, a ferocious crack appeared on the ground where Duan Ling Tian stomped on. It only stopped cracking when it spread to Chen Wei's body, causing Chen Wei's body to fall.

As Duan Ling Tian lifted his arms, the Origin Energy merged with Earth Energy and rushed to the side of the cave wall. The rocks began to chip from above and gravels began to fall.

'Whoosh!'

Duan Ling Tian lifted his arms once again as he controlled the chips and gravels with his energy to fill the gaps for Chen Wei's burial. He wanted Chen Wei to be buried under the ground in peace.

"Rest in peace," Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself with his head lowered as he looked at the cracks that were spread all over the place.

"What's he doing?"

"I happened to see it because I came earlier... He seems to be burying a person's body."

"It should be a brother of the same sect that he's close with."

...

It was unknown when it happened but the scene Duan Ling Tian created had attracted many to watch. They were standing far away and talking among themselves.

Duan Ling Tian frowned as he was getting ready to leave.

"It's Duan Ling Tian!"

Two people entered the cave to watch, and they could not help but exclaim when they saw Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian looked over when he heard the voice.

He recognized the duo at first glance, they were the two monk disciples from the Emyrean Temple.

Although he did not know the duo, he had some impressions of them.

Duan Ling Tian nodded at them. He thought it was fate that they managed to meet each other here since they came from the same entrance.

He was ready to leave again after he greeted and nodded at the duo.

However, before he could move, he realized that he had been surrounded by three people who approached him like three bolts of lightning. As the three surrounded him, their eyes gleamed as they stared at him with greed written all over their faces.

They were looking at him as though he was some precious treasure!

"You're Duan Ling Tian?"

"The most powerful person among the current Five Element Sect on the eastern side of the northern desert?"

"I heard that you obtained a Profundity Fragment?"

As the three of them surrounded Duan Ling Tian, they took turns to speak as their breaths quickened.

"Oh! How can I forget? Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian... I heard from someone that he obtained a Profundity Fragment earlier."

"I heard about that too. Duan Ling Tian, the most powerful person among the current Five Element Sect's disciples. He just obtained a Profundity Fragment not too long ago."

"Oh, so he's that Duan Ling Tian!"

...

Apart from the two Emyrean Temple's monk disciples who had a faint change of expression, the others were staring at Duan Ling Tian menacingly. They could not wait to kill him right away and take the Profundity Fragment from him.

"Hmm?"

Duan Ling Tian frowned when he heard the discussion around him. He immediately looked at the two monk disciples from the Emyrean Temple.

Suddenly, the two Emyrean Temple monk disciples' expressions changed dramatically and spoke immediately in panic as they shook their heads, "Duan Ling Tian, I know nothing about you obtaining the Profundity Fragment."

"That's right. If we knew you obtained the Profundity Fragment and spread the news, we definitely wouldn't have exposed your identity earlier!"

The two Emyrean Temple's monk disciples seemed to be a little panicked when they spoke.

They had witnessed Duan Ling Tian's ability previously. As long as Duan Ling Tian was willing, one blow was all that he needed to kill the both of them instantly!

Duan Ling Tian's frown grew deeper.

He did not blame the two Emyrean Temple's monk disciples for exposing his identity, rather, he was curious how the others knew he had obtained a Profundity Fragment.

Most importantly, these people knew his name as well as his background despite the fact that they had never seen him before.

'When I obtained that Seventh Level Monarch Stage Earth Profundity Fragment, I've taken special care to use Spiritual Energy to probe my surroundings... Apart from myself, there was definitely no other living human that knew about me obtaining the Profundity Fragment!'

Duan Ling Tian recalled the scene when he obtained the Seventh Level Monarch Stage Earth Profundity Fragment, and he was absolutely certain of that.

There was definitely no other living person who knew he had obtained the Profundity Fragment!

It meant that there was only one possibility.

'Someone intentionally framed me in an attempt to make me the common enemy among the group of young people who entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... That person wants me dead!' Duan Ling Tian figured it out immediately after he gave it some thought. A layer of red appeared in his eyes as soon as he figured it out.

He could not hold back the rage that was rising in him at this moment.

The thing that he wanted to do most at this very moment was to find the person who started the rumor and kill him.

Although he was not concerned about the consequences of the rumor, he was extremely irritated that person framed him while hiding in the dark.

Apart from the two Emyrean Temple's monk disciples who were so scared that they were trembling while standing far away, Duan Ling Tian realized that another four people had come up to him and surrounded him, excluding the three people who surrounded him earlier.

There was a total of seven of them surrounding him.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian figured out the situation.

Apart from the three people who were together in the beginning, the other four were separated into two small teams. There were two of them in each small team.

With that said, the seven of them came from three different forces.

There was a total of six forces that came from Entrance No.2.

Apart from the twenty Skywolf Fort disciples who died in his hands, although he did not know the remaining people from the five forces, he had a rough idea of who they were.

However, he did not have any impression of the seven people before him.

"Are all of you the disciples from Anicca Sect, Izumo Sect, and North Nether Sect?" Duan Ling Tian asked with his deep voice and focused his vision as he faced the seven young powerhouses whose Origin Energies were rising as their Concepts followed closely. They were all poised to attack.

"That's right!"

"Why? Are you afraid?"

...

When they heard what Duan Ling Tian said, a couple of young powerhouses surrounding him wore a prideful smile on their faces.

As disciples from second-rate forces, they had a sense of superiority when they encountered disciples from third-rate forces such as Five Element Sect.

'It seems like there really are two entrances in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... People from the Anicca Sect, Izumo Sect and North Nether Sect all came from Entrance No.1 while the others and I came from Entrance No.2.'

'Until now, I've yet to meet anyone who came from the third entrance.' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself and secretly confirmed the fact.

Although Duan Ling Tian was surrounded by the seven of them, he was not afraid at all. He asked slowly, "Which one of you are Anicca Sect's disciples?"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's eyes were calm and his face was relaxed. His expression would not change even if Mountain Tai was to collapse before him.

"We're Anicca Sect's disciples," a young man and lady responded calmly after Duan Ling Tian spoke.

The young man wore a cold expression as he stared at Duan Ling Tian greedily.

Meanwhile, the young lady had a calm expression, and nobody could tell if she was happy or angry.

"For the sake of me being acquainted with Peng Bao, I'll advise you to retreat."

Duan Ling Tian glanced at the two Anicca Sect's disciples calmly. His tone was peaceful without any emotions.

Peng Bao was the Anicca Sect's disciple that he met earlier. He had a tremendous ability with a Third Level Void Transformation cultivation base.

When the both of them met, all he did was trade with Peng Bao since it was beneficial to both parties. They only met once, but he liked Peng Bao's straightforward character.

When he found out the duo before him were Anicca Sect's disciples, he was willing to let them live when he recalled Peng Bao. Otherwise, he would definitely not waste his breath on them.

The Anicca Sect's female disciple who had a calm face since the beginning could not help but said out loud, "You know Senior Brother Peng Bao?"

"Yes, I know him." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

The Anicca Sect's female disciple heard what he said and retreated after she nodded. "Senior Brother Peng Bao saved my life. Since you're his friend... I won't give you a difficult time today."

"Hmph! So what if you know Senior Brother Peng Bao? I must take the Profundity Fragment from you!"

However, the Anicca Sect's male disciple did not appreciate Duan Ling Tian's mercy.

Chapter 972: The Re-emergence of the God of Slaughter

Duan Ling Tian seemed like he did not hear what the male disciple from Anicca Sect said.

He gazed at the other six who were surrounding him and said, "The six of you... just come at me together!" When the six young powerhouses from second-rate forces heard what Duan Ling Tian said and saw the disregard on his face, their faces changed dramatically, and all of them were completely enraged by it.

A disciple from a third-rate force challenging the six of them from second-rate forces?

Provocation!

Direct provocation!

"Since you wish to die, we'll help you with it."

"We'll let you know, disciples from third-rate forces like you are similar to ants in the eyes of disciples from second-rate forces like us."

"It's as easy as killing chickens or cutting grass for us to kill you!"

...

Six of the disciples the from second-rate forces attacked simultaneously as they struck at Duan Ling Tian.

They fully exerted their Origin Energies, and their Concepts followed like shadows as they released the spirit weapons in their hands and gave it their best shot. They charged toward Duan Ling Tian with great momentum.

Each of them had several hundreds of ancient horned dragons' silhouettes at the space above them as they charged toward Duan Ling Tian who was surrounded in the middle.

More than three thousand ancient horned dragons' silhouettes formed a siege and lunged toward Duan Ling Tian's position with their fangs and claws bared.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

The full force from the six second-rate forces' disciples caused the air to compress rapidly, and a series of air explosion that sounded as loud as exploding mines resounded.

When the air explosions sounded, jets of airwaves rolled out in all directions and turned into gusts of strong wind. Everyone's robes billowed and fluttering sounds could be heard.

"Kill!" The spirit weapons in the hands of the six disciples from second-rate forces seemed to turn into death scythes at that moment as they headed for Duan Ling Tian, trying to reap his life.

The female Anicca Sect's disciple looked on calmly from the side.

In her opinion, it was impossible for the purple-clad young man, Duan Ling Tian, to survive the attacks of the six young powerhouses from the second-rate forces.

However, when her gaze inadvertently landed on the other two bystanders, she realized they were looking sympathetically at the six young powerhouses from the second-rate forces that were with her.

"En?" Her heart immediately sank, and she had an ominous premonition.

Was the purple-clad young man strong enough to deal with the six of them?

She felt a little absurd on second thought.

A disciple from a third-rate force, even if he was the No.1 among the youths, it was still impossible to fight six young powerhouses who were not inferior to her.

Nevertheless, she was stunned in the very next moment. Her face turned red as if her throat was being choked.

Her eyes were wide as she stared at the scene before her, incredulity and amazement filled her eyes.

Oh, God!

What did she just see?!

Under the siege of the six young powerhouses as strong as him, the purple-clad young man casually stepped upward.

A sword that exuded a devastating aura then appeared in his hands.

'This is definitely not a grade two spirit sword!' A thought instantly appeared in her subconscious mind.

What surprised her the most was the subsequent move from the purple-clad young man.

He exerted his Origin Energy that continued transforming into a vast amount of khaki energy entwined with bolts of purple lightning along with gusts of green wind that were solidifying.

Apart from that, there was a swift and piercing aura on the purple-clad young man.

"Sword Concept!" The female Anicca Sect disciple was very familiar with it since she was a martial artist who had comprehended the Sword Concept.

'He has comprehended so many Concepts? All of them seem to be at a high level too.' Within a few breaths' time, the female Anicca Sect's disciple only had time to figure out this much.

In the next moment, she witnessed an unforgettable scene. It was a scene that haunted her for the rest of her life and made her feel grateful for the choice she made today.

The female Anicca Sect's disciple clearly saw as the purple-clad young man raised his hand and swung his sword. A frightening sword qi turned around as fast as a flash of lightning, and it lasted very briefly.

Shortly after, all the six young powerhouses, who were charging toward him with great momentum, were slashed at their waists into two halves. Their incomplete corpses smashed together due to inertia.

Everything happened in a blink of an eye, all six of them died without time for any one of them to even scream.

The female Anicca Sect's disciple completely froze.

She only realized what had happened after a while. Her face was filled with horror as she muttered, "Senior brother Peng Bao... I owe you my life once again!"

