

At the entrance of the Dawnshroud Mountain Range.

The remaining youths that survived and their instructors awaited there.

"Someone's coming out!" It was unknown who actually spoke, but everyone's gazes instantly looked towards the distance.

"Su Li!"

Duan Ling Tian recognized the red-robed youth that dashed out with a sword in hand. It was precisely the strongest youth in Squad One, Su Li....

The members of Squad One really never left the Dawnshroud Mountain Range!

Didn't they notice that their instructor had gone missing? Duan Ling Tian was stupefied; it was hard for him to wrap his head around the matter.

He imagined that after the instructor of Squad One died by his hands due to greed, the Squad One members would be like a host of dragons without a leader and would surely leave the Dawnshroud Mountain Range at the first possible moment to notify Captain Yang Da about their instructor going missing...

However, based on the current circumstances, it seemed like things had gone completely different from how he had imagined it.

Huff huff huff...

After exiting the Dawnshroud Mountain Range, Su Li breathed heavily and his expression was extremely unsightly.

Fan Jian and the other three Centurions walked over and asked, "Su Li, what happened? Where's the instructor of Squad One and the other members?"

"Instructor?"

Su Li's face sank and his eyes flashed with a trace of hatred. "We haven't seen him in around three months. I have no idea where he went.... As for the other people, not one of them were able to make it out alive due to the negligence of that lousy instructor!"

Lousy instructor?

Hearing what Su Li said caused the corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth to twitch.

If that Centurion knew that he would still be insulted even after death, he would probably spit blood out of anger...

"What actually happened?" The four Centurions' expressions went slightly grim.

"On our second day at Dawnshroud Mountain Range, the instructor ordered us to hunt fierce beasts to complete our missions. At dusk, when everyone in Squad One had returned, our instructor was the only one missing!" As Su Li spoke up to here, his expression filled with hatred.

"Why didn't you all leave the Dawnshroud Mountain Range when you couldn't find the instructor?" Fan Jian was slightly puzzled.

"Leave the Dawnshroud Mountain Range? Do we dare? At that time, everyone thought that the instructor's disappearance was only him concealing himself on purpose.... So everyone thought that it was a part of the training, and thus the group of us remained there for nearly three months. Up until this morning, only seven had died and 13 members remained." Su Li took a deep breath after he finished.

The expressions of the four Centurions were slightly heavy, as they realized the unusualness of the matter.

Duan Ling Tian stood afar, and his expression was slightly unnatural when he heard what Su Li said...

"Just now, when the beast tide arrived, our Squad One even thought that it was a beast tide driven over by our instructor, and as such everyone spared no effort in going against the beast tide.... until the seventh level Core Formation Stage Thunder Lion appeared! I've heard a Thunder Lion's roar once before, so I was able to react at the first possible moment. If I hadn't, it would be impossible for me to be standing here right now."

As Su Li finished speaking, the coldness in his eyes grew even deeper. "All of this was because of the instructor of our Squad One, Bai Feng!"

Hua!

Su Li's voice wasn't soft, so the nearby all the youths present heard it clearly, and they burst into an uproar.

What the heck?

"Squad One was obviously screwed over by their instructor."

"What bulls**t! Luckily I didn't motherf**king choose to join Squad One; otherwise I would be dead right now."

"F**k! I was actually standing in Su Li's group that day, but in the end I was pushed away by the others and could only go join Tian Hu's group... Thinking about it now, I really should thank those brothers for saving my life. Brothers, if I'm still alive when the Genius Camp training ends, I'll certainly burn some paper money for all of you!" [1]

"It was because I saw that there were many people already standing around Su Li that I went over to Yu Xiang's group. Now that I think about it, that was really a close call."

...

Some of the youths had a lingering fear as they wiped off the cold sweat on their foreheads.

"Duan Ling Tian, looks like our luck isn't bad. Even though our Squad Three's instructor's name is slightly unique, at least he isn't unreliable like Squad One's instructor..." Meng Quan said to Duan Ling Tian, as a way of expressing the rejoice he felt in his heart.

"Perhaps." Duan Ling Tian nodded indifferently.

If Bai Feng really was the instructor of their Squad Three, and they were to encounter a beast tide, he would definitely flee at the first possible moment!

After all, Bai Feng died by his hand, and thus he knew that it was impossible for the beast tide to be driven over by Bai Feng...

How could a dead man drive over a beast tide?

He couldn't help but sigh with emotion. The youths of Squad One were really too naïve...

Although he was the cause of the incident, he didn't have a trace of remorse.

At that time, it was Bai Feng who was determined to kill him; if he hadn't killed Bai Feng, then the one who died would've been him.

It was impossible for him to tell anyone that he had killed Bai Feng. If he did, he would be faced with unending troubles and might've even drawn a calamity onto himself.

As far as he was concerned, he didn't do anything wrong in the entire matter.

His conscience was clear!

"Since when did I become so sentimental?" Duan Ling Tian laughed in self ridicule.

Maybe even he didn't realize that he wasn't the slaughter machine he used to be anymore and had become much more human.

The expressions of the four Centurions were extremely unsightly, after a discussion amongst themselves, they decided to take the remaining youths back to Iron Blood City first...

This matter needed to be reported to the Captain, or even the Vice Commander at the earliest possible moment!

On the way, Meng Quan was bored and started counting...

"In the five squads, only eight people remain in our Squad Three, one person in Squad One, seven people in Squad Two, nine people in Squad Four, and four people in Squad Five... It's only the first round of the training and there only 29 people remaining from the initial 98 youths!" When Meng Quan finally arrived at this conclusion, he couldn't help but sigh.

"Of these 29 people, there should only be less than 10 remaining nine months from now." Xiao Yu's pupils constricted as he spoke.

"I wonder what our training will be like after the turn of events that happened today..." Duan Ling Tian was slightly curious.

He was certain that following the incident of today, the original training regime will surely be altered.

After all, in the original plan, there would be a total of 50 people who would remain after the first round, but now there were only 29 people remaining.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian frowned. He raised his head and looked towards the Centurion in the distance.

The Centurion hurriedly turned his head away, obviously afraid of being found out.

This Centurion was precisely the other Centurion that spoke up for Yu Xiang after he had lost the gamble.

Duan Ling Tian thought in his heart, "When he looked at me earlier, his gaze seemed to contain an air of question and puzzlement.... Looks like he probably knows about the matter of Bai Feng taking action to kill me. Hmph! I hope you behave yourself, because I don't mind taking care of you as well."

Thinking up to this points, Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed with a trace of coldness.

He wasn't worried about anyone witnessing him kill Bai Feng. After all, if this matter were to be spread out, the one who would get into trouble wouldn't be him...

Moreover, no one would believe he had the ability to kill Bai Feng.

"The Yu Clan members actually all survived," Meng Quan muttered to himself, after taking a glance at the Yu Clan's members. He was slightly disappointed.

Before long, Duan Ling Tian and the other 28 youths from the Genius Camp followed the four Centurions and arrived back at the Iron Blood Army campsite.

"I'll go notify the Captain." On the drill grounds, Fan Jian notified the other three Centurions before leaving swiftly.

After a few short moments, Fan Jian returned once more. "The Captain ordered that the remaining 29 youths be temporarily placed in the reserve tents."

The reserve tents couldn't be considered to be spacious. Each one had a total of four simple wooden beds within.

Duan Ling Tian's group of four was placed in the same tent.

"Finally I can have a good night's sleep." Meng Quan's eyes shone when he laid his eyes upon the beds, then he flew over and dropped his entire body onto one.

Duan Ling Tian wanted to stop him, but it was already too late.

Bang!

Meng Quan's body descended and the bed shattered with a bang.

"F**k!"

Meng Quan stood up and patted of the dust off his body. He was stupefied as he looked at the bed board that was reduced to pieces.

"Hahahaha...." Duan Ling Tian and the others couldn't help themselves from laughing out loud.

Meng Quan's gaze focused onto Luo Cheng. "Luo Chen, we're both good friends... you won't deny this, right?"

"Of course I won't deny it." Luo Cheng said in all seriousness.

"When a good friend's in trouble, you should be duty-bound to help him out, right?" Meng Quan continued.

"Naturally... However, if you're thinking of asking me to sleep on that broken bed of yours, dream on."

Luo Cheng lightly lied on his bed as he spoke, heaving a sigh of relief. He didn't forget to irritate Meng Quan though. "So comfortable!"

"You..." Meng Quan was flustered and exasperated. Next, his gaze moved on towards Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Yu.

"Mmm, just right to take a short rest." Before lying down on the bed, Duan Ling Tian yawned and acted as if he didn't notice Meng Quan's gaze.

"What, Meng Quan, don't tell me you're thinking of snatching mine?" Xiao Yu smirked as he looked at Meng Quan.

Meng Quan was close to tears!