She knew if she did not back down when the purple-clad young man mentioned Peng Bao, there would have been more than six deaths. She would not have been able to stay alive.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Pieces of incomplete corpses fell on the ground and quickly dyed the ground red like a river of blood, and it was dreadful.

The two Emyrean Temple's disciples were shocked and pale as their bodies trembled.

Although they had expected the scene before them would happen, they still could not help but feel frightened when they witnessed it.

The six young powerhouses might be disciples from second-rate forces, but to them, the strength of Duan Ling Tian from Five Element Sect had surpassed ordinary disciples from second-rate forces.

They were no match for Duan Ling Tian's strength unless they were the best among the younger generation from the second-rate forces!

As for the best among the younger generation from second-rate forces, although they had never seen any, they could still identify that the six people who attacked Duan Ling Tian were not at that level.

The six of them would have been at most the better ones among the youths from the second-rate forces.

However, Duan Ling Tian's ability to instantly kill six First Level Void Transformation disciples from second-rate forces with one move had strike fear into their hearts.

"Duan Ling Tian's strength seems to have increased." They came to the same conclusion as they looked at each other. The depths of their eyes were filled with a fear that came from the bottom of their hearts.

"You've overestimated yourselves!" As Duan Ling Tian's coolly glanced at six of the incomplete corpses on the ground, a hint of coldness hung on the corner of his mouth.

His Spiritual Energy had identified the level of cultivation of the six of them. They were all First Level Void Transformation martial artists who were nothing before him.

Waves of Origin Energy rolled out as Duan Ling Tian raised his arms, he kept the grade two spirit weapons and Spatial Rings that belonged to the six of them. These were the trophies and fruits of his labor.

Then, Duan Ling Tian casually glanced at that female Anicca Sect's disciple and two of the Emyrean Temple's monk disciples.

"Duan Ling Tian, we won't tell anyone that you've acquired a Profundity Fragment," the two Emyrean Temple's monk disciples hurriedly said when they saw Duan Ling Tian's gaze. They bit their fingers and quickly made an oath with their blood on the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation.

Duan Ling Tian was speechless when he saw that.

When did he ask them to make an oath?

He knew in his heart that the news of him acquiring a Profundity Fragment was intentionally leaked. It was safe to assume that most of the young powerhouses in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure already knew about it.

Apart from those uninformed, everyone else must have known.

"No matter who it is... Those who hit below the belt must be repaid with my endless anger!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes turned cold as the anger in his heart skyrocketed.

Shou! Under the watchful gazes of both of the Emyrean Temple's monk disciples and the female Anicca Sect's disciple, Duan Ling Tian moved and disappeared before their eyes in just a second as if he had vanished into thin air.

Only then did the three of them heave a sigh of relief.

In front of Duan Ling Tian, they felt oppressed from the bottom of their hearts.

He was a chilling God of Slaughter!

When they looked at the six incomplete corpses before them, their faces paled again, and a hint of fear that came from the bottom of their hearts shone in their eyes.

The female Anicca Sect's disciple looked at the two Empyrean Temple's monk disciples and asked calmly, "Both of you... knew that he was so strong?"

"Of course! He killed forty-eight young disciples from third-rate forces with only two swords when he entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... He's a freak!"

"I have to say, you made the right choice... Otherwise, you would've ended up like them," said the two Empyrean Temple's monk disciples as their gazes landed on the remains stacked in a river of blood in front of them and involuntarily shuddered again.

"Killed forty-eight young disciples from third-rate forces with two swords?" The female Anicca Sect's disciple could not help but narrow her eyes.

Those who were sent into the Martial Emperor's secret treasure would have been the stronger ones among the younger generation of third-rate forces' disciples, they would not be weak.

However, to kill forty-eight young disciples from third-rate forces with merely two swords, she knew she would not be able to achieve that with her strength.

Even if she was able to kill them all, she would not be able to do it so simply and swiftly.

"Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian... Senior brother Peng Bao, what kind of freak did you meet?" A bitter smile hung on the corner of the female Anicca Sect's disciple's mouth.

If Duan Ling Tian did not mention Peng Bao in a timely manner, and she did not withdraw from the battle because Peng Bao had saved her life before, she would have been more than dead!

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian did not have the time to figure out the Empyrean Temple's monk disciples' and the female Anicca Sect's disciple's state of mind.

He continued to search for the directions to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

Obviously, he was also trying to deduce who was the person that framed him.

'Knows my name and my background... The person who framed me must have been from one of the six major forces that entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure with me.'

'Nineteen disciples from Skywolf Fort was killed by me as soon as we entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... Could it be Zi Shang who spread the news?' Duan Ling Tian furrowed his brows as the thought arose.

In his opinion, this was the most viable possibility. Although he had killed Zi Shang, who knew if Zi Shang had already framed him by spreading the news of him possessing a Profundity Fragment before that.

"No!" Very soon, Duan Ling Tian suddenly thought of something and shook his head.

Chapter 973: Headed Toward the Central Area

'The soul remnant that was hidden in Zi Shang's body... is most likely from the Deviseal Tablet! After all, he did own a Deviseal Tablet fragment.'

'More importantly, the soul remnant that was hidden in Zi Shang's body seems to be a Martial Emperor powerhouse who recognized the Deviseal Tablet! It's possible that he knew the background of the Deviseal Tablet.'

'Then, he should know the value of the Deviseal Tablet... This also means Zi Shang wouldn't have framed me! Otherwise, if I'm killed, the Deviseal Tablet will fall into other people's hands.' Duan Ling Tian thought a lot in just a few minutes.

First, he was certain Zi Shang knew the value of the Deviseal Tablet.

Back when he was hunted by the Skywolf Fort's four Vice Fort Masters, it was led by Zi Shang with the Deviseal Tablet.

'It could be that Zi Shang wanted Skywolf Fort to obtain the Deviseal Tablet first before he steals it back with other methods... He had aid from a soul remnant that seems to be a Martial Emperor powerhouse, it wouldn't be difficult to obtain strength that surpasses Skywolf Fort in the future!'

'However, it's different in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure! Once he spreads the news that I have a Profundity Fragment... He wouldn't be able to find out who killed me, let alone retrieving the Deviseal Tablet from the person who killed me.' With this line of thought, Duan Ling Tian confirmed that the person who framed him was not Zi Shang!

Since Zi Shang was interested in his Deviseal Tablet, he would not do such a stupid thing.

'But if not Zi Shang, then who is it?' Duan Ling Tian frowned as he flew. He still could not figure out who was trying to frame him.

'Could it be that two disciples from Sun Moon Sect?' Soon, Duan Ling Tian thought of the remaining Sun Moon Sect's disciples. They had the largest motive since the other eighteen Sun Moon Sect's disciples died in his hands.

If the two of them wanted revenge, then they would have the motive.

'Apart from them, the people from Emotion Severing Sect would also have a motive.' When he first entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, he had killed nineteen disciples from Skywolf Fort, seventeen disciples from Sun Moon Sect, and twelve disciples from Emotion Severing Sect.

"It's possible that among the remaining Emotion Severing Sect's disciples, there are a few who wish to avenge the dead Emotion Severing Sect's disciples," Duan Ling Tian murmured.

Shortly after, Duan Ling Tian let out a bitter smile.

'There's also the Blade Sect's disciple, Lian Xiong... His arm was severed by Tian Wu before entering the Martial Emperor's secret treasure because of me! Although he reattached his arm, I'm pretty sure he hates me.' Duan Ling Tian thought as he continued to search for possible suspects.

As he analyzed, he realized that no matter if it was the Blade Sect's disciple, Emphyrean Temple's disciples or even Five Element Sect's disciples, all of them seemed to have the possibility of framing him.

"This is a headache." Duan Ling Tian shook his head and stopped thinking. However, his eyes revealed a harsh and cold light. "It doesn't matter who it is. They dared to frame me... I'll kill you and let you die horribly once I catch you!"

Duan Ling Tian moved rapidly, as fast as the wind, as he traveled across caves.

Along Duan Ling Tian's journey, he heard chatters about him from a lot of the surviving young powerhouses. They were discussing the issue of the Profundity Fragment.

After half a month's time, Duan Ling Tian finally confirmed the directions to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure and headed there.

'Finally confirmed the direction... That Martial Emperor powerhouse's palace is there!' Duan Ling Tian flew toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure. His speed was at the maximum, all that was left to be seen by young powerhouses along the way was a purple lightning-like figure.

"That person is moving so fast!"

"Yes, I couldn't catch up with his trail at all."

"Such a speed... He must at least be at the Fourth Level Void Transformation or above!"

...

The young powerhouses along the way could not help but sigh and admit defeat when they saw the flashing purple figure.

As Duan Ling Tian headed toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, a lot of young powerhouses scattered about the Martial Emperor's secret treasure had also figured out the directions to the central area and were traveling there.

"Brother Ling Tian obtained a Profundity Fragment?" Two figures were rapidly moving toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure. One of them was surprised by the talks they had heard along the way.

"Peng Bao, you know that Duan Ling Tian?" The other person was Lei Jun, he was the second strongest powerhouse of the younger generation from Izumo Sect.

The former figure was Peng Bao, the second strongest powerhouse of the younger generation from Anicca Sect.

"I know him. He can be considered a friend... But, I did not realize he has the ability to obtain a Profundity Fragment." Peng Bao nodded, surprise showed on his face when he spoke.

He did not think that the young man he had seen once had such a strength!

As someone who had obtained a Profundity Fragment at the outer side of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, he clearly knew that one needed sufficient strength and luck to obtain a Profundity Fragment.

The puppets guarding the Profundity Fragment was already troublesome enough.

Apart from the puppets, the boxes that contained the Profundity Fragment would release an extremely penetrating sound to attract people nearby.

If one could not overpower those who were attracted, the Profundity Fragment would have to be given away.

Hence, to obtain a Profundity Fragment, luck was secondary, and strength was the most important factor.

"If I meet him, I'll snatch the Profundity Fragment from his hands...You won't interfere, will you?" Lei Jun's eyes flashed as he asked quietly.

"If I meet him, I'll ask him which type of Profundity Fragment he has... If it's the one Anicca Sect needs, I'll try to exchange my Profundity Fragment with his," Peng Bao said calmly, he did not answer Lei Jun.

Lei Jun's eyes brightened when he heard his words.

Peng Bao's Profundity Fragment was the one he desperately needs, but he could not obtain it from Peng Bao.

If it fell into the Five Element Sect's disciple's hands who was from a third-rate force, it would be easily snatched by him, right?

A young disciple from a third-rate force, even if he was the strongest person among the younger generation of the third-rate forces, he would not be better than the second strongest person from Izumo Sect, a second-rate force.

Lei Jun was very confident of his strength.

"Now, I hope the Profundity Fragment in Duan Ling Tian's hands is the one Anicca Sect needs... Even if it's not, I'll still snatch the Profundity Fragment from his hands!" Lei Jun mumbled as a cold light gleamed in his eyes. "An ant from a third-rate force isn't qualified to own a Profundity Fragment!"

Shou! Shou!

Peng Bao and Lei Jun moved very fast as they headed toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

At the same time, there were also a lot of other people who were traveling to the central area.

Shou!

A red-hot figure surrounded by a burning aura flashed by several caves in a blink of an eye. The speed was so fast that several young powerhouses along the way felt ashamed.

"Big Brother Duan should also be on his way to the central area right?" The figure that flashed by was a red-clad girl. She was like an elf dancing in the fire when she flew, drop-dead gorgeous and alluring. She looked around twenty. There was a bit of expectation between her eyebrows as she hurriedly traveled.