He'd already been sleeping on the ground for nearly three months in the Dawnshroud Mountain Range, and now, when he finally got a decent bed to sleep on, it was spoiled by him in a spur of excitement....

Could it be that he was born fated to sleep on the ground?

In an inconspicuous corner of the Iron Blood Army's campsite.

"Fang Chun, what actually happened? Why did Bai Feng suddenly go missing?" Yu Hong looked towards the young man in front of him and frowned.

This Fang Chun was precisely the other Centurion that spoke out for Yu Xiang after he lost the gamble the other day.

"I don't know either. However, I have a feeling that this matter is related to that Duan Ling Tian." Fang Chun shook his head and added.

"Duan Ling Tian? He's only a fourth level Core Formation martial artist. Could it be that he has the strength to kill Bai Feng?" Yu Hong frowned.

"That's not what I mean. What I mean is that during the process of finding an opportunity to kill Duan Ling Tian, Bai Feng encountered a formidable fierce beast and was killed by it.... After all, the beast tide during this trip to the Dawnshroud Mountain Range was obviously planned since a long time ago, and

maybe Bai Feng was unfortunate and was affected by this." Fang Chun shared the guess that he had in his heart.

"If it really is like this, then that Duan Ling Tian really got lucky!"

Yu Hong's face sank. "We missed the opportunity during the first round of the training, and it will be difficult to find an opportunity after this."

"Yu Hong..." Fang Chun looked at Yu Hong and was slightly hesitant to speak.

"What, you still have something to say?"

Yu Hong questioned, "Fang Chun, when did you become so hesitant to speak? Based on our friendship, you can go ahead and speak your mind."

"Yu Hong, three months ago, that Duan Ling Tian and your younger brother made a gamble..."

Fang Chun told Yu Hong of what happened between Duan Ling Tian and Yu Hong during the gamble. "At that time, Duan Ling Tian forced the Captain into a tight spot with just a few words, and he could only make your younger brother make good on his wager."

"He made my younger brother take off all his clothes and run 10 laps in front of over 100 people?" Yu Hong's expression was extremely unsightly, as he was extremely furious.

"Duan Ling Tian! You humiliated my younger brother, you've humiliated a Yu Clan member.... I, Yu Hong, will never rest until I kill you!"

Chapter 112: Duan Ling Tian On a Rampage

When Duan Ling Tian woke up at dawn the next day, he glanced at Meng Quan, who was soundly sleeping on the ground, before shaking his head and smiling.

He then sat down cross-legged and started cultivating the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique!

Concentrating his spirit and calming the energy within his body, Duan Ling Tian started circulating the Raging Python Form's mental cultivation method...

Last night, he felt his cultivation bottleneck slightly loosening, and now was the perfect time to strike the iron when it was hot and charge past his bottleneck in one go!

Duan Ling Tian completely forgot about the passage of time as he cultivated.

After an unknown amount of time.

Bang!

Finally, Duan Ling Tian broke through the last profound gateway within his meridians.... And in next to no time, the Origin Energy inside his Dantian underwent a metamorphosis.

He broke through!

Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes in delight, and a bright light flashed within.

Breaking through to the third level of the Core Formation Stage would mean that he could once again further temper his fleshly body.

Presently, even without the use of a spirit weapon, he could exert the strength of eight ancient mammoths, which is a strength he previously required a spirit weapon to exert...

If he were to use a spirit weapon, he would be able to exert the strength of nine ancient mammoths!

Once he completes the tempering of his fleshly body for the third level of the Core Formation Stage...

His strength will be even more formidable!

At that time, he will be able to easily exert the strength of 10 ancient mammoths when relying on a spirit weapon. Moreover, it was at a level that was nearing the strength of 11 ancient mammoths...

Completely surpassing the seventh level of the Core Formation Stage and slightly inferior to the eighth level of the Core Formation Stage.

Of course, the precondition would be that the opponent didn't possess a spirit weapon.

"Now, even if I don't use a spirit weapon, my strength is sufficient to be comparable to Duan Ling Xing's at that time." Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed with a trace of coldness.

"However, that was the Duan Ling Xing of a year ago. Duan Ling Xing's current strength is surely even more formidable now, even to the extent that he might have broken through to the seventh level of the Core Formation Stage... As a disciple of the Duan Clan, spirit weapons aren't anything rare to him.

"Once I complete the tempering of my fleshly body for the third level of the Core Formation Stage, my strength should be slightly superior to his, or at least be comparable to his."

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath. "I must break through to the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage before I enter Paladin Academy... At that time, I'll vent the hatred in my heart by making Duan Ling Xing regret what he did that day, then I'll let him go repent in hell!"

Duan Ling Tian's body emitted a bloody killing intent in an unrestrained manner!

"Duan Ling Tian!"

Just at this moment, a hurried voice sounded as a flustered Luo Cheng rushed in.

Instantly, Luo Cheng's face froze as he was affected by Duan Ling Tian's killing intent, causing his entire body to tremble and his face to turn ghastly pale...

Only after Duan Ling Tian withdrew his killing intent did Luo Cheng catch his breath.

"What's wrong?"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian noticed that both Xiao Yu and Meng Quan weren't present, and he realized that quite some time had passed since he started cultivating.

"Xiao Yu and Meng Quan were walled up by Yu Xiang and his Yu Clan members. I noticed the situation wasn't good, so I hurriedly came back to get you." Luo Cheng had an anxious expression as he hastily spoke.

"What?" Duan Ling Tian's face sank, and a fierce light flashed in his eyes.

Did that Yu Xiang really think that he was someone so easy to bully?

"Let's go!" Duan Ling Tian brought Luo Cheng along as he swiftly left the tent.

At an empty space on a side of the Iron Blood Army's drill grounds.

Many youths surrounded this area and watched the scene.

In the crowd, Meng Quan was on the floor with heavy injuries and in an extremely sorry state.

Besides him was a few steamed buns that were tainted in mud and grass...

This was the breakfast he was bringing back for Duan Ling Tian!

"Yu Xiang!"

A cold and indifferent voice sounded as Xiao Yu, who had a gloomy expression, flashed out.

Exploding forth with his entire strength of 4 ancient mammoths...

Shadowless Drifting Light!

Sleeve Dimension!

Xiao Yu seemed to have transformed into a bolt of lightning with unparalleled speed as he flashed towards Yu Xiang in full fury.

"Your martial skill isn't bad, but unfortunately, the difference between our strengths is the strength of two ancient mammoths! You aren't my match." Yu Xiang scornfully glanced at Xiao Yu.

In the next moment, Yu Xiang's body moved as well as six ancient mammoths silhouettes condensed into form above him.

Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye, Yu Xiang's body jerked and his speed far exceeded Xiao Yu's, so he passed Xiao Yu and arrived behind him.

Bang!

He struck out with his fist and seemed to have not even used a martial skill out of disdain, directly blasting Xiao Yu away.

Even though Yu Xiang didn't use a martial skill, his fist contained the strength of six ancient mammoths after all, and thus it easily shattered Xiao Yu's defensive qi barrier and blasted him away.

Xiao Yu dropped to the ground with a crash before fainting.

"Not even worth a single blow!" Yu Xiang had an expression of disdain.

The Core Formation Stage was divided into nine levels, and it had two phases.

The first phase was from the third level of the Core Formation Stage to the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage, and the second phase was from the sixth level of the Core Formation Stage to the seventh level of the Core Formation Stage...

There was a difference of the strength of two ancient mammoths between these phases!

As for the other levels of cultivation in the Core Formation Stage, every increase in level would grant an extra ancient mammoth worth of strength...

Only these two phases were comparatively special!

"Xiao Yu's offensive martial skill and movement technique are both high grade Profound Rank martial skills and are both cultivated to the Perfection Stage; his comprehension ability is truly shocking! But unfortunately, his cultivation is inferior to Yu Xiang's by too much...."

"Yeah, the difference between a third level Core Formation martial artist and a fourth level Core Formation martial artist is truly too great, and they're in entirely different realms!"

"If Xiao Yu was also at the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage, with the might of his offensive martial skill and movement technique, Xiao Yu wouldn't necessarily be his match."

...

The spectating youths all sighed, as they felt pity for Xiao Yu.

"What do you want?" Meng Quan consumed a gold injury pill and had just slightly recovered his injuries when he noticed Yu Xiang walking over, causing his expression to unconsciously turn grim.

Stomp!

Yu Xiang stomped his foot on the steamed bun, causing it to become flat and be imprinted with his shoe print.

"Eat it!" A malicious smile appeared on Yu Xiang's face as he looked at Meng Quan.

"You...You better not go too far!" Meng Quan's face distorted. He didn't expect Yu Xiang would humiliate him in such a way.

The some of the surrounding youths couldn't stand to watch any longer, but no one dared to speak out, as they were too afraid of Yu Xiang.

"What's wrong, Meng Quan? My brother, Yu Xiang, is entertaining you with a steamed bun, but you're f**king pushing your luck? Do you want us to feed you?" Yu Xiang walked in large strides and brought along the other three Yu Clan disciples before clinging onto Yu Xiang's strength to bully Meng Quan.

"Brother Xiang, you just have to say the word and I'll get him to eat all these steamed buns." The Yu Clan youths walked forward two steps before they stomped all the other steamed buns flat and imprinted their shoe prints on them.

"OK..." Yu Xiang started laughing.

However, his smile froze in next to no time...

"OK my ass!" An explosive roar accompanied by an incomparably swift figure howled through the air and approached like a tempest.

The crowd hastily opened up a path before gazing slack-jawed at the space above the figure, as there were seven ancient mammoth silhouettes that dashed on in tow...

"The strength of seven ancient mammoths! Fifth level of the Core Formation Stage!" many youths exclaimed.

"Duan Ling Tian!" Yu Xiang looked at the violet-clothed youth that was flying towards him. His expression went pale when he noticed the seven ancient mammoth silhouettes above the youth.

The first thought that he had was that Duan Ling Tian had broken through!

Duan Ling Tian's skills were something he had knowledge of, and thus he knew that he wasn't a match for him, who now had an extra mammoth worth of strength.

Yu Xiang's legs jerked before flashing out. He wanted to flee.

"Want to flee? Can you?" Duan Ling Tian sneered.

This Yu Xiang wanted to flee?

Before long, Yu Xiang noticed that Duan Ling Tian's incomparably swift figure had actually made a strange circle and seemed like a spirit serpent as he directly flashed over to block his path.

Yu Xiang's face sank as he shouted, in a low voice, "Duan Ling Tian, my elder brother is a member of the Iron Blood Army and is an eighth level Core Formation martial artist. If you dare to do anything to me, he won't let you off!"

"Even if the person behind you was the Emperor, he still wouldn't be able to save you today!" Duan Ling Tian's gaze went cold. He seemed to have transformed into a cannonball as he flew out.

Whoosh!

Attacking out of rage, his arm ruthlessly swung out like a raging python swinging its tail!

As far back as when he noticed the seven ancient mammoth silhouettes above Duan Ling Tian, fear had arisen in Yu Xiang's heart.

Currently, he only had time to circulate his defensive martial skill...

Bang!

Instantly, his defensive qi barrier was shattered from the force of Duan Ling Tian's arm, and he was blasted away over ten meters before finally falling flat on his face.

Yu Xiang only caught his breath after spitting out two mouthfuls of blood. "Go get my brother!" he roared.

What he said was obviously directed towards Yu Xiao and the other three Yu Clan disciples.

After seeing Duan Ling Tian exert the strength of seven ancient mammoths, Yu Xiang's group were all scared s**tless, and they were just watching Duan Ling Tian heavily injured Yu Xiang...

At this moment, they heard Yu Xiang's orders.

"Let's go!" Yu Xiao shouted in a low voice. He wanted to take his fellow clan disciples and sneak off...

Spirit Serpent Movement Technique!

Duan Ling Tian's body moved at the first possible moment and blocked their path.

The expressions of Yu Xiao's group of four instantly went pale.

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian horizontally swept out his arm that carried the might to sweep away anything before him, blasting away Yu Xiao's group of four and causing them all heavy injuries that made it difficult for them to even stand.

From the moment Duan Ling Tian made his first move until the five Yu Clan youths were on the floor, it was only about 10 breaths of time.

Meanwhile, the surrounding youths finally reacted.

"F**K! The strength of seven ancient mammoths. Duan Ling Tian actually broke through to the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage!"

"Freak! How old is he?"

"A monstrous martial artist like him has never appeared before in our Crimson Sky Kingdom, right?"

"That Yu Xiang really is misfortunate to have offended Duan Ling Tian."

"Xiao Yu and Meng Quan are both Duan Ling Tian's friends, so Duan Ling Tian probably won't let the matter go that easily."

...

Under the gazes of everyone present, Xiao Yu was shaken awake by Luo Cheng before consuming a gold injury pill.

Duan Ling Tian seized all of the medicinal pills in the possession of the five Yu Clan youths, causing them to be unable to consume gold injury pills to recover their injuries.

"Are you alright?" Duan Ling Tian extended his hand and pulled Meng Quan up.

"Luckily, you arrived in time; otherwise, I would have been humiliated by them." Meng Quan had a slight lingering fear.

"Since they like those steamed buns so much, you can return the favor to them." Duan Ling Tian eyes flickered as a sneer appeared on the corners of his mouth.

"Haha... I nearly forgot." Meng Quan laughed as he picked up the steamed buns that had been stomped flat, then he walked over to the four Yu Clan youths and stuffed the buns into their mouths one by one...

At this moment, he was fearless; he had thrown the term "County City Yu Clan" to the back of his head.

When he noticed that the four Yu Clan youths weren't cooperating, Duan Ling Tian said, in a cold voice, "If you dare to spit it out, I'll shatter all your teeth!"

Instantly, their bodies trembled and they swallowed down the steamed buns that they stomped on earlier. Their faces had expressions full of humiliation and resentment...

The youths that were spectating the scene were all dumbstruck.

Suddenly, a youth that was slightly thin turned around and left.

"If I go notify Yu Xiang's elder brother now, it would be considered as doing a favor to the Yu Clan.... Gaining the favor of the Yu Clan will provide me with countless benefits!"

Chapter 113: Straight for the Kill

"Meng Quan, there's one more steamed bun. Don't waste it." Duan Ling Tian looked at the steamed bun that had been stomped on until it looked like mud and lightly smiled.

"Let me!" Before Meng Quan could even react, Xiao Yu, who had woken up and slightly recovered, picked up the steamed bun that looked like mud and walked over to Yu Xiang.

"Xiao Yu, don't you dare! I'll make you die without a grave!" Yu Xiang's pupils constricted as he howled.

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Xiao Yu sneered as he extended his hand and grabbed Yu Xiang's hair before pulling him upwards.

"You're courting death!" Yu Xiang lifted his hand and was about to attack Xiao Yu.

Slap!

Duan Ling Tian had been watching Yu Xiang since the beginning. When he noticed him wanting to attack, Duan Ling Tian's body flashed forward and grabbed his hand. "Yu Xiang, if you don't cooperate, I'll twist off your arm right now. You probably won't be able to pass the Genius Camp test if you lose this arm!"

"Duan! Ling! Tian!" Yu Xiang gnashed his teeth as he spoke Duan Ling Tian's name word for word with an enraged expression.

Even though he was enraged, he didn't dare to make any further movements, as he didn't doubt in the slightest that Duan Ling Tian would dare do what he said.

What a joke. How could the person who dared to be presumptuous in front of the Vice Commander be a cowardly person?

He forcefully swallowed the flames of rage burning within him, and in his heart he swore that he would make Duan Ling Tian pay a thousand-fold!

"Eat it." Xiao Yu's eyes flashed with a trace of coldness as he held up Yu Xiang's hair with one hand and stuffed the steamed bun that was stained with mud and shoeprints into Yu Xiang's mouth with his other hand.

Slap!

Xiao Yu lifted his hand and struck his palm onto Yu Xiang's back.

Instantly, Yu Xiang swallowed the entire steamed bun...

"Blearrggh...."

Yu Xiang felt a wave of disgust, then his face turned extremely unsightly when he couldn't spit it out.

Xiao Yu stood up and looked down at Yu Xian with eyes that emitted a cold gaze.

This was the first time in his lifetime that he lost face in front of so many people, and if it wasn't for his fear of the County City's Yu Clan, he would have already killed Yu Xiang.

Slap! Slap! Slap! Slap!

Meng Quan imitated what Xiao Yu did and slapped his palm on the backs of each of the four Yu Clan youths, causing them to swallow down the steamed buns they stomped flat themselves.

The surrounding group of youths were deathly silent, and they all felt a chill run down their spines.

Duan Ling Tian's group of three was truly too domineering!

However, they had the means to be domineering.

"Duan Ling Tian!" A furious, cold shout approached from the distance...

Duan Ling Tian lifted his head and looked. What he saw was a young general that he hadn't seen before flying over here from afar with a speed that was swift as a bolt of lightning.

When the general flashed past the crowd and arrived in front of him, Duan Ling Tian guessed the identity of this person.

This person's appearance was slightly similar to Yu Xiang, and thus his identity was extremely obvious...

Yu Hong!

Yu Hong had an expression full of rage as he swept Duan Ling Tian with his gaze, and only after he gave Yu Hong and the others some gold injury pills did he once again appear before Duan Ling Tian with eyes that were filled with a dense killing intent!

"Brother, Duan Ling Tian made us all eat steamed buns that were tainted with mud, grass, and had been stomped flat!" Yu Xiang howled in rage.