In her mind, the figure of a purple-clad young man appeared. It made her blushed, and it looked ravishing.

Shou! Shou!

On the other side of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, two shadows flew side by side at an extremely high speed.

There was a young man in red and a young man in blue who looked identical. It was obvious that they were twins.

However, they had entirely different expressions on their faces.

The red-clad youth was expressive with constantly changing expressions, whereas the blue-clad young man's face was extremely cold and remained the same from the beginning.

"Duan Ling Tian has obtained a Profundity Fragment?" There was a hint of surprise on the red-clad young man's face. "When you look at it, he's as lucky as us"

The blue-clad young man raised his eyebrows but stayed silent.

"The Profound Assimilation Formation we found in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure is way more powerful than the one we experienced in the sect... Judging from how our Concepts have improved, you can tell the Profound Assimilation Formation has a lot of Concept Fragments that are of better grades," the red-clad young man exclaimed.

This pair of twins was the Nangong Twins from Five Element Sect.

The blue-clad young man with a stony face was Nangong Chen, and the red-clad young man who looked fascinated was Nangong Yi.

The brothers were polar opposites, one was quiet and the other was lively.

Ever since they entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, they had each acquired a grade one spirit weapon in addition to entering an automatically activated Profound Assimilation Formation.

They were inside the Profound Assimilation Formation for three hours, and their Concepts had improved tremendously.

The improvement compared to the improvement they experienced in the Profound Assimilation Formation in Five Element Sect was like comparing heaven and earth.

Five Element Sect's Profound Assimilation Formation was nothing before the Profound Assimilation Formation in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

"Too bad the Profound Assimilation Formation can only be activated once... Otherwise, we could have comprehended the Ninth Level Advanced Concept if we're allowed to enter again," Nangong Yi sighed and said with pity all over his face.

"Greedy!" Nangong Chen said coolly.

"You don't want to?" Nangong Yi glanced at Nangong Chen scornfully. "Nevertheless, our encounter is better than Duan Ling Tian... Although he obtained a Profundity Fragment, he would have to hand it over to the sect."

"Heh, very hard to stay alive," Nangong Chen said a few words, he cherished his words as though it was gold.

"Yes... We did not expect those who entered from the other entrance of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure are from second-rate forces." Nangong Yi nodded with an apprehensive face.

Chapter 974: The Meeting

Since they had heard about Duan Ling Tian obtaining a Profundity Fragment, the young powerhouses from the second-rate forces had to have also heard of it.

Duan Ling Tian had to be everyone's target.

It was not difficult to guess.

"Although Duan Ling Tian is strong, I'm afraid he's no match for the top young powerhouses from second-rate forces!" Nangong Yi took a deep breath. His tone was filled with fear for the several few top young powerhouses from second-rate forces.

With his current strength, he could easily take on the average young powerhouses from second-rate forces. However, he had no confidence to win against top young powerhouses from second-rate forces.

Apart from having a Martial Emperor powerhouse in their sects, second-rate forces were second-rate forces because the young powerhouses' cultivations were far better than the cultivation by third-rate forces like Five Element Sect.

For once, Nangong Chen nodded and agreed with Nangong Yi.

Meanwhile, all around the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, more and more people had figured out the directions to the central area and were traveling there.

"En?" On his way to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, Duan Ling Tian who was hurriedly traveling had just flown through a cave and saw three extremely familiar figures appearing in the distant.

The three of them were flying in the same direction as he was, they were obviously heading toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

"Daniu, Su Li, Big Brother Zhang." Duan Ling Tian's speed was as fast as lightning, he caught up like a ghost. He smiled and said hello when he arrived at their side.

The three of them were none other than Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong!

Duan Ling Tian did not expect to meet them here, let alone to see the three of them together.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

"Brother Ling Tian!" Duan Ling Tian's appearance was a huge surprise for Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong. Seeing Duan Ling Tian again brought excitement to their eyes.

"Duan Ling Tian, good for you... I thought you're already killed by the hands of the others!" Huang Daniu said in jest.

"Duan Ling Tian, did you really obtain a Profundity Fragment?" Su Li looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked with a piercing gaze.

Zhang Shou Yong also looked at Duan Ling Tian.

"If I say no... will all of you believe it?" Having heard Su Li's question, Duan Ling Tian knew the three of them must have heard about the rumor that he had obtained a Profundity Fragment. He could not help but smile bitterly.

Although he had obtained a Profundity Fragment, that was something no other living person knew.

As for the widespread rumor, it was just a setup.

"No?" Having heard Duan Ling Tian's respond, not only Su Li and Zhang Shou Yong, even Huang Daniu was surprised.

"Someone's trying to set me up." There was a flash in Duan Ling Tian's eyes, a glimmer of coldness flash past as though waiting for a chance to devour someone. "I still don't know who it is, but one thing's for sure, that person must have entered from Entrance No.2 with us."

"I'll surely kill them once I find out who it is," Huang Daniu threw a punch and said in anger. His face sank when he heard what Duan Ling Tian said.

"By framing you like this, he obviously wants to get you killed... That person must hold a grudge against you. Could it be the two remaining disciples of Sun Moon Sect?" Su Li speculated.

"It could also be Lian Xiong." There was a flash in Zhang Shou Yong's eyes who stood at the side. He quietly said, "In Blade Sect, everyone knows Lian Xiong always holds grudges and seeks revenge! He certainly wouldn't give up so easily after such a big loss to Brother Ling Tian."

"I've thought about these people that you all mentioned... I did consider the Emotion Severing Sect's disciples. After all, all of them have the motive! The one who framed me doesn't necessarily have to hold a grudge against me. It may be pure jealousy, and they just don't want me to survive this expedition in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure," Duan Ling Tian said slowly and shared his deduction.

Huang Daniu and the rest immediately fell silent.

"That person is really insidious! With one phrase, he put you in danger... Now, those young powerhouses from second-rate forces must be looking for you," Huang Daniu said with an alarmed expression.

Second-rate forces?

Duan Ling Tian lifted his eyebrows when he heard what Huang Daniu said.

None of the disciples of second-rate forces he had met and battled was a match for him. All of them died in his hands.

"Even if it's that Peng Bao from Anicca Sect... With my current strength, it shouldn't be hard to win him!" Duan Ling Tian unconsciously thought of Peng Bao whom he had met once previously.

At that time, his Spiritual Energy discovered Peng Bao was a Third Level Void Transformation martial artist. He did not have much confidence in winning a battle against Peng Bao then, but things have changed.

Unless Peng Bao had a fortuitous encounter, he would not be a match for Duan Ling Tian.

The four of them traveled to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure together. Along the way, Huang Daniu asked curiously, "Duan Ling Tian, did you gain anything else along the way?"

"It's not too bad... I obtained a Ninth Level Earth Concept fragment and a spirit fruit," Duan Ling Tian said as he smiled, he did not mention the incident with the Seventh Level Monarch Stage Earth Profundity Fragment. Otherwise, he would be admitting the rumor was true. Then, that person would not be framing him but would have spoken the truth instead.

That was not something he was willing to see.

"What about all of you?" After Duan Ling Tian told them about his acquisition, he looked at Huang Daniu and the other two others and asked, "How did the three of you meet?"

"I met Su Li first," Huang Daniu said.

"Yes." Su Li nodded. "After that, Daniu and I met Big brother Zhang together, and we decided to travel together. We did acquire some things... So far, we managed to collect all the Ninth Level Concept fragments that are usable for the three of us."

"Looks like it's a fruitful trip for the three of you," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"Duan Ling Tian, you don't know... Apart from those, we encountered a Profundity Fragment! It was an Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment!" Huang Daniu said and sighed at the same time, hints of regret filled his face.

"Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment?!" Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard Huang Daniu's statement.

Although he had a Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment, it was just a Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment. It was incomparable to an Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment.

"You all didn't get it?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed when he saw Huang Daniu's sigh. He asked curiously, "Since you all didn't manage to obtain it... This means the person who obtained that

Profundity Fragment is stronger! But why did he let you go? Isn't he worried that you all will spread the news that he had obtained a Profundity Fragment?"

"He wanted to kill us, but we narrowly escaped... Besides, he doesn't seem to care about us spreading the news that he got a Profundity Fragment," Zhang Shou Yong said with a bitter smile.

"What does that mean?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned, his face filled with questions.

In his opinion, since the person tried to kill Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong, that means he was worried the three of them would spread the news that he had obtained a Profundity Fragment. However, why did Zhang Shou Yong say he did not care?

Was that not contradictory?

Shortly after, Duan Ling Tian finally understood after listening to Su Li's explanation.

"What you mean is... He just stomped his feet, and several disciples from Izumo Sect and Anicca Sect was killed?" Duan Ling Tian could not help but inhale sharply.

Based on Su Li and the others' explanation, he gathered that the several Izumo Sect and Anicca Sect's disciples were the weakest among the disciples of second-rate forces that entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

However, that black-clad young man was able to kill them with just a stomp of his feet and almost killed Su Li and the rest. He felt shocked from the bottom of his heart.

Huang Daniu's face was filled with fear as he said, "That person's strength should be at least at the Second or Third Level Void Transformation... More importantly, he comprehended the Earth Concept, and can draw support from Earth Energy!"

"According to what you've said... He's at least a Third Level Void Transformation martial artist! Additionally, the Earth Concept he has comprehended would be at least at the Third Level Advanced or higher," Duan Ling Tian guessed as he referred to the experience in the Rebirth Martial Emperor's memories.

"Forget it, don't mention him... Makes me feel unlucky!" Huang Daniu shook his head. "Duan Ling Tian, the news of you obtaining a Profundity Fragment has spread... Maybe you should stay away from the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure?"

"That's right! Duan Ling Tian, what you should do now is protect yourself." Su Li agreed.

"Brother Ling Tian, I think you shouldn't go too... Once you're there, human greed will make you an obvious target for everyone," Zhang Shou Yong added.

Duan Ling Tian's heart warmed after listening to the concerns of the three of them.

Just when he wanted to say something, "Heng, you're Duan Ling Tian?" A cold humph sounded from the opening of a cave in front of them, and it spread clearly into Duan Ling Tian's ears.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian saw a black figure appeared on the path they were headed toward.

It was a black-clad young man with an indifferent expression. His eyes seemed dull, but in fact, it hid a murderous intent and gave out an invisible sense of oppression.

Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows and extended his Spiritual Energy. He intended to identify his opponent's cultivation.

"It's you!!" At that moment, the screams of Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong shocked Duan Ling Tian. His Spiritual Energy almost collapsed, and his heart was filled with curiosity.

Did they know the black-clad young man?

"Duan Ling Tian, he's the person we previously mentioned... But we didn't expect him to be nearby and to be eavesdropping on our conversation," Su Li answered the question in Duan Ling Tian's mind using Voice Transmission.

"Then... That Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment is with him?" Having heard what Su Li said, Duan Ling Tian stared at the black-clad young man who was blocking their way with a piercing gaze.

His killing intent showed in the depth of his eyes.

Chapter 975: The Strength of the Black-clad Young Man

As Duan Ling Tian looked at the black-clad young man with killing intent flashing in his eyes, the gaze the black-clad young man used to look at him was also filled with the same aloof killing intent as though he was about to devour a certain somebody.

Apart from killing intent, greed could also be seen in the black-clad young man's gaze.