At this moment, he seemed to have forgotten that it was they themselves who stomped on those steamed buns...

"What!?" Yu Hong's face distorted and he fiercely glared at Duan Ling Tian while angrily saying, "Duan Ling Tian, you actually humiliated my Yu Clan members and humiliated my Yu Clan in such a way.... Today, I, Yu Hong, am bound to kill you to uphold my clan's honor!"

Whoosh!

Yu Hong moved like a tempest with terrifying speed.

Duan Ling Tian's expression turned grim!

This Yu Hong was obviously planning to pin a label saying that Duan Ling Tian humiliated the Yu Clan before killing him...

In this way, he would have a logical reason to avoid the Iron Blood Army's punishment.

This Yu Hong's motives were wicked, even malicious!

The sky trembled above Yu Hong, who was dashing towards Duan Ling Tian, as 11 ancient mammoths silhouettes condensed into form...

Obviously, this Yu Hong had a cultivation level similar to Centurion Bai Feng's, the one who died by Duan Ling Tian's hand three months ago. They were both eighth level Core Formation martial artists!

An enraged attack from a eighth level Core Formation martial artist brought great pressure to Duan Ling Tian...

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt that he would suffocate soon!

With the speed of an eighth level Core Formation martial artist, it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to dodge.

"Yu Hong, since you're courting death, then you can't blame me!" Duan Ling Tian's voice was icy cold, as if it were coming out of a pit of ice. His body moved; he was using the Spirit Serpent Movement Technique to intercept Yu Hong.

Sword Drawing Arts!

In an instant, his hand brushed past his waist and the Violet Myrtle Flexible Sword whistled as it swept out.

He didn't use the strength of the spirit weapon, only his Origin Energy to activate the Blood Crescent Inscription...

"Bullshit!" Seeing Duan Ling Tian actually daring to come intercept him, Yu Hong had a sneer on his face and his eyes emitted an awe-inspiring killing intent.

He had long ago heard of Duan Ling Tian breaking through to the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage, and at the moment, the killing intent in his heart was incomparable....

Now that he had found an opportunity and transformed into the protector of the Yu Clan's honor, he attacked with full force, as he desired to completely annihilate Duan Ling Tian and avoid any future troubles!

In his mind, even if Duan Ling Tian were to be killed by him at this moment, the Iron Blood Army wouldn't be able to blame him.

As he did it for the sake of the Yu Clan.

At this moment, he wasn't a general of the Iron Blood Army, but a Yu Clan disciple that was upholding the honor of the clan!

The people present nearly suffocated as they watched the scene unfold fixedly...

"Duan Ling Tian!" Xiao Yu's, Meng Quan's, and Luo Cheng's expressions turned grim with a trace of paleness, as they didn't think that Duan Ling Tian would be able to withstand Yu hong.

In the sky, the difference between seven ancient mammoth silhouettes and 11 ancient mammoth silhouettes was dazzling to the eyes...

"What a pity."

The surrounding youths who were spectating sighed in their hearts. "The heavens envy the gifted."

No one thought that Duan Ling Tian would be able to survive.

However, in the next moment, they were all dumbstruck.

Spirit Serpent Movement Technique!

Just at the instant Duan Ling Tian was about to intercept Yu Hong, his legs trembled and his body slanted to a degree. He brushed past Yu Hong's sleeves and narrowly dodged in a slightly sorry state.

Om!

And just at this exact instant, the Blood Crescent Inscription on the Violet Myrtle Flexible Sword flickered and transformed into a blood crescent...

The blood crescent flashed out like a shadow!

"No!!" Yu Hong's expression turned ghastly pale when he perceived the terrifying strength that the blood crescent contained, and he shouted out in fright.

He hurriedly circulated his defensive martial skill!

Chi!

However, the blood crescent easily sliced through his defensive qi barrier and entered his chest before penetrating through to the other side, creating a fountain of blood.

Bang!

Yu Hong's forward-charging body fiercely smashed into a high platform on the side of the drill grounds.

He eyes were open wide and were unmoving. There were no signs of life on his body anymore.

Dead!

"Brother!"

Yu Xiang's face turned ghastly pale as he howled in grief before charging forward and unceasingly shaking Yu Hong's corpse, as he was unwilling to believe that everything was real.

The other four Yu Clan youths now looked at Duan Ling Tian as if they were looking at a terrifying demon, and their bodies unconsciously trembled.

As Duan Ling Tian looked at Yu Hong's corpse, his eyes didn't have a trace of emotion; they were incomparably cold....

He had never once held back against anyone that wanted his life!

"Haha! Duan Ling Tian, nice work!" Meng Quan laughed heartily. The worried expression on his face had vanished.

Xiao Yu and Luo Cheng heaved a sigh of relief as well.

The surrounding youths that were spectating, however, were utterly dumbstruck to the point of not being able to come back to their senses after a long period of time.

"Oh my god! What did I just see? Yu Hong is dead?"

"I'm not dreaming, right?"

"Ah! That hurts! Why did you pinch me?"

"So I really am not dreaming..."

"F**k! If you want to know if you're dreaming or not, then pinch yourself! What did you pinch me for?"

"Right, I nearly forgot I can pinch myself."

"The thing that dealt the killing blow to Yu Hong wasn't Origin Energy, it seemed to be a bloody light that flashed out of Duan Ling Tian's sword... It seemed like an inscription!"

"If it really was an inscription, then Yu Hong was really unfortunate. Even until death, he probably never imagined that Duan Ling Tian would possess an offensive inscription capable of killing him..."

"He wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian but didn't do his homework; it would be strange if he didn't die when he was so reckless!"

...

The group of youths discussed animatedly.

No one felt pity for Yu Hong.

"Everyone." Duan Ling Tian heaved a sigh of relief and recovered his composure before sheathing the Violet Myrtle Flexible Sword and directing his gaze towards the group of youths.

Instantly, the scene returned to peace, and everyone looked towards Duan Ling Tian.

"Everyone, you all saw what happened today with your own two eyes. It was Yu Xiang who provoked me, and I only slightly punished him in response. As for Yu Hong, he desired to kill me and had unleashed his killing intent upon me. For the sake of self-preservation, I could only use an offensive

inscription to kill him! I hope that everyone can bear witness for me. Duan Ling Tian expresses his thanks." Duan Ling Tian clasped his hands towards the group of youths.

Today's matters could turn out to be either big or small, so he had to set up a path to extricate himself...

Or else, killing a Decurion of the Iron Blood Army would cause him to carry the greatest charge.

At that time, not to mention being unable to participate in the Genius Camp test and obtaining the qualifications to study in Paladin Academy, whether or not could even survive would be hard to say for certain...

"Duan Ling Tian, you can be at ease. What you said was the truth and nothing but the truth, and we all saw it with our own two eyes, so we would surely not mislead the public.

"Yeah, it was just Yu Xiang using his clan and brother's status to bully others today, and thus Yu Hong's death was warranted. Since we saw this with our own two eyes, it absolutely can't be a lie."

...

The surrounding youths clarified their positions one by one.

"Thank you, everyone." A light smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face. He had successfully controlled everything with his own two hands.

"Duan Ling Tian, you killed my brother. Even if you're in the right today and the Iron Blood Army doesn't punish you, my Yu Clan won't let the matter go so easily. You will undoubtedly die!" Yu Xiang had a face full of grievance as he stared angrily at Duan Ling Tian.

"There's myriad of people who want me dead, but what I really want to know is if your Yu Clan has the ability!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed coldly and a sneer appeared on his face.

It only took the afternoon for the news of Duan Ling Tian killing Yu Hong to be spread across the entire Iron Blood Army campsite.

Everyone was made aware of the matter.

In a reserve tent.

"Duan Ling Tian broke through to the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage? And killed Yu Hong by relying on an offense inscription?"

As a red-robed youth held a sword in his embrace, battle intent emitted from his eyes. "In a month's time, I will surely step into the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage as well, and at that time I will certainly find a chance to spar with Duan Ling Tian."

In another tent.

"Duan Ling Tian? I, Tian Hu, will catch up to you!" A robust youth concentrated and calmed himself before starting his painstaking cultivation...

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was comfortably lying down on his bed with his legs crossed and lightly rocking them.

"Duan Ling Tian, when did you break through to the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage?" Meng Quan, who didn't have a bed to lie on, sat on the floor as he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a curious gaze.

Duan Ling Tian noticed that even Xiao Yu and Meng Quan had glanced over.

He was just about to reply.

"Duan Ling Tian, the Vice Commander is summoning you." A deep voice sounded from outside the tent.

Chapter 114: Teng Yun Hai

Lucas

Hearing this caused Duan Ling Tian to frown.

It wasn't unexpected to him that Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan would summon him. After all, he did kill a member of the Iron Blood Army.

"Duan Ling Tian, we'll go together and bear witness for you!" Xiao Yu and the other stood up.