"Looks like he has also heard the news about me obtaining the Profundity Fragment." Duan Ling Tian was astute so he did not miss the greed in the depth of the black-clad young man's eyes. With just a beat of his heart, he faintly came to a conclusion.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian extended his Spiritual Energy and immediately probed the black-clad young man's cultivation base.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed immediately after he discovered the black-clad young man's cultivation base.

"I didn't expect to come across the three of you again. You three were lucky last time so I spared your lives. However, this time you can all die together since you're on the same side as Duan Ling Tian!" The black-clad young man's cold gaze landed on Duan Ling Tian for a moment before sweeping across Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong. His tone was cold and aloof.

As soon the words left his mouth, the black-clad young man raised his foot. The Origin Energy on his foot soared up before merging with Earth Concept and transformed into a gust of vast khaki energy that slammed mightily on the ground.

BAM!

A loud noise reverberated in the air, it shook the entire cavern as the earth trembled, and the mountains swayed. A hideous crack spread out beneath the black-clad young man's feet and continued to spread out in four cracks, heading to where Duan Ling Tian, Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong were standing.

The speed of the cracks spreading was as fast as lightning, it so fast that it was absolutely terrifying!

Horror dawned on Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong at once.

At this moment, they could clearly sense that the attack launched by the black-clad young man was more than 50% stronger than the attack that he cast previously.

'Looks like he held back last time!' This thought flashed across the three of their minds at the same time.

However, right at this moment, three cracks that contained bloodcurdling energy had crept out and already arrived before them. It left them with no time to resist nor escape.

For a time, despair rose up from the bottom of their hearts.

'Are we going to die now?'

In a flash, three pairs of eyes dimmed down a little.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

At the crucial moment, four loud bangs exploded and clearly entered their ears and woke them up from their trances.

In the next second, they saw with their own eyes that the three vile cracks containing horrendous energy that spread out toward them were suppressed by a more powerful force within a foot from them.

Apart from the three cracks that crept out toward them, the crack that was heading toward Duan Ling Tian was suppressed by an even more powerful force.

The person who made the move was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

Nobody noticed when, but Duan Ling Tian was already standing high in the air. With his purple robe fluttering in the air, he appeared incredibly elegant with his graceful bearing.

Empty-handed, he stood there watching the black-clad young man calmly as though the person who made the move earlier was not him at all.

The black-clad young man stood in the air as well. The Heaven and Earth Energy above his head swirled and gathered into 800 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons that writhed as they descended, vivid and lively.

Third Level Void Transformation!

Earlier when Duan Ling Tian had extended his Spiritual Energy out, he immediately discovered the cultivation base of the black-clad young man.

Third Level Advance Earth Concept!

Presently, he could even read the level of the Earth Concept the black-clad young man had comprehended when the black-clad young man launched his attack.

"The strength of 800 ancient horned dragons. And this is before he borrows the Earth Energy by resonating with the Earth using his Earth Concept! If he borrows the Earth Energy, he can cast out the strength of 1000 ancient horned dragons even without relying on the spirit weapon." Although Duan Ling Tian's gaze remained calm and collected, he could not help but be taken aback in his heart.

If the Third Level Advance Earth Concept was unleashed, it would be equivalent to the strength of 400 ancient horned dragons!

If he borrowed the Earth Energy, he would have an additional 50% strength that was equivalent to the strength of 200 ancient horned dragons.

Along with his Fourth Level Void Transformation's Origin Energy (T/N: Mr. Author might have made a mistake over here. In just a few paragraphs above, it was stated that the black-clad young man's cultivation base was at the Third Level but now it turned out to be the Fourth Level) that had the strength of 400 ancient horned dragons, the black-clad young man possessed the strength of 1000 ancient horned dragons without adding in the spirit weapon yet.

"Oh?" The black-clad young man's originally aloof and calm expression changed slightly after Duan Ling Tian suppressed his four waves of energy.

The other party's move was as fast as lightning. Without the need to mobilize his Heaven and Earth Energy to form the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon, he had already suppressed his own energy!

It was safe to assume that this person's strength was far greater than the strength of 800 ancient horned dragons that he had demonstrated earlier.

Although the other party did not use any spirit weapon like him, he was not afraid at all.

This was because he did not borrow the Earth Energy to make his move. If he had borrowed the Earth Energy, his Earth Concept would have an additional strength of 200 ancient horned dragons!

He believed at that time, this purple-clad young man before him would no longer be his opponent, and would be stepped beneath his feet!

"No wonder you could obtain a Profundity Fragment. Looks like I've underestimated you!" When the black-clad young man looked at Duan Ling Tian once again, his face had regained its calmness, but there was still some solemnness in the depth of his gaze. He had truly taken Duan Ling Tian seriously as his opponent now.

"Duan Ling Tian's strength..." When Huang Daniu saw the 800 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons that appeared above the black-clad young man's head, his eyes could not help but narrow. However, the moment he returned to his senses, his attention immediately shifted to that purple figure hovering in the air.

At this moment, just a purple silhouette was already enough to appear majestic in Huang Daniu's eyes.

"The strength of 800 ancient horned dragons could actually be suppressed by Duan Ling Tian with just a lift of his hand? Moreover, he's not using any spirit weapon at all?" All that Huang Daniu could feel was his alarmingly fast heartbeat. For a long period of time, he could not accept this shocking fact at all.

Although he did not know much about Duan Ling Tian's background, he could feel that the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed today was entirely different from the strength that he had demonstrated previously. It was as though the strength was from an entirely different person.

It had only been such a short time, and Duan Ling Tian's strength was so strong now?

"Before this, Duan Ling Tian did say that he obtained a spirit fruit... Could it be that it was the spirit fruit that helped him with this breakthrough?" At the same time, Huang Daniu could not help but speculate on his own.

Su Li and Zhang Shou Yong's gazes landed on Duan Ling Tian in unison as well. Their eyes were shining with a complicated light.

Compared to Huang Daniu, both of them knew Duan Ling Tian earlier, and they practically watched him grow up day by day.

At this moment, the gap between them and Duan Ling Tian had become even wider.

Such a gap almost made them suffocate!

"However, although your strength is quite impressive, you'll still have to die today. Not only you, your three other friends will have to die as well!" As the black-clad young man's gaze turned colder, the khaki energy on his body trembled violently before forging a special connection with the entire cavern.

After a moment, the khaki energy on his body sizzled.

At the same time, another 200 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons appeared above his head. The moment the scene entered Huang Daniu and the other two persons' sights, they were overcome with astonishment.

"The strength from the Earth Energy is not a part of the 800 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons that he demonstrated earlier?" Huang Daniu's eyes narrowed instantly.

"After he borrows the Earth Energy, his full strength is equivalent to 1000 ancient horned dragons! And all this is without the help of his spirit weapon! Once he uses his spirit weapon, I wonder how strong he'll be?" Su Li and Zhang Shou Yong narrowed their eyes. Their heartbeats increased, and the pace became faster as time went by. They were not able to calm down for a long time.

Nobody knew when, but a wry smile had already crept up on the corners of their mouths.

"No wonder after he saw his strength being suppressed by Duan Ling Tian, not only did he not retreat, there's no shock on his face at all. As it turns out, he didn't borrow the Earth Energy yet!" Despair rose up in Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong's hearts.

Although the strength Duan Ling Tian demonstrated earlier was very strong, they did not think Duan Ling Tian could defeat the black-clad young man who was able to demonstrate the strength of 1000 ancient horned dragons without the help of any spirit weapon.

Nobody realized when, but a gigantic hammer had suddenly appeared in the black-clad young man's hand. As soon as the gigantic hammer appeared, it was immediately entangled by the khaki energy as it emanated waves of tyrannical aura.

Whoosh!

In the next moment, the Heaven and Earth above the black-clad young man whirled once again and an additional 350 over silhouettes of ancient horned dragons appeared again very quickly by the side of the 1000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons.

The black-clad young man had a cultivation base at the Third Level Void Transformation. When he unleashed all his Origin Energy, it was equivalent to the strength of 400 ancient horned dragons.

This gigantic hammer gave a boost of 350 ancient horned dragons to the black-clad young man based on the 400 ancient horned dragons. One could easily make out the grade of this weapon.

"A boost of 88%... That's a grade one spirit weapon!" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes at once. He could instantly see through the grade of the gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand — it was a grade one spirit weapon.

The black-clad young man stood there as he held the gigantic hammer. Vast khaki energy emanated out of his body. With the gigantic hammer in his hand as the center, it turned into a vortex.

As the vortex expanded, it set off a series of faint explosion sound.

When the vast energy spread out to the ground of the cavern, the ground started to crumble and dense cracks spread out like a huge spider web.

Apart from that, flurries of hurricanes swept out in all directions with the black-clad young man in the center, and it spread throughout the cavern in just a blink of an eye. It caused the robes on Duan Ling Tian and the other three to flutter loudly in the wind.

"Leave first," Duan Ling Tian did not turn his head, he ordered unhurriedly as he stared at the black-clad young man calmly.

Naturally, this sentence was not aimed at the black-clad young man at all.

The moment Huang Daniu and the other two heard this, they exchanged glances before heaving a sigh of relief and left the cavern. They stood at the entrance of the cavern as they watched Duan Ling Tian and the black-clad young man who was at a stalemate from a distance away.

They were aware that not only would they not be able to be of any help to Duan Ling Tian in the face of this strong black-clad young man, they might become a burden to him instead.

Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air. Faced with this black-clad young man who had over 1350 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons above his head, a calm look still remained on his face as he asked indifferently, "You're a disciple of the North Nether Sect?"

Previously, he had heard from Huang Daniu that this black-clad young man did not even bat an eyelash when he killed the disciples from Anicca Sect and Izumo Sect.

Due to this reason, this person was most likely not a disciple of Anicca Sect or Izumo Sect.

Chapter 976: The Strength of 1,500 Ancient Horned Dragons!

With the gigantic hammer in his hand, the black-clad young man was like an unparalleled War God. His eyes gleamed coldly as the black robe on his body fluttered loudly in the wind. His voice was as cold as ice as he spoke unhurriedly, "Dead man, there's no need for you to know my identity!"

"That's right! Why do I need to know the identity of a dead man?" Upon hearing the black-clad young man's words, Duan Ling Tian was momentarily stunned before he burst out in a hearty laughter.

Duan Ling Tian's laughter immediately made Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong stared at each other speechlessly.

"Duan Ling Tian can still laugh out loud at this moment? Could it be that he has faith in himself to defeat that black-clad young man?" Su Li muttered in a low voice with his eyes narrowed.

"That black-clad young man displayed a strength of over 1350 ancient horned dragons with the help of his spirit weapon! If Duan Ling Tian can defeat him, then it means that his strength is actually..." A gasp escaped from Huang Daniu's throat before he could finish his sentence.

Zhang Shou Yong stared intensely at the purple figure hovering in the air as he muttered, "I've known Brother Duan Ling Tian for a long time now so I know his conduct pretty well. If he can laugh at this time, it's obvious that he has faith in winning this battle and mowing that black-clad young man down!"

Upon hearing Zhang Shou Yong's words, Huang Daniu and Su Li's hearts that were hoisted high instantly eased. Anticipation could be seen in their eyes as they eagerly waited to watch Duan Ling Tian make his move.

"Go to hell!" Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words and seeing the bright smile on Duan Ling Tian's face, the black-clad young man could not contain his temper any longer. He glowered before he disappeared from the spot where he was standing.

Whoosh!

The gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand tore through with him in tow and charged at Duan Ling Tian like an exploding cannonball in an overbearing manner.

The airflow in the air began to tremble and set off a thunderous explosion in the places that it passed by.

As they exploded, invisible airwaves quivered and compressed the airflow in the air before it set off a vast hurricane that swept out in all directions that resulted in dust covering the entire cavern. Apart from that, a series of ear-piercing wind whistling sound echoed in the cavern too.

The gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand contained a strength of 1350 ancient horned dragons and was like a meteorite that was falling down with the speed of lightning as it slammed down toward Duan Ling Tian's head mercilessly.

"What a powerful force!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed slightly, and his face darkened a little when he saw the airflow dispersing as the gigantic hammer slammed down.

In the face of the gigantic hammer that the black-clad young man wielded, a sword appeared in Duan Ling Tian's hand out of thin air — it was a sword that emitted a sharp and jagged aura.

A milky white Origin Energy soared out of Duan Ling Tian's body and transformed into a khaki energy that rushed into the sword. Moreover, bolts of purple lightning that were as thick as electric snakes wrapped around the sword as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

A series of faint explosion erupted in the air.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

Meanwhile, gusts of speedy blue wind chi appeared and intertwined around the sword as it exuded waves and waves of sharp aura.

In just a flash, Duan Ling Tian's hands lifted the Quasi Royal Blade Spirit Sword above his head, and his entire body exuded an awfully sharp and serrated aura!

The energy of the sword in Duan Ling Tian's hands spread over his entire body, and it made him look as though he had become one with the sword.

The khaki energy entwined with purple lightning and blue wind chi spread out from the surface of his body and the sword in his hand as it enveloped both him and the sword and transformed into a giant sword.

Whoosh!

As the khaki energy that was intertwined with purple lightning and blue wind chi exploded, the giant sword soared up into the sky and charged toward the gigantic hammer that was slamming down in an overbearing manner like a meteor.

When the giant sword soared up into the sky, the sharp and serrated aura filled the entire cavern, even Huang Daniu and the other two who were standing by the entrance could clearly feel this aura.

"What a powerful Sword Concept!" Su Li's eyes narrowed instantly.

As a Sword Cultivator, Su Li had a keen sense when it came to the Sword Concept. His perception of this was far better than that of Huang Daniu and Zhang Shou Yong.

Swoosh!

At this moment, his attention suddenly shifted and landed on the giant sword that was about to clash with the gigantic hammer.

He could see that Duan Ling Tian was not using any other martial skills at all, and similarly, the black-clad young man was not using any other martial skills as well.

It was a direct confrontation between the both of them.

They forsook all those complex skills and merely fought with each other using their brute strength, fully demonstrating the enthusiasm and passion of a martial artist!

Wham!

Like Thor's hammer, the gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand crashed down without warning and continuously dissipated the airflow in the air. Like a humongous stone that dropped into a calm lake, it set off numerous ripples that spread out.

The strength of over 1350 ancient horned dragons endowed the gigantic hammer with an enormous power, and it elicited confidence that rose from the bottom of the black-clad young man's heart.

Swoosh!

The gigantic sword that Duan Ling Tian and the sword transformed into suddenly swept out and intercepted the falling gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand without an ounce of fear.

Unlike the 1350 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons that were gathered by the Heaven and Earth Energy and mobilized by the black-clad young man and his hammer, from the moment Duan Ling Tian made his move until now — it had only been a few seconds since then — the Heaven and Earth Energy was still whirring above the place he passed by and had not formed the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon yet.

"What a futile effort!" In the face of the giant sword that both Duan Ling Tian and his sword transformed into, the black-clad young man's face was filled with disdain. The khaki energy wrapped around the gigantic hammer slowly expanded and traversed the sky before slamming down on the giant sword.

Whoom!

Once again, the gigantic hammer flew and dropped down from the sky, it was only a mere foot away from the giant sword.

Whoosh!

Without any fear, the giant sword intercepted it directly. The expanding sword ray clashed violently with the gigantic hammer and set off a series of ear-deafening noise.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

As though it contained an endless amount of power, the sword ray on the giant sword continued to expand and soar when it was in a deadlock with the gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand.

The gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand dropped down and a khaki energy swept out. The Third Level Advance Earth Concept that borrowed the Earth Energy swept out without any reservation.

However, the black-clad young man turned pale quickly.

This was because he noticed the energy on the giant sword that Duan Ling Tian and his sword into continued to rise and strengthen. In just a blink of an eye, it suppressed the energy that was contained in the gigantic hammer.

The moment he saw the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon that had finally solidified into form above Duan Ling Tian's head, he was so stunned that horror dawned on his face right away, and he became distracted.

When two powerhouses were locked in a battle, the greatest mistake one could make was to be distracted!

At this moment, this black-clad young man made the biggest mistake, and it resulted in the energy of the gigantic hammer in his hand coming to a halt for a split second.

Swoosh!

When the gigantic hammer's energy had a sudden change due to the black-clad young man's loss of attention, the energy that continued to rise from the giant sword swept out like it was crushing dead leaves and slammed down on the gigantic hammer violently as it enveloped the black-clad young man entirely.

Wham!

A loud noise reverberated in the air. The black-clad young man and his hammer were sent flying backward all at once. Like an arrow that was shot out of a bow, they slammed toward one of the cavern walls by the side and hung on the wall.

Naturally, this was because the gigantic hammer in the black-clad young man's hand was embedded in the cavern wall while he hung on the gigantic hammer.

"BARF!!" The black-clad young man's vital energy and blood churned. His throat tightened, and he could not stop himself from coughing out a mouthful of blood.

To his surprise, after he threw up blood, everything became out of control. Every time he opened his mouth, spurts of vicious-looking blood would stream out from his mouth. In just a blink of an eye, a small stream of blood began to flow on the ground.

It was only after a while that he finally regained his senses and stared at the purple-clad figure hovering in the air in the distance with a ghastly pale face — Duan Ling Tian.

When the black-clad young man was sent flying away, the giant sword that Duan Ling Tian and his Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword transformed into had disappeared without a trace. Apart from that, the Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword had also been put away by him.

Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air. The Heaven and Earth Phenomenon gradually dissipated from above his head.

The Heaven and Earth Phenomenon that was gradually dissipating had a total of 1,500 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons, over 140 ancient horned dragons more than the black-clad young man's strength.

Overpowered!

Completely overpowered!

— and this was the strength Duan Ling Tian had before he communicated with the Earth using his Earth Concept to borrow the Earth Energy. Otherwise, the number of silhouettes that were slowly dissipating would not be limited to only 1,500 ancient horned dragons but 1,550 ancient horned dragons instead.

However, even if it was only 1,500 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons, it was still enough to greatly shocked Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong.

"A-A strength of 1,500 ancient horned dragons?!" Huang Daniu's eyes were as wide as saucers. He was completely stunned.

Duan Ling Tian's strength had completely shaken them.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian strode out, and in just a flash, he arrived before the black-clad young man hanging from the cavern wall with the gigantic hammer in his hand. He calmly stared into his eyes.

Colors drained from the black-clad young man's face instantly. A hint of fear was obvious in his eyes.

Long before he was sent flying, he had already seen the 1,500 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons solidifying above Duan Ling Tian's head.

At that moment, he already knew that he was no match for Duan Ling Tian!

"A-Are you really a disciple from a third-rate force — the Five Element Sect?!" The muscles on the black-clad young man's face continued to quiver. A hint of disbelief could be heard in his voice.

"Dead man, there's no need for you to know my identity!" Duan Ling Tian repeated the words the black-clad young man had uttered to him before, and horror immediately dawned on the black-clad young man's face. The khaki energy on his body rolled out as he struggled to escape.

However, when Duan Ling Tian was speaking, one of his hand was already accumulating power, and the instance the last word left his mouth, a palm that was filled with thousands of ancient horned dragons' strength charged out and landed on the black-clad young man.

WHAM!

Right away, the khaki energy that was just rising from the black-clad young man instantly shattered as his entire being was smashed into the cavern wall by Duan Ling Tian with just one blow. He looked like a wall mural stuck onto the wall.

Whoosh!

Immediately afterward, Duan Ling Tian raised a hand and took off the Spatial Ring from the black-clad young man's finger. Without any hesitation, he performed a Blood Ownership Claim on the ring.

Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment!

Duan Ling Tian's heart leaped, and he became completely consumed with excitement.

Chapter 977: Leng Ji

Soon Duan Ling Tian's mind was jolted, and he saw a fragment gleaming in blue-colored chi within the Spatial Ring. It was none other than the Wind Profundity Fragment.

'The gleaming blue chi that surrounds this piece of Wind Profundity Fragment is even more intense than the one that I previously obtained from the Sword Monarch's treasure.' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with raised eyebrows.

Back then, he obtained three pieces of Profundity Fragments from the Sword Monarch's treasure, all of which were Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragments except for one, which was a Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment.

However, compared to the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment he had just found, that piece of Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment was not even worth mentioning at all.

"Now that I've had my hands on this Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment, that Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment can now be given to the sect." Duan Ling Tian made up his mind with a leap of his heart.

This time, any of the Five Element Sect disciples who entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure would have to hand over the Profundity Fragment to the sect if they managed to get their hands on it.

If one obtained the second or third piece of the Profundity Fragments, they would be allowed to put those away for their own use.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was going to hand over the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment that he obtained in the Sword Monarch's treasure in the past to the sect as repayment for their graciousness in nurturing him.

For he who had already obtained the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment, the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment was something that he could discard now.

"Duan Ling Tian! You bastard! Since when have you become so strong?!" At this moment, among the three people who stood in the distance by the cavern entrance with their bodies completely stunned,

Huang Daniu was the first person to return to his senses. As he walked towards Duan Ling Tian, he watched at him with bewilderment suffused onto his face. A gleam of disbelief was still apparent in his eyes.

Everything that had just happened was like a dream to him.

Su Li and Zhang Shou Yong were also awakened by Huang Daniu's voice. Entering the cavern once again, they walked towards Duan Ling Tian.

A hint of skepticism and disbelief could also be seen in their gaze when they shot a glance at Duan Ling Tian.

In their opinion, the strength that Duan Ling Tian had just displayed was exceedingly impossible and was completely beyond their imagination.

In the face of these three astonished faces, Duan Ling Tian merely smiled and held his tongue.

Whoosh!

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to the black-clad young man whom he had just killed and was mounted on the cavern wall before he shifted his attention to the gigantic hammer beside him once more.

"A grade one spirit weapon!" Lifting his hand, Duan Ling Tian held up the gigantic hammer which was a grade one spirit weapon and casually weighed it in his hands. "Hmm, it's quite heavy..."

"Duan Ling Tian, you usually use a sword. So... regarding this gigantic hammer... I really don't think it would suit you at all. How about this? Why don't you... you know... Hehe!" He suggested with his gleaming eyes gawking at the gigantic hammer in Duan Ling Tian's hand while rubbing his palms together. Nobody had noticed, but Huang Daniu had already arrived by Duan Ling Tian's side. "What? Are you trying to say that this gigantic hammer doesn't suit me but you instead?" Duan Ling Tian could not suppress the smile that crept upon his face. How could he not possibly see through what Huang Daniu had in mind? It was obvious that he was interested in the gigantic hammer, a grade one spirit weapon and was trying to get his hands on it.

"Heh!" Huang Daniu, whose intentions had been revealed by Duan Ling Tian smiled in embarrassment while rubbing the side of his face, exposing a beaming smile that seemed rather unusual on his face.