"There's no need for that. Since the Vice Commander sent someone to summon me and not detain me, it means that he has definitely found out the ins and outs of the matter. I'll be back in a short while." Duan Ling Tian lightly smiled.

"You have a point." Xiao Yu nodded. He wasn't a rash person and was just slightly disordered from worry.

Duan Ling Tian walked out of the tent and greeted the soldier outside. "Big brother, I'm Duan Ling Tian."

The Iron Blood Army soldier gave Duan Ling Tian a deep glance. The shock in his heart was unparalleled.

This youth around the age of seventeen was the Duan Ling Tian that killed Yu Hong?

He heard that the youth that killed Yu Hong had a cultivation at the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage.

Not even seventeen, but at the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage.... Just the thought caused his scalp to go numb.

Duan Ling Tian was led by the soldier and walked into Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan's tent before long.

However, Duan Ling Tian noticed that the tent was empty after entering it.

"What's going on?" Duan Ling Tian asked the Iron Blood Army soldier that led him over.

"The Vice Commander might have left at the last moment. You'll have to wait for a bit."

After getting a reply to his question, Duan Ling Tian started looking around and sizing up Qiao Qing Shan's tent as he waited.

As expected of the Vice Commander's tent, it was an entire three times larger than the tent he stayed in. Presently, only half of the space in the tent was before his eyes, as the other half was blocked out by a screen.

That other half was probably the resting area.

After ten minutes, Duan Ling Tian slightly frowned. "That Vice Commander sent someone to summon me but then vanished. What's going on?"

Just at this moment, Duan Ling Tian's ears lightly twitched as he perceived movement from outside. Two steady and deep sets of footsteps were walking over towards the tent he was in.

"The sound of the footsteps on the left has a deeper and steadier sound than the other.... The one on the left should be the Vice Commander. Could the one on the right be a Captain?" Duan Ling Tian guessed in his heart.

Swish!

The tent's door curtain was lifted upon by the person on the right.

"Vice Commander, Sir!" Duan Ling Tian looked at the one who lifted the door curtain and couldn't help but be stunned.

Never would he have imagined that among the two people standing before him, the one with weaker strength in comparison would actually be Qiao Qing Shan.

Then the other person was...

"Haha! Duan Ling Tian, sorry for the wait!" Qiao Qing Shan laughed heartily as he walked in before raising the door curtain to allow the other person to enter.

The person that entered was a refined middle-aged scholar. The middle-aged scholar had a light smile on his face which felt like a spring breeze washing over anyone who saw it.

"Commander, Sir!" Duan Ling Tian hurriedly saluted.

The middle-aged scholar was stunned, and so was Qiao Qing Shan, who had just let down the door curtain.

"How did you know?" The middle-aged man, also known as the Iron Blood Army's Commander Teng Yun Hai, looked at Duan Ling Tian with interest.

"Isn't it obvious? Who else could make the Vice Commander personally raise the tent's door curtain and emit such a respectful posture?" Duan Ling Tian lightly smiled.

In his heart, however, he was slightly surprised, as he originally thought that based on Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan, the Commander of the Iron Blood Army would most definitely be a burly man.... Never would he have imagined that he would be a refined scholar with an extraordinary temperament.

It was impossible to discern based on his appearance that he was the Iron Blood Army's Commander, a man who galloped across the battlefield and bathed in the blood of his enemies.

"It probably shouldn't only be this that allowed you to guess my identity, right?" Teng Yun Hai glanced deeply at Duan Ling Tian. His wise gaze seemed as if it could discern everything.

Duan Ling Tian laughed embarrassedly. "Looks like I can't conceal it from the Commander. You're right, I got an inkling from the sound of your footsteps. I originally thought that the one walking on the left would be the Vice Commander, and the one on the right would be a Captain."

Qiao Qing Shan couldn't help but be moved.

Teng Yun Hai nodded with a smile. "You were able to discern the difference in our cultivations based solely upon the sound of our footsteps... I have to say, kid, you're really extraordinary!"

"Commander, Sir, you're too kind." Duan Ling Tian moved aside and welcomed the two commanders in.

Teng Yun Hai and Qiao Qing Shan sat down one after the other.

Qiao Qing Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian as he asked, with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, since you're so good at guessing, then can you guess why I summoned you here?"

"All I know is that Vice Commander didn't summon me here to denounce my crimes." Duan Ling Tian smiled confidently.

"Haha... interesting."

Qiao Qing Shan laughed heartily before looking over to Teng Yun Hai. "Commander, what do you think?"

"Not bad." Teng Yun Hai nodded in satisfaction.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian was dazed and had a feeling that he was being played.

As he expected, Qiao Qing Shan once again directed his gaze at Duan Ling Tian before slowly saying, "Duan Ling Tian, many people witnessed the scene of you killing Yu Hong, and since it was he who was the one who struck with an intent to kill first, his death was warranted."

"Vice Commander probably hasn't finished saying what you want to say, right?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile.

"You really are a grinch. Our Iron Blood Army won't make it hard on you in terms of the matter of killing Yu Hong, but Yu Hong is a disciple of the Yu Clan after all. The Yu Clan's status isn't the greatest, but it isn't low either... If you're willing to join our Iron Blood Army and follow by the side of the Commander, the Commander will be able to protect you and your family from any harm, while also being able to foster you into the next Commander of the 10,000 elite soldiers of the Iron Blood Army." Qiao Qing Shan had an expression of complete control over Duan Ling Tian as he spoke.

Teng Yun Hai, on the other hand, noticed that Duan Ling Tian's expression didn't change from start to finish, and his heart twitched.

"Vice Commander, Sir!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled at Qiao Qing Shan. "First of all, I thank you and the Commander for thinking so highly of me. Secondly, a mere Yu Clan is nothing to me. Finally, what I want to say is... My aspirations are not within the Iron Blood Army, nor are they within the Crimson Sky Kingdom!"

Qiao Qing Shan was stunned before saying, with a frown, "Duan Ling Tian, don't look down on the Yu Clan. The Yu Clan is a large clan of the Swallow Mountain County after all; their ability isn't something you can imagine."

Duan Ling Tian slowly shook his head. "Thank you for your concern, Vice Commander. However, I've made up my mind!"

"A man's aspirations should be far and great. I believe you will definitely be able to leave the Crimson Sky Kingdom and walk towards a stage of your own." Meanwhile, Teng Yun Hai spoke as if he wasn't one bit angry that Duan Ling Tian had rejected to remain within the Iron Blood Army.

"Thank you, Commander, Sir!" Duan Ling Tian hurriedly expressed his gratitude.

"OK, you can return now and have a good rest tonight. Tomorrow, the Vice Commander will announce the training regime for the next period of the Genius Camp. Your true training is about to begin!" Teng Yun Hai waved his hand in dismissal.

"Commander, Vice Commander, I'll be taking my leave now." Duan Ling Tian directly left.

Inside the tent.

Qiao Qing Shan looked at Teng Yun Hai with a puzzled expression. "Commander, I've investigate that Duan Ling Tian, and his records are clean. With his natural talent and ability, he would absolutely be the best candidate for being the future Commander of the Iron Blood Army. You're really letting him go like that?"

"Qing Shan, do you think that with his reaction from earlier, he would remain if we continued to waste our breath?" Teng Yun Hai asked.

Qiao Qing Shan went silent.

Duan Ling Tian's attitude earlier was extremely obvious; he wasn't willing to remain in the Iron Blood Army.

"If he doesn't remain in our Iron Blood Army, even if he really obtains the qualifications to study at Paladin Academy, he will probably be dealt with by the Yu Clan before he even enters Paladin Academy. I really can't bear to see such a talent go to waste." Qiao Qing Shan sighed, as what he said came from the heart.

"Didn't he say earlier that he thought nothing of the Yu Clan?" Teng Yun Hai shook his head.

"Commander, don't tell me you didn't notice that that was just something he said to evade from accepting our offer.... What? Commander can't really have believed what he said, right?" Qiao Qing Shan had an astounded expression.

Teng Yun Hai lightly smiled. "I can tell that he was completely confident. A person can speak lies, but their eyes would absolutely be unable to lie. When he mentioned the Yu Clan, that gaze of contempt told me that he was really confident and not just talking rubbish."

"Commander, how could this be possible? I've already investigated his background; he's a member of Aurora City's Li Clan, and he is originally from the Li Clan's Branch Family in Fresh Breeze Town." Qiao Qing Shan didn't believe him.

"Then do you know who his father is?" Teng Yun Hai's eyes narrowed as he asked.

"His father? I wasn't able to investigate anything about this.... Could it be that his father is someone extraordinary?" Qiao Qing Shan's finally got his head around the matter.

"I have an old friend with an appearance 60% or 70% similar to Duan Ling Tian's. If I'm not wrong, that old friend of mine married a woman from a remote small clan... That woman was also surnamed Li," Teng Yun Hai said slowly.