"Just take it if you want to." Shaking his head, Duan Ling Tian casually threw the gigantic hammer to Huang Daniu as if he was throwing out the trash.

It had never crossed Huang Daniu's mind that Duan Ling Tian would give him the gigantic hammer, a grade one spirit weapon so readily. Flustered, he took hold of the gigantic hammer and beamed at Duan Ling Tian with intense fire in his eyes. "D-Duan Ling Tian, are you really giving me t-this grade one spirit weapon?"

"What? Don't you want it? Fine then, I'll just give it to Big Brother Zhang if you don't want it. I'm sure Big Brother Zhang would be very interested in this grade one spirit weapon as well." Duan Ling Tian smiled teasingly.

"I want it! Of course I want it! How could I not want it!" When Huang Daniu heard those words coupled with the sight of Zhang Shou Yong walking slowly toward them with his gaze stuck on the gigantic hammer in his hand, he immediately became panic-stricken.

He truly feared that Duan Ling Tian would make him return the gigantic hammer and give it to Zhang Shou Yong instead.

"Big Brother Zhang, I'll help upgrade your wine gourd to a grade one spirit weapon later... The grade one spirit weapon that I can refine is far superior to this hammer." Looking at the interest Zhang Shou Yong was showing in the gigantic hammer, Duan Ling Tian made an offer to him using Voice Transmission.

Be it Huang Daniu or Zhang Shou Yong, they were both friends of his so he did not want to favor one more than the other.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Zhang Shou Yong narrowed his eyes a little before replying in his Voice Transmission in shock, "Brother Ling Tian, y-you can refine grade one spirit weapons now?"

Naturally, he understood the significance of being able to refine grade one spirit weapons. This meant that Duan Ling Tian was now a grade one weapon craftsman.

A third-rate force like the Blade Sect that he was a part of did not even have a grade one weapon craftsman at all, let alone even a second-rate force. There was no guarantee that a first-rate force would have someone like this in it as well!

For this reason alone, one could easily imagine just how respected and honorable a first-rate weapons craftsman was on the Cloud Continent.

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Will the grade one spirit weapon that you're going to refine for me be stronger than the hammer in Huang Daniu's hands now?" Zhang Shou Yong's breathing hastened from not being able to help himself as he asked with his Voice Transmission.

"That old hammer?" Duan Ling Tian shook his head as he smiled wryly. "Isn't Big Brother Zhang underestimating me a little too much now?"

"Old hammer?" Zhang Shou Yong was immediately taken aback by Duan Ling Tian's words. By the time he regained his senses, a twitch could be seen at the corner of his mouth. 'That was a grade one spirit weapon for goodness sake! Yet, it was labeled as an "old hammer" by Duan Ling Tian?!'

"Don't you think that was a little too harsh in ridiculing people?" he asked.

"Well, it's only a grade one spirit weapon that provides an 88% boost. What else could it be if not an old hammer?" Duan Ling Tian answered matter-of-factly.

"Y-You mean, you can refine a grade one spirit weapon that can provide a boost beyond 88%?" Zhang Shou Yong's eyes lit up immediately as his breathing became even more rapid.

"If I can't come up with a grade one spirit weapon that provides a 90% boost, I wouldn't even dare to call myself a grade one weapon craftsman at all!" Duan Ling Tian continued his reply with his Voice Transmission.

"A 90% boost?" Zhang Shou Yong was stunned and was completely dumbfounded.

Even though he only had a grade three spirit weapon wine gourd in his hand, it was still a grade three spirit weapon that could provide a 70% boost. It was refined by Duan Ling Tian in the past and could already be considered to be the best of the best among grade three spirit weapons.

At that time, he was already blown away by the fact that a grade three spirit weapon refined by Duan Ling Tian could provide such a powerful boost.

However, it had never crossed his mind that Duan Ling Tian could actually craft a grade one spirit weapon that could provide a 90% boost.

Spirit weapons of this caliber could be considered to be the best of the best among all grade one spirit weapons.

However, looking at the confidence within Duan Ling Tian's eyes, Zhang Shou Yong could not bring himself to doubt his words. After letting a hearty smile out on his face, he no longer had his eyes on the gigantic hammer in Huang Daniu's hand.

From what he could see, the gigantic hammer was similar to trash that was not even worth mentioning compared to the grade one spirit weapon wine gourd that he would obtain in the future.

"Duan Ling Tian..." Staring at Duan Ling Tian, a smile filled with intense bitterness crept up upon the corner of Su Li's mouth. This man that he had come to know since he was 18 years old had grown so much to the way he is today.

In his opinion, the fact that he could walk out from a tiny kingdom in the Darkhan Dynasty by himself, along with his achievements to this date was already quite unimaginable. Yet, compared to this purple-clad young man in front of him, his achievements were not even worth the mention now.

"Let's go!" Duan Ling Tian called out to the three people with raised brows and continued to move towards the central zone of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Four figures flashed across at breakneck speed. It was as though they had transformed into four bolts of lightning as they disappeared through one of the exits in the cavern with just the blink of an eye.

Not long after Duan Ling Tian and the other three left the scene, three other figures passed through the cavern swiftly with the aim of moving toward the central zone of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

Similar to Duan Ling Tian and the other three, it was apparent that these three were also heading towards the central zone of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

As the three of them passed through the cavern, they suddenly came to a halt one after the other. This revealed their faces. It was as though they had discovered something.

All three of them appeared to be young men who were about 35 years old.

"That is..."

The next second, the three young men noticed the body embedded in the cavern wall on one side of the cavern. One by one, they narrowed their eyes immediately.

"I'm quite sure that the person who put this body into such a thick cavern wall must have a strength that's at least 1,000 ancient horned dragons and above." One of the young men gasped in surprise.

The moment the other two young men heard this, their expressions turned gloomy immediately.

Shortly after, another young man muttered in surprise, "Even among the most outstanding young powerhouses currently in our Izumo Sect, or the Anicca and that North Nether Sect, there's probably no more than ten people who possess such immense power even with the usage of a spirit weapon, right?"

From what he said, it was apparent that he and the other two young men by his side were all disciples from a second-rate force in the northern desert — the Izumo Sect.

"Eh? Why does this person seem rather familiar?" The last young man shifted his attention to the body of the black-clad young man embedded within the cavern wall. He found this black-clad young man to be rather familiar as he raised his brows.

"You know him?" Immediately, the other two young men looked at the one who had just spoken with curiosity written all over their faces.

At the next moment, the man who found the black-clad young man embedded in the cavern wall to be familiar gradually inched his way to the body in the wall with curiosity in his heart.

The closer he got, the more familiar the black-clad young man seemed.

When the other two saw this, they followed suit behind the young man. They walked toward the cavern wall step by step as they stared at the body of the black-clad young man embedded within the wall like a mural.

Upon seeing clearly the face attached to the body, the young man who was leading the group immediately narrowed his eyes.

"L-Leng Ji?" Within mere moments, horror dawned on his face. With his eyes gleaming in disbelief, it was as though he had witnessed something that had completely blown his mind.

Chapter 978: Peng Bao's Plan

After the Izumo Sect's disciple who identified the black-clad young man mounted on the wall spoke, the other two Izumo Sect's disciples narrowed their eyes. Shocked, one of them took the initiative to ask, "What did you say? Leng Ji? Did you... Did you say he's Leng Ji?!"

"Maybe you got the wrong person? How... How is it possible that Leng Ji is killed? Leng Ji was easily in the top six when compared to the top three young men in the second-rate forces from the northern desert!"

The other person wore an expression of disbelief as well.

The Izumo Sect's disciple who identified Leng Ji shook his head and said affirmatively, "It's impossible that I got the wrong person... I met Leng Ji once! He might not know me, but I definitely recognize him."

When the other Izumo Sect's disciple saw that the Izumo Sect's disciple was very certain about it, he dismissed his doubts completely even though he was initially skeptical and thought that the other disciple had gotten the wrong person.

He could not help but frown as he mumbled, "Among those who entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... Perhaps only Senior Brother Mo from our Izumo Sect and the other two from Anicca Sect and North Nether Sect have the ability to kill him."

"The one from North Nether Sect? He's from the same sect as Leng Ji, it's impossible that he would kill him... Could it be Senior Brother Mo or the one from Anicca Sect who killed Leng Ji?" The Izumo Sect's disciple could not help but speculate as he spoke with gleaming eyes.

"That's the only possibility... Apart from Senior Brother Mo and the one from Anicca Sect, I really can't think of anyone who's capable of killing Leng Ji!"

The last Izumo Sect disciple agreed wholeheartedly. "After all, even our Senior Brother Lei Jun, the second most powerful powerhouse in the current Izumo Sect, and Peng Bao, the second most powerful young man in the current Anicca Sect, might not be able to defeat Leng Ji, who had comprehended Earth Concept, in this place since he could get a boost from the Earth Energy."

"I did not expect Leng Ji, the most powerful person among the current North Nether Sect, would die here just like that." The Izumo Sect's disciple who recognized Leng Ji could not help but sigh as he spoke about how fragile life could be.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian, who was heading toward the Martial Emperor's secret treasure in the central area with Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong, had no idea that two scapegoats took the blame for him.

Huang Daniu who was traveling Duan Ling Tian and the other two frowned a little and said with concern, "I wonder how's Chen Wei doing."

"Chen Wei?"

When Duan Ling Tian heard what Huang Daniu said, he could not help but sigh and muttered, "He... He's dead."

"What?!"

Although Duan Ling Tian's voice was soft, Huang Daniu heard what he said. His expression changed dramatically. "Duan Ling Tian, is... Is what you said the truth?"

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded, and he quickly told the story of him discovering Chen Wei's body and burying him. He did not leave out any details at all.

"Damn it!"

Huang Daniu's face turned ashen while his eyes turned red. He could not help but shook his fists in the air. "If I find out who killed Chen Wei, I, Huang Daniu definitely won't let him go!"

He was closer to Chen Wei than Duan Ling Tian was.

Duan Ling Tian could not suppress his rage when he saw Chen Wei's body, let alone Huang Daniu who was hot-tempered. It was only natural for him to be so enraged.

Duan Ling Tian sighed and shook his head.

He knew very well in his heart that it was almost impossible to find out who killed Chen Wei!

It did not matter if the person was still alive, even if the person was alive, it was impossible for them to find out who killed Chen Wei if the person did not bring it up himself.

Duan Ling Tian and the other three continued on their journey, they were getting closer and closer to the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

"Brother Ling Tian!"

When Duan Ling Tian and the other three entered a spacious cave a couple of days later, they heard a voice that came from the other side of the cave that contained a hint of surprise.

Duan Ling Tian thought the voice sounded a little familiar when he heard it, but he could not pinpoint where he had heard that voice before.

His eyes could not help but lit up when he saw one of the two young men who was approaching from afar as he turned his head around.

"Peng Bao!"

The person who called out his name was none other than the Anicca Sect's disciple, Peng Bao, that he had met once.

Although he only traded once with Peng Bao, the frankness that Peng Bao revealed subconsciously made Duan Ling Tian like him genuinely.

"Hmm?" Very quickly, the smile that appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face froze.

That was, because at that very moment, he realized that the muscular young man next to Peng Bao was glaring at him menacingly.

There was a hint of greed in the depth of the muscular young man's eyes.

Duan Ling Tian instantly figured out something. He surmised that this muscular young man had also heard the 'news' that was intentionally spread to frame him.