"Who is it?" Qiao Qing Shan was curious, as he had followed the Commander for a very long time.

If it was an old friend of the commander, he should know of him.

"Do you remember the person from the Imperial City's Duan Clan that went missing 15 years ago...?" Teng Yun Hai's eyes flickered as he spoke.

"Commander, are you talking about... Duan Ru Feng?" Qiao Qing Shan's pupils constricted, and in an instant his expression emitted a sense of heartfelt reverence.

Duan Ru Feng, a peerless genius that shook the entire Crimson Sky Kingdom.... A figure that people from their generation had to look up to.

After leaving the Vice Commander's tent, Duan Ling Tian didn't dally around and directly returned to his own tent.

"Duan Ling Tian, what did the Vice Commander summon you for?" Meng Quan's eyes emitted a sense of curiosity when he saw Duan Ling Tian return.

"Nothing much. He just wanted to tell me that the real training of the Genius Camp will begin tomorrow." Duan Ling Tian shook his head as he spoke in a slow manner.

"What?!" Meng Quan was shocked.

"Shhh... softly," Luo Cheng said in a low voice.

"Huh?"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian noticed Xiao Yu sitting cross-legged on his bed. He was cultivating. "It's so early in the day; why is Xiao Yu already cultivating...?"

"Definitely because of being provoked by Yu Xiang."

Meng Quan shook his head and sighed. "In Aurora City, Xiao Yu was a figure his peers needed to look up to after all. Being humiliated by a peer like Yu Xiang caused him to be unable to bear it.... Working hard because of this isn't strange."

"Meng Quan, I noticed that you have a lot to say." Suddenly, Xiao Yu's eyes opened, and his cold gaze descended upon Meng Quan.

"Think of it as if I didn't say anything, I didn't say anything..." Meng Quan waved his hand embarrassedly, like a child who was caught stealing candy.

Chapter 115: Final Test

Lucas

Xiao Yu paid no attention to Meng Quan after glaring at him. He then glanced at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Do you know what the following training regime is?"

"Not yet." Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

Xiao Yu nodded before closing his eyes once again and started to cultivate.

Duan Ling Tian pupils constricted.

Looks like being knocked out in public was a real blow to Xiao Yu; he wouldn't be making such an effort otherwise....

However, he was confident that Xiao Yu would be able to trample on Yu Xiang sooner or later.

"So you two aren't seizing the opportunity to cultivate? Be careful, you might not be able to pass the test." Duan Ling Tian glanced at Luo Cheng and Meng Quan as he spoke with a smile.

"I'm not afraid. Don't I still have you?" Meng Quan laughed.

Duan Ling Tian rolled his eyes at them. "How do you know that the training that starts tomorrow won't be done individually? If everyone undergoes the training separately, how would I help you two?"

"Jinx!" Meng Quan and Luo Cheng cried out in unison. It was a rare occasion that they had such tacit understanding.

At dawn the next day, the remaining 29 youths in the Genius Camp gathered on the drill grounds.

Duan Ling Tian had only just arrived when he noticed two sets of gazes that were filled with battle intent. He looked over only to notice that it was Su Li and Tian Hu.

It looked like what he did yesterday had aroused the competitive spirit within the two of them.

Of course, besides the gazes of Su Li and Tian Hu, Duan Ling Tian noticed a gloomy and cold gaze that was filled with hatred staring at him...

Yu Xiang!

A light smile appeared on the corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth as he glanced at Xu Yiang. He made nothing of the hatred in Yu Xiang's gaze.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

However, to Yu Xiang, the light smile on the corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth was like a move to further provoke him, causing his face to flush in extreme rage!

The other youths of the Genius Camp had gazes of slight reverence when they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian's strength was something that they could only look up to.

Before long, Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan appeared, and behind him were another four Captains and 25 Centurions.

The formidable array of men emitted a faint aura of slaughter from their bodies, causing the expressions of the youths to turn slightly pale.

Duan Ling Tian stood unfazed on the spot. This degree of slaughter aura was nothing to him.

However, he was slightly surprised and curious at this moment. "Four Captains and 25 Centurions, what a parade! What on earth is the next training?"

"Reporting to Vice Commander, Sir!" The group of youths from the Genius Camp respectfully saluted Qiao Qing Shan.

Qiao Qing Shan nodded before saying, "Congratulations on passing the first round of the Genius Camp's test. Although the amount of you that survived is fewer than expected, I believe that those of you who were able to survive are surely the elites of the elites. To accommodate the unexpected turn of events during the first round, our Iron Blood Army has temporarily altered the training regime. The following training, instead of calling it training, it's more suited to be called a test. Anyone who passes this test and survives will be able to obtain the qualifications to study in Paladin Academy!"

What Qiao Qing Shan said was like a fuse that ignited the atmosphere of the scene.

"What the Vice Commander means is that the training we are about to face is the last round of the training?"

"I imagine that the so-called final test will certainly be extremely difficult."

"No matter what, I've already come this far and will surely go all the way!"

"Yeah, go all the way! Gamble for a chance to soar into the heavens!"

...

The youths of the Genius Camp felt their blood boil.

As Qiao Qing Shan waved his hand, the clamorous drill grounds went silent.

"The final test will no longer be carried out in groups. Everyone will complete a mission assigned by the Iron Blood Army, and only those who successfully complete their mission will be considered to have passed the test!" Qiao Qing Shan continued.

As soon as Qiao Qing Shan finished speaking, most of the youths had shining gazes.

Yu Xiao and the other three Yu Clan youths frowned.

"Jinx!" Meng Quan and Luo Cheng looked at Duan Ling Tian before once again crying out in unison.

The corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth slightly twitched. He didn't think that what he said would really come true...

Before long, Qiao Qing Shan started recounting the rules of the test. "In order to prohibit you all from borrowing external forces to complete the mission, our Iron Blood Army has dispatched 29 officers to supervise your progress on a one to one basis. During the course of completing the mission, even if you face a life-threatening danger, they will still not lend a hand.

"Don't have any hopes of trying to bribe the officers of my Iron Blood Army, as they have the authority to execute anyone who wishes to bribe them on the spot!" As Qiao Qing Shan finished speaking, his tone was icy cold.

The youths on the scene felt as if they had fallen into a pit of ice, and their expressions became heavy...

They realized that the mission they would be facing wasn't so simple.

29 officers?

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed, and his gaze swept the group of people behind Qiao Qing Shan one by one.

"The four Captains couldn't have been prepared for me, Su Li, Tian Hu, and Yu Xiang, right?" Duan Ling Tian guessed in his heart.

Clap! Clap!

Abruptly, Qiao Qing Shan clapped twice.

Instantly, a wave of clamorous noise sounded from outside the drill grounds.

Duan Ling Tian glanced over. What he saw was a group of Iron Blood Army soldiers carrying over simple tables and chairs before distributing them to him and the other 28 youths of the Genius Camp.

A set of table and chairs for each of them.

Why distribute tables and chairs to us?

He couldn't get his head around the matter.

"Sit down!" Following Qiao Qing Shan's order, the 29 youths, including Duan Ling Tian, sat down in front of their tables.

"Now, everyone will be given two papers and a brush..." As soon as Qiao Qing Shan's voice sounded, Iron Blood Army soldiers distributed papers and brushes to the group of youths.

What's this all for?

Most of the youths were dumbfounded.

Could it be that before the final test of the training, there would be a written test?

"Vice Commander, I haven't studied much and I'm only capable of writing a few words. If it's a written test, then I probably can't do it." Just at this moment, a muddle-headed youth flushed as he spoke.

Instantly, many people roared in laughter.

"Who told you I'm giving you a written test? In Cloud Continent, only the strong are respected. Even if you have the top score in a written test, what good is that?!" Qiao Qing Shan slightly frowned.

Not a written test?

Then what was it?

Besides Duan Ling Tian, all of the youths gazed at Qiao Qing Shan.

Only Duan Ling Tian propped his chin as if he had thought of something.

"Today, I distributed these papers and brushes to you not for a written test, but for you to write a letter. Or to be straight forward, I want you to write a will!" Qiao Qing Shan said in a loud and clear voice.

Will?

Write a will?

Immediately, the expressions of some of the youths went pale.

Some, however, didn't have much change in their expressions, as they weren't so surprised.

"Enough. Now I'll give all of you an hour to write your wills. It can be one or two wills. After you've finished, fold it up and write the recipient's general information. If you're misfortunate and lose your life, our Iron Blood Army will send your will back home at the first possible moment," Qiao Qing Shan indifferently said, with a carefree expression.

The breathing of some of the youths became hurried. They picked up their brushes but couldn't write anything for a long time.

Some of the youths, however, had already started wielding their brushes energetically.

A will?

A smile appeared on the corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth.

Is there any need for this?

In the end, Duan Ling Tian simply lied on the table and took a nap.

Qiao Qing Shan was constantly paying attention to Duan Ling Tian. When he Duan Ling Tian lying there and taking a nap instead of writing a will, the corners of his mouth unconsciously twitched...

This kid, is he really confident or is he arrogant!?

After all, the mission arranged for Duan Ling Tian could be considered the most difficult among the 29 missions.

These missions were divided into three grades, and the most difficult was Duan Ling Tian's without a doubt; it was something that was only decided on last night at the last minute.

After all, Duan Ling Tian was a fifth level Core Formation martial artist, so if the mission was too easy, he could probably finish it with his eyes closed.

Just below Duan Ling Tian's mission, there were three that were comparatively difficult. These were for the other three youths who were at the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage, Su Li, Tian Hu and Yu Xiang.

The remaining 25 missions were very easy for Duan Ling Tian and the other three youths, but for the remaining 25 youths, the difficulty was quite high and could threaten their lives at any moment.

After an hour passed, the Iron Blood Army soldiers collected the wills of the 28 youths.

Only Duan Ling Tian crumpled up his two pieces of paper into a ball and tossed them aside.

Meanwhile, the youths present noticed that Duan Ling Tian actually hadn't written a will...

"Duan Ling Tian, why didn't you write one?" Meng Quan, who sat behind Duan Ling Tian, couldn't help himself from asking.

"Why do I need to write it?" Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

Meng Quan was stunned. "Yeah, with Duan Ling Tian's ability, even Yu Hong, who was at the eighth level of the Core Formation Stage, was killed by him. Why would he care about the following mission? Duan Ling Tian disdained to write the letter because he is confident."

"When can I be so confident and even have the ability to be so arrogant...?" Meng Quan sighed in his heart.

"Now that you've all finished writing your wills, the mission is about to begin. After this, you will all follow your respective Iron Blood Army officers and leave Iron Blood City. Due to the long journey, they will brief you on your missions on the way." Qiao Qing Shan's voice sounded once more.

Instantly, the four Captains and 25 Centurions behind Qiao Qing Shan walked out.

Just as Duan Ling Tian guessed, the four Captains respectively walked over to him, Su Li, Tian Hu, and Yu Xiang.

The Captain that arrived before Duan Ling Tian was a familiar face, Captain Yan Da.

"Captain, Sir." Duan Ling Tian lightly smiled as he saluted.

"Let's go." Yang Da returned a smile as he nodded before walking away swiftly.

"Come back alive and let's have a drink together." Before leaving, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Xiao Yu and the others with a serious expression.

"It's a promise!" The three of them nodded.

The 29 Iron Blood Army officers took the youth out of Iron Blood City in batches.

Duan Ling Tian galloped behind Yang Da and left Iron Blood City. However, the direction in which he left was the eastern road.

All the way towards the east!

"Captain, Sir, this way leads to the regions of the Crow Summit Kingdom, right?" Duan Ling Tian couldn't help but ask.

"You're right. Your mission this time will precisely be carried out in the Crow Summit Kingdom." Yang Da nodded.

Duan Ling Tian pupils constricted. Carry out a mission in the Crow Summit Kingdom?

Could it be they wanted him to assassinate someone?

Chapter 116: High Difficulty Mission

Lucas

"Captain, what's my mission?" After they were a decent distance away from Iron Blood City, Duan Ling Tian couldn't help himself from asking.

"Your mission is to cause the Crow Summit Kingdom's Black Armor Army and the Lian Clan to have a falling out and completely hate each other forever." Yang Da's eyes flickered as he spoke slowly.

In his heart, however, Yang Da couldn't help but sigh. In these years, their Iron Blood Army had left no means untried but still came back empty handed.

Even he didn't know why the Commander would give such a mission to Duan Ling Tian...

As far as he was concerned, it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to complete this mission.

"Black Armor Army? Lian Clan?" Duan Ling Tian slightly frowned. "Captain, can you brief me about them?"

"Of course."

Yang Da nodded and slowly said, "By following this road, we will be able to arrive at the Crow Summit Kingdom's Black Armor City...The Black Armor City is similar to our Iron Blood City, and the Black Armor Army is similar to our Iron Blood Army. As for the Lian Clan, it's the strongest clan in Black Armor City, and they have always had good relations with the Black Armor Army."

Duan Ling Tian lightly nodded.

Yang Da continued, "The Black Armor Army is the sworn enemy of our Iron Blood Army, and they once suffered defeat at the hands of our Iron Blood Army."

As he spoke up to this point, Yang Da's face slightly sank.

"Once?" Duan Ling Tian was dazed.

"Ever since the Lian Clan interfered with the conflict of our two armies, our Iron Blood Army and the Black Armor Army have always been in an evenly matched situation, and it is difficult to demoralize the Black Armor Army once again like before." Yang Da was obviously furious as he spoke.

Normally, powers like a clan would not interfere in the conflict between two armies.

However, due to the good relations between the Lian Clan and the Black Iron Army, although they didn't openly interfere, they had secretly asked the masters of their family to sneak into the Black Iron Army, thus causing its strength to increase drastically.

This was precisely the thing that caused the Iron Blood Army to have the biggest headache.

Duan Ling Tian frowned. "Since the Lian Clan went out of their way to help the Black Armor Army, the relationship between them isn't that simple, right?"

Yang Da nodded. "Of course. The Lian Clan's Patriarch and the Black Armor Army's Commander are sworn brothers."

The corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed as he asked, "Captain, if I'm not wrong, the Iron Blood Army has tried to break up the Lian Clan and the Black Armor Army but have constantly failed, right?"

"You're right." Yang Da nodded.

"F**k!"

Duan Ling Tian couldn't help himself from swearing. "What kind of mission are you giving me!? You're asking me to do something your Iron Blood Army can't accomplish. Captain, tell me the truth, do you think I can accomplish the mission?"

"In my personal opinion, the chances of you completing the mission are very slim.... However, the Commander said that maybe you will bring a favorable turn for us." Yang Da gave Duan Ling Tian a deep glance.

He couldn't wrap his head around why the Commander would think so highly of this youth.

"The Commander?" The corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched.

The first thing that came to mind was that Commander Teng Yun Hai was taking revenge on him, as he bore a grudge against him for rejecting his offer to remain in the Iron Blood Army and become his successor.

"Can I refuse this mission?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"The Commander specially notified me that due to the special circumstances of this mission, you may refuse it. However, you would then lose your chance of obtaining the qualifications to study at Paladin Academy because of this," Yang Da said.

"Can't I change to a different mission?" Duan Ling Tian frowned.

"No!"

Yang Da spoke decisively. "This is the Commander's wish."

Duan Ling Tian laughed bitterly.

"Do you want to refuse? If you refuse, we can turn around and return right now and you can return home directly," Yang Da asked.

"Let's go look at the circumstances first." Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed as he spoke slowly.

If he sees that there's no hope in completing the mission once he arrives at Black Armor City, he will refuse it. There was no reason to waste his life just for the qualification to study at Paladin Academy...

In any case, he would only be 17 in a few more years, so there would be plenty of chances in the future.

Yang Da nodded.

At the same time, he seemed to have thought of something. He looked at Duan Ling Tian before asking, "Duan Ling Tian, I heard that you relied on an inscription on your sword to kill Yu Hong.... You know an Inscription Master?"

"You can say that. When I was young, I met a shitty geezer who was dressed up like a beggar on a street. I tossed over a steamed bun for him to eat and he left this inscription to me. Unfortunately, it wasn't until later on that I figured out that he was an Inscription Master, or else I would have taken him as my master." Duan Ling Tian talked nonsense with a sigh.

"You really have good luck." The corners of Yang Da's mouth twitched; however, he didn't doubt what Duan Ling Tian said.

He had heard before about how Inscription Masters' tempers and hobbies were extremely weird...

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Da spurred on their horses at top speed from the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Iron Blood City until the Crow Summit Kingdom's Black Armor City, but even then it took them three entire months to get there.

Black Armor City was a city that covered an area similarly vast to Iron Blood City.

Looking at it from afar, it seemed like a formidable fierce beast that was hibernating there, and a grim atmosphere blew into his face.

After entering Black Armor City, Duan Ling Tian's group of two found an inn.

"You can only rely on yourself for the following matters. If you feel you're unable to complete it, you may give up on this mission and directly return." After leaving Duan Ling Tian this last speech, Yang Da entered his room.

For the next few days, not even a shadow of Yang Da could be found.

During these few days, Duan Ling Tian moved about the various restaurants to try to find out about news of the Black Armor Army and the Lian Clan. Only then did he know that it wasn't only the Patriarch of the Lian Clan and the Black Armor Army's Commander that were sworn brothers, even their sons

were best friends; they were very close with each other, to the point that they usually called each other "brother."