It was the news of him obtaining the Profundity Fragment.

Otherwise, that person would not glare at him in such a way considering it was the first time they met each other.

Since the muscular young man knew about it, it was only natural that Peng Bao knew about it as well.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes landed on Peng Bao again, he wanted to see what kind of emotion Peng Bao had when he looked at him. However, he noticed that there was no hostility in Peng Bao's eyes at all.

'Seems like I'm right about Peng Bao being a good person after all,' Duan Ling Tian thought with a jolt in his heart.

Perhaps Peng Bao heard about him obtaining the Profundity Fragment, but it did not rouse the greed in him. It could be considered rare.

"Brother Ling Tian, I didn't expect for us to meet here... Who are these three people?" Peng Bao greeted Duan Ling Tian while he looked at Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong standing next to Duan Ling Tian.

"They're my friends." Duan Ling Tian smiled lightly.

Peng Bao nodded and smiled at Huang Daniu and the other two in a friendly manner. Huang Daniu and the other two were much relieved since Peng Bao did not show any superiority for being a second-rate force, Anicca Sect's disciple.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the muscular young man next to Peng Bao again. He asked Peng Bao as his eyes gleamed, "This is?"

The Spiritual Energy that he sent out told him that this muscular young man was at the Third Level Void Transformation just like Peng Bao and the black-clad young man that he killed not too long ago.

'This Anicca Sect has so many talents hiding in it... Peng Bao aside, it's a surprise that they have another disciple who is in no way inferior to Peng Bao.' Duan Ling Tian could not help but exclaim inwardly.

However, Duan Ling Tian soon found out that he misunderstood the fact.

"Brother Ling Tian, this is Lei Jun from Izumo Sect. He's the second most powerful powerhouse in the current Izumo Sect." Peng Bao introduced Lei Jun to Duan Ling Tian with a smile.

'Izumo Sect disciple?'

When Duan Ling Tian heard Peng Bao's introduction of Lei Jun, he knew that his guess was wrong. This muscular young man was not a disciple from Anicca Sect but Izumo Sect.

Although Duan Ling Tian was not interested in getting to know Lei Jun, he had to show respect to Peng Bao since he was introducing Lei Jun to him. He only smiled lightly at Lei Jun courteously and considered that a greeting.

However, the smile on his face froze once again.

That was because Lei Jun ignored the charming smile on his face completely as though he did not see it at all.

Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel unhappy about it.

"Brother Ling Tian!"

At that moment, a clear voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears. He could tell it was Peng Bao performing Voice Transmission.

'Hmm?'

Duan Ling Tian looked at Peng Bao immediately when he heard the voice. He could not help the doubt that appeared on his face since he did not know why Peng Bao used Voice Transmission.

"Brother Ling Tian, I heard that you've obtained a Profundity Fragment?" Peng Bao's voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears, and his breath was shorter this time.

'Profundity Fragment?!'

Duan Ling Tian could not help but frown when he heard what Peng Bao said. The first thought that popped into his mind was Peng Bao believed the 'news' that was meant to frame him, and he wanted the Profundity Fragment as well.

Soon, Duan Ling Tian realized that he had misunderstood Peng Bao.

"Brother Ling Tian, don't take it the wrong way." Peng Bao seemed to be able to guess what Duan Ling Tian was thinking about when he saw him frowning. He explained through Voice Transmission immediately, "I just want to know which Profundity Fragment you obtained... I happen to have an Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment, and our Anicca Sect's senior officials can't use it."

"I'm thinking perhaps we can trade again if the Profundity Fragment that you have is useful to Anicca Sect's senior officials." Peng Bao revealed his plan without pretense.

'Trade?'

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed when he heard Peng Bao mentioned the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment. Desperation filled the depth of his eyes.

His interest sparked as soon as Peng Bao was done speaking.

'I have a total of five Profundity Fragments in my hand... But I definitely won't trade the Seventh Level Monarch Stage Earth Profundity Fragment and the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment with him!'

Duan Ling Tian's heart jolted.

'That said, I'm only left with the three Profundity Fragments that I obtained from the Sword Monarch's treasure earlier... The three Profundity Fragments are all Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragments.'

'Perhaps I can try trading the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment with him... As long as he's willing, I want the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that he has!'

'At that time, the Third Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragments that I have are dispensable, and I'll give them to the Sect.'

Duan Ling Tian had a string of thoughts at that moment.

When he was pulled back into reality, Duan Ling Tian looked at Peng Bao immediately and said via Voice Transmission, "I'm just worried that you won't want to trade with me... The Profundity Fragment that I obtained is just a Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment."

'Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment?' As expected, Peng Bao could not help but frown when he heard what Duan Ling Tian said.

The difference between a Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment and an Eighth Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment was like heaven and earth to a Monarch Stage martial artist.

However, for a Peak Void martial artist who wanted to use the Profundity Fragment to break through to the Monarch Stage, the difference between the two types of Profundity Fragments was minor.

Chapter 979: Trade

When Duan Ling Tian saw Peng Bao frowning, he could not help but feel as though his heart was being suspended at that moment.

Although he was confident he could kill Peng Bao and take the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment from him, he did not even think of doing that.

He thought to himself, he might not be able to defeat Peng Bao if he did not use the amulet when he first met Peng Bao. Moreover, to Peng Bao at that time, he was just an ordinary disciple from a third-rate force and taking the Concept Fragment from him would be easy.

However, Peng Bao did not do that and traded his Concept Fragment the right way instead.

That was why he genuinely liked Peng Bao.

Now that the situation had turned around, it was only natural for him to treat Peng Bao the same way instead of robbing him. He made this decision despite acknowledging that he, himself was a scoundrel since he did not have any qualms about snatching treasures away from people he did not know. However, the person he encountered this time was Peng Bao. The Peng Bao who did not rob the Concept Fragment that he had just because he was a disciple of a third-rate force.

Naturally, Peng Bao had no idea what Duan Ling Tian was thinking at the moment.

If he knew Duan Ling Tian's current ability, and his thoughts at the moment, he would definitely feel fortunate that he managed to escape the threat.

"What kind of Profundity Fragment do you have with you?"

Just when Duan Ling Tian was hesitating, Peng Bao's voice entered his ears again. It was crystal clear.

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up. He could tell Peng Bao was interested in the Profundity Fragment he had.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Peng Bao and said with Voice Transmission word by word, "It's the Wind Profundity Fragment!"

Very quickly, he saw the joy that flashed in Peng Bao's eyes.

He was excited when he saw that and could not help but exclaim inwardly, 'Here's my chance!'

It was natural that he was in a difficult situation before joy flashed in Peng Bao's eyes.

Speaking of value, the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that Peng Bao possessed was undoubtedly much higher than the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment that Duan Ling Tian had.

However, none of the Anicca Sect's senior officials could use the Thunder Profundity Fragment since none of them had comprehended the Ninth Level Advanced Thunder Concept.

Only martial artists who had comprehended the Ninth Level Advanced Thunder Concept could comprehend Thunder Profundity from the Thunder Profundity Fragment to achieve the Monarch Stage.

Meanwhile, the Anicca Sect Leader, the second most powerful powerhouse in Anicca Sect who was his master as well, could use the Wind Profundity Fragment.

'As soon as master obtains the Wind Profundity Fragment that Duan Ling Tian has, he can definitely break through to the Monarch Stage instantly and become the second most powerful Monarch Stage powerhouse in Anicca Sect!' Peng Bao's heart thumped with excitement as he thought about this.

However, although he was excited, he could not help but think of the grade of the Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment that Duan Ling Tian possessed.

Out of nowhere, a hint of bitterness appeared at the edges of his lips.

Finally, Peng Bao made up his mind.

'Trade!'

For the most part, the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that he had was much more precious than Duan Ling Tian's Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment. However, the problem was even if he brought the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that he possessed back to Anicca Sect, it was impossible for Anicca Sect to produce a Monarch Stage powerhouse in such a short period of time.

It would take ages for anyone in Anicca Sect to comprehend the Ninth Level Advanced Thunder Concept and ascend to a Ninth Level Void Transformation martial artist by comprehending the Thunder Profundity with the help of the Thunder Profundity Fragment.

To the current Anicca Sect, the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment's value was much higher than the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment.

Peng Bao looked at Duan Ling Tian with desperation written in his eyes and asked through Voice Transmission, "Brother Ling Tian, I'll trade the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that I have with your Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment... Are you willing to do that?"

Duan Ling Tian did not say a word and lifted his hand as quick as lightning. A fragment that shone with green energy was thrown from his hand toward Peng Bao.

He used his straightforward action to answer Peng Bao's question.

Peng Bao did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be so outright and trusted him to the extent where he just tossed the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment to him just like that.

'Isn't he afraid I'll leave with the Profundity Fragment?'

Although Peng Bao thought of that, he, naturally, did not delay his action at all. He took out a fragment that was shining with purple energy and tossed it to Duan Ling Tian at the same time he caught the Wind Profundity Fragment.

It was the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that Duan Ling Tian wanted.

'Pa!'

Duan Ling Tian extended his arm like lightning and caught the Thunder Profundity Fragment tightly in his hand.

'What a steal!'

At this moment, although Duan Ling Tian tried his best to maintain the calm expression on his face, he could not help the excitement that filled his heart.

He traded his Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment for an Eighth Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment.

Many people's jaws would drop if the news spread out!

The trade of the Profundity Fragments between Duan Ling Tian and Peng Bao was quick like lightning. Even Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong did not see their movements clearly.

However, there was another person there apart from the duo, Huang Daniu, and the other two.

It was Lei Jun, the second most powerful powerhouse in the current Izumo Sect.

He saw everything Duan Ling Tian and Peng Bao did from the beginning until the end before his eyes.

The way he looked at Duan Ling Tian was filled with greed, especially when he traded the Profundity Fragment with Peng Bao. If it was not for Peng Bao's sake, he would have taken action.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian saw how Lei Jun was looking at him, but he ignored it.

His mind was occupied with the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment in his hand. He put the precious treasure that he had just obtained away in his Spatial Ring as he thought to himself, 'Now the three Concepts of nature that I comprehended have their relative high-grade Monarch Stage Profundity Fragments... As soon as I comprehend them to the Ninth Advanced Level, I can use the three Profundity Fragments to elevate them further to the Monarch Stage Profundity!'

When Duan Ling Tian thought about this, a rush of excitement filled his body.

Even if he only had one Profundity Fragment that he could use, it meant that he was one step closer to achieving Monarch Stage. However, he had now obtained the relative Profundity Fragments for the four types of Concepts that he comprehended.

'Seventh Level Monarch Stage Earth Profundity Fragment, Eighth Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment, Eight Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment, and Third Level Monarch Stage Sword Profundity Fragment...'

'As for the Third Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment, I'll give that to the Sect!' Duan Ling Tian planned secretly.

Initially, he had planned to give the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment to the Sect after killing the black-clad young man he suspected to be a North Nether Sect's disciple and obtained the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment from him.

Unexpectedly, his meeting with Peng Bao presented him with such a great opportunity.

Trading a Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment with Peng Bao's Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment was such a steal.

Naturally, it was impossible for him to give the Third Level Monarch Stage Wind Profundity Fragment to the Sect since it was with Peng Bao now.

Therefore, he could only give another Profundity Fragment that he possessed.

Coincidentally, since he obtained the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment from Peng Bao, the other Third Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment that he possessed became dispensable. He could give that to the Sect.