"What bulls**t mission is this?!" Duan Ling Tian frowned and prepared to pay his bill before leaving the restaurant to go find Yang Da to give up on the mission.

In the next moment, however, his movements stopped, as he was attracted by the discussion from the table to his side...

"The concubine that the Lian Clan's Young Patriarch admitted has a really bright and beautiful appearance; I nearly lost my soul from only just a glance."

"I heard about it as well. Allegedly, he now runs over to that concubine's room every night and doesn't even bother with his wife."

"The true epitome of the saying 'if my body should perish, girls I'll still cherish.'"

...

The person who spoke didn't have any intention when he spoke, but the person who heard it inserted his own intention into it.

"Maybe this is an opportunity." A smile appeared on the corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth as a plan emerged in his heart.

In these past few days, he had heard of the Black Armor Army's Commander's son, Tong Lin, who could not be satisfied without a woman every night and would head to the city's Spring Breeze House to have some fun every other day.

Tong Lin was 19 this year and with ordinary natural talent, but his cultivation was at the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage.

He could imagine how high of an expectation his father, the Black Armor Army's Commander, would have placed on him...

Deep in the night, two drunk figures walked out of a restaurant.

"Lian Ke, you've been entrapped by that concubine of yours lately, and it's been so long since you went to the Spring Breeze House with me... How about this brother of yours invites you to have some fun in the Spring Breeze House tonight? Would you do me the favor?" Tong Lin's body wobbled as he spoke.

"Of course. Who asked you to be my brother? I'll let that little succubus be alone for tonight.... Let's go!"

Lian Ke, also known as the Lian Clan's Young Patriarch, went off to the Spring Breeze House with Tong Lin.

In the distance, in two corners, a figure hid within each corner. They were hidden in the darkness of the night before vanishing...

Duan Ling Tian stood on the balcony of a penthouse in the Spring Breeze House as he looked from afar at the two figures that were leaving, and thought in his heart, "Hmph! Looks like the Lian Clan's Patriarch and the Black Armor Army's Commander both truly value their sons. Well, one is the only child and the other the only son."

"Young Master, I've been waiting so long for you. Why haven't you come yet?" A charming and beautiful prostitute hugged Duan Ling Tian from behind and blew a breath of air on the side of his ears...

If he was teased by a woman with a good appearance like this at any other time, Duan Ling Tian would surely have 'punished' her right away, but now he had more important matters to deal with.

Duan Ling Tian tossed 100 silver to the woman. "I'm not interested tonight. Take it and buy some make up."

"Thank you, Young Master."

The woman burst into a smile of joy and sensibly withdrew herself. "Then I won't disturb the Young Master."

Before long, Duan Ling Tian snuck into another room and concealed himself above the bed.

A short while later, the room door opened, and a man and woman walked in.

"Young Master Tong, it's been so long since you've played with me." The woman's lustful voice slowly sounded...

"My good Little Red, I'll properly play with you right now." Sounds of clothes being taken off sounded, and mixed in it was the sound of hurried breathing.

Before long, Tong Lin embraced the prostitute onto the bed.

"Ah!"

The prostitute noticed Duan Ling Tian, who had crawled onto the top of the bed like a spider, with but just a glance, and she was scared to the extent that her face went pale and she screamed.

"Little Red, I haven't even started. What are you screaming for...?" Tong Lin still hadn't realized the danger that was descending upon him and continued to feel up the prostitute.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian made his move and directly knocked Tong Lin out.

"Sir, spare me, spare me." The prostitute's face was pale as she hurriedly pleaded.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian raised his hand and tossed a stack of silver onto the prostitute before indifferently saying, "You're an intelligent person.... Take this silver and redeem yourself before leaving the city tonight. Or else, you'll probably lose your life."

Duan Ling Tian hoisted up Tong Lin after he finished speaking and disappeared before the prostitute.

The prostitute's face flushed as she counted the silver in her hand before exclaiming, "100,000 silver!" Even if she worked in the Spring Breeze House her entire life, she still wouldn't be able to earn so much money.

She took a deep breath, grit her teeth, and made up her mind. She would redeem herself and leave Black Armor City tonight.

And it was because of this that she was able to conceal her identity and live a peaceful life. Eventually she even married an honest man.

Years later, after she had groups of children, she would still be unable to help herself from recalling the violet-clothed youth that changed her entire life that night...

After Duan Ling Tian took Tong Ling, he snuck into the Lian Clan Estate.

Duan Ling Tian knocked Lian Ke's concubine out without difficulty before tossing Tong Lin onto the bed and removing the clothes off both their bodies.

"She really is a beauty. You don't deserve to get her." Duan Ling Tian glanced at Lian Ke's concubine before moving his gaze onto Tong Ling for a moment. Only then did he leave.

Not long after Duan Ling Tian left, Tong Lin awoke in a dizzy state.

"What's going on?"

Before he could even make sense of what happened, he felt the smooth, jade-like body beneath him, and his breathing instantly became heavy as he pressed himself onto her...

"Little Red, I'm coming!"

Chapter 117: Duan Ling Tian's Methods

Lucas

Spring Breeze House.

In a secluded room, the heavy breathing of a man and woman sounded from within.

Suddenly.

"Roar!" Lian Ke emitted a low roar like a wild beast before falling onto the prostitute's body in exhaustion.

"Lian Ke." Just at this moment, a voice suddenly entered into the room.

"Who?" Lian Ke was scared to the point that his body froze, and the prostitute that was under him was shivering as well...

Duan Ling Tian leaned outside the window as he lazily said, "Lian Ke, you probably still don't know that you've been betrayed by your brother, right?"

"Who are you? What do you mean?" Lian Ke's face slightly distorted as he slowly got off the bed and walked towards the window.

"Won't you know if you rush back home and go take a look now? Tsk tsk, Tong Lin fooled you to come to the Spring Breeze House and then he himself went to have a good time with your concubine..." Duan Ling Tian finished his sentence and immediately left.

He still had an important matter to take care of.

Om!

Lian Ke opened up the window, but all he saw was a figure disappearing in the distance, causing him to unconsciously frown.

Lian Ke took a deep breath and put on his clothes before going to the room next door to look for Tong Lin. But he noticed that Tong Lin wasn't there at all and had vanished without a trace.

A bad premonition arose in his heart...

"Tong Lin!" Lian Ke's face slightly sank. Although he had a good relationship with Tong Lin, it wasn't to the extent of wearing the same clothes, or sharing the same woman.

The sky was clear and starless above the Lian Clan Estate.

Lian Ke galloped into the estate, going straight for the courtyard his concubine lived in.

Lian Ke had only been here for a short while before three war horses galloped swiftly and approached the main door of the Lian Clan Estate.

A bearded man who wore light armor and was being followed by two generals got off his horse and walked into the Lian Clan Estate.

"Commander, Sir!" The Lian Clan members hurriedly saluted when they saw the bearded man.

This man was the Commander of the Black Armor Army, an existence similar to the local tyrant of Black Armor City... and he was even the sworn brother of the Lian Clan's Patriarch.

"Where does the concubine your Young Patriarch recently admitted stay at?" The bearded man's voice was like thunder as he looked at one of the Lian Clan disciples.

The Lian Clan disciple's face went ghastly pale, then he pointed towards the north.

"Lead the way!" The bearded man glared, and his breathing was slightly hurried.

He had only just received news that his son was plotted against by someone and that there would be a threat to his life. And as such, he didn't dare hesitate and brought along two Vice Commanders before rushing over.

At this moment, outside the pitch black room.

A figure entered the courtyard before kicking the door open and entering the room.

Bang!

The room's door being kicked open startled awake the man and woman inside the room.

"Who's so daring as to actually disturb my sleep?"

A familiar voice sounded, causing the person who kicked open the door, in other words, the Lian Clan's Young Patriarch's, Lian Ke's, body to tremble as if struck by lightning.

When he lit a candle and saw the naked pair on the bed, his eyes turned bloodshot as he shouted in a fierce voice, "Tong Lin, you despicable scum!"

When Tong Ling noticed Lian Ke's appearance, he was slightly muddle-headed.

Only now did he notice that he wasn't at the Spring Breeze House anymore.

He lowered his head to look, and the beautiful young girl who hid shivering at the corner of the bed and looked at him in fear, wasn't she precisely the concubine Lian Ke had just recently admitted?

He just now... was expressing himself on top of this concubine?

He felt his scalp go slightly numb. "What's going on?"

Tong Lin looked at Lian Ke in panic. "Brother, it isn't what you think it is; it's a misunderstanding. This is all a misunderstanding... Even I don't know how I got into your concubine's room."

"Misunderstanding?" Lian Ke's face sank as he walked up two steps and directly pulled Tong Lin off the bed.

Bang!

Lian Ke struck out his fist, causing Tong Lin to spit out a mouthful of blood on floor. There