'There are a total of five Profundity Fragments in the outer ring of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... Now that I have three of them, who could have obtained the other two?' Duan Ling Tian could not help but wonder as his eyes gleamed.

"Brother Ling Tian, I supposed you are all heading to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure?"

Suddenly, a voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears. After he was pulled back to reality, he turned toward the source of the voice and saw Peng Bao smiling as he looked at him.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"If that's the case, let's go there together... We're going there as well," Peng Bao suggested.

"Sure," Duan Ling Tian agreed instantly.

However, Lei Jun who was standing at the side looked extremely unpleasant after hearing what Peng Bao said.

The reason Peng Bao did this was naturally to protect Duan Ling Tian so Lei Jun would not be interested in robbing the Profundity Fragment from Duan Ling Tian.

"Peng Bao, since you have gotten what you need... Then there's no need for us to work together anymore!"

A menacing gleam flashed in Lei Jun's eyes as he looked at Peng Bao, the glare soon shifted to Duan Ling Tian. The killing intent was rising, it was as though he could not wait to kill Duan Ling Tian to have a peace of mind.

'Whoosh!'

Lei Jun dashed out as soon as he was done speaking, he was headed in the direction of the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure. He disappeared before Duan Ling Tian and the others' eyes in an instant.

Peng Bao did not care much about Lei Jun's departure, and Duan Ling Tian naturally did not care at all.

After asking Hua Daniu and the other two to come along, they headed toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure together.

The objective of their journey was to search and fight the other young powerhouses for treasures when they arrived at the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure. If they managed to live, each of them would have to exit from the cave that they entered.

'Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!'

...

The five of them were quick, and they were getting closer and closer to the central area.

"Peng Bao, since you're an Anicca Sect's disciple, you must know something about the disciples from North Nether Sect?" Duan Ling Tian asked Peng Bao curiously while they were on the way.

"North Nether Sect's disciples... I know a few of them who are rather remarkable."

Peng Bao said, "Why did you ask that out of nowhere? Do you have friends from North Nether Sect?"

"No."

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and casually said, "I'm just asking... Is there a young powerhouse who comprehends the Third Level Advanced Earth Concept and achieved Third Level Void Transformation in North Nether Sect?"

"Are you talking about Leng Ji?"

Peng Bao could not help but be stunned as soon as Duan Ling Tian was done speaking.

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"Leng Ji?"

Duan Ling Tian raised his brows, the silhouette of the black-clad young man he killed not too long ago appeared in his head.

'Seems like he's really a disciple from the North Nether Sect.'

"Yes." Peng Bao nodded.

"Among the young men in the current North Nether Sect, a disciple who comprehended the Third Level Advanced Earth Concept as well as being a martial artist at the Third Level Void Transformation... Leng Ji is the only one who achieved all that."

There was fear in Peng Bao's tone when he said, "Leng Ji is the second most powerful powerhouse in the current North Nether Sect. His ability is extraordinary! We're on equal standing if we're to fight in a high altitude... But if I encounter him in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, I'm nothing compared to him."

Duan Ling Tian nodded. Naturally, he knew the reason why Peng Bao said that.

The Martial Emperor's secret treasure was made of hidden caves deep underground. Each and every corner allowed martial artists who had comprehended Earth Concept to connect and get a boost from the Earth Energy as much as they wanted.

"So that fellow was called Leng Ji!"

At that moment, Huang Daniu nodded at the side in realization. After a while, he could not help but sneer. "So what if he's the second most powerful powerhouse in the current North Nether Sect? Duan Ling Tian killed him just like that!"

There was pride on Huang Daniu's face the more he spoke as though it was him who killed Leng Ji instead of Duan Ling Tian.

What Huang Daniu said did not receive any reactions from Duan Ling Tian, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong.

However, Peng Bao was stunned. It was as though he was struck by lightning when he heard what Huang Daniu said. He immediately stopped moving.

When Duan Ling Tian and the others saw Peng Bao had stopped, they followed suit.

"Bro... Brother Ling Tian, you... you killed Leng Ji?"

Peng Bao looked at Duan Ling Tian. His eyes were wide open as shock and disbelief filled his tone.

Although he could faintly guess Duan Ling Tian had an extraordinary ability when he found out that he had obtained the Profundity Fragment, Duan Ling Tian was much more powerful than he had imagined.

However, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian to possess the ability to kill Leng Ji!

Leng Ji had the same cultivation base as he did while the Concepts that he had comprehended were similar to him as well.

However, he would definitely be defeated if he fought Leng Ji in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

Leng Ji had comprehended Earth Concept, and he could use Earth Energy in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure as much as he wanted. That meant he was able to boost his Earth Concept by half.

Duan Ling Tian only nodded lightly in response to Peng Bao's questioning. His face was relaxed as though killing Leng Ji was nothing worth mentioning to him.

Naturally, it was indeed nothing worth mentioning in reality.

If he chose to attack first, and the energy in his body was unrestrained, he could display the strength of ancient horned dragons that was two hundred times more powerful than Leng Ji.

One blow was all he needed to kill Leng Ji!

When he saw Duan Ling Tian's casual nod in response to his question, the edges of Peng Bao's lips twitched, and the first thing that popped into his mind was 'Monster!'

Such a terrifying disciple had appeared in the third-rate force, the Five Element Sect. A hint of shock rose from the bottom of his heart.

The purple-clad young man before him was only twenty-five years of age at most.

Even if he managed to slow down aging with his high cultivation base and took good care of his body, his real age definitely would not exceed thirty.

Peng Bao was certain of that.

That was the reason why he found it shocking and even unbelievable.

"Let's go!"

Peng Bao continued on their journey together to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure with Duan Ling Tian and the others after Duan Ling Tian called out to him.

However, he would occasionally look at Duan Ling Tian along the way.

This young man could be considered as the ultimate freak for being able to kill Leng Ji who could utilize the Earth Energy...

'How powerful is his ability exactly?'

'Luckily I didn't think of robbing the Ninth Level Saber Concept from him back then... Otherwise, I'll be the one who's dead instead of him!'

Peng Bao's heart could not help but beat faster when he recalled the scene when he first traded with Duan Ling Tian when they first met.

He remembered the trade clearly until today.

He traded his Ninth Level Earth Concept Fragment with Duan Ling Tian's Ninth Level Saber Concept Fragment.

At that time, to him, Duan Ling Tian was just a naive boy from a third-rate force whose ability was weak and not worth mentioning.

His face was a little flushed when he recalled advising Duan Ling Tian before they parted ways.

'This time as well... Luckily, I wasn't greedy for Brother Ling Tian's Third Level Monarch Stage Profundity Fragment. Fighting for the Profundity Fragment for the Sect aside, I might not even come out alive.'

Peng Bao was hit with a wave of anxiety when he thought about this.

'It's silly that I was afraid Lei Jun would attack Brother Ling Tian for the Profundity Fragment... That Lei Jun's ability is on par with me, but he's nothing compared to Leng Ji in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure!' Peng Bao mocked himself for underestimating Duan Ling Tian earlier.

'Brother Ling Tian even managed to kill Leng Ji... If Lei Jun dares to offend Brother Ling Tian, he'll undoubtedly die!'

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian had no idea what Peng Bao was thinking about.

His mind was currently occupied with getting to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

That place was an unknown existence to him. The unknown was also the most terrifying since nobody knew what could happen in there.

'According to the Martial Emperor's message, there's a palace in the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure... It's the place where he ended his life!' Duan Ling Tian recalled the information in the message the Martial Emperor left after they entered the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

'It's definitely going to be a difficult task to obtain the three Profundity Fragments in his body from the palace!' Duan Ling Tian had a strong gut feeling about that.

Naturally, he had such an instinct due to the Rebirth Martial Emperor's memories that he had merged with.

According to the Rebirth Martial Emperor's thoughts that he retrieved from the memory, if a Martial Emperor really did leave behind the place that he died in and an Emperor Stage Profundity, he definitely would not let anyone reach it easily.

To a Martial Emperor, only the most outstanding person was worthy of his Emperor Stage Profundity.

Three days later.

'Hmm?'

Duan Ling Tian stopped moving, the four people following him stopped as well, and they stood next to him.

When they stopped, they realized that there was no way ahead of them.

They were currently in a spacious cave. There were three paths each on both sides of the cave connected to the other cave. They looked lost, they had no idea which path really led to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

"Should we split up?" Huang Daniu took the initiative and suggested.

"I guess that's the only way to do it." Duan Ling Tian nodded, and his eyes landed on the entrance of the cave that was further on the left side. "I'll go there."

Duan Ling Tian then looked at the cave entrance that was further on the right side and said to Peng Bao, "Peng Bao will go there."

Peng Bao nodded, he did not have any opinion on that.

"Daniu, Su Li, and Big Brother Zhang... Three of you will stick together and investigate the other cave entrance. No matter what we find, we'll meet here again after a day." Duan Ling Tian looked at Huang Daniu, Su Li, and Zhang Shou Yong.

Their abilities were the weakest among the five of them. For their own safety, Duan Ling Tian had them work together.

"Sure!" Huang Daniu and the other two responded immediately.

"Hmm." Duan Ling nodded at the four of them and turned into a bolt of purple lightning immediately. He then dashed into the cave entrance that was further on the left of the cave in an attempt to explore the situation there.

Peng Bao was the next one who dashed away and entered the cave entrance that was further on the right side.

Meanwhile, Huang Daniu and the other two entered the other cave entrance.

As the three of them moved, a silhouette appeared at the cave entrance outside. It was the silhouette of a muscular person.

"Peng Bao... Let's see how you're going to protect that Duan Ling Tian this time!"

The muscular silhouette belonged to Lei Jun!

Ever since he parted ways with Duan Ling Tian and the other four the other day, he had been heading toward the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure on his own and arrived here.

Since he had gotten here with the help of a thousand ancient horned dragons' strength, he found the correct path leading to the central area in an instant.

The correct path was behind the cave entrance on the further right of the cave. It was the one Peng Bao was checking out.

After determining the correct path to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure, an idea popped into his head when he was going to continue on his journey. He realized that this place was the only opportunity for him to kill Duan Ling Tian and obtain the Profundity Fragment from him!

'Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment!'

An avaricious glow flashed in Lei Jun's eyes. As he sprinted, his body was filled with purple lightning that surrounded him. He sprinted and disappeared into the cave entrance that was on the further left in the cave.

His target was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

To be exact, the Eighth Level Monarch Stage Thunder Profundity Fragment in Duan Ling Tian's hands.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian had no idea Lei Jun was hiding in there, neither did he know Lei Jun was on his way to him.

'Whoosh!'

Origin Energy ran rampant in Duan Ling Tian's body as he dashed into the cave entrance on the left side of the cave. The four Concepts followed him like shadows, and it also complemented his body that looked like it transformed into a gigantic sword that was covered in khaki energy, purple lightning, and green energy.

'Whoosh!'

The gigantic sword dashed from one cave to another in an attempt to find the path to the central area of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

Time passed by silently, and soon, half a day had gone by.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian had investigated the situation on his side thoroughly. It was an unsolvable maze, and there was no other way to proceed apart from turning back.

'I'll head back first... Perhaps, they'll have some clues on their side,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself and began to turn back.

Just when he was nearing the cave entrance that he entered from earlier, Duan Ling Tian who was sprinting suddenly halted his movement. A cold gleam filled his eyes as he stared at the muscular young man not far away.

"Lei Jun!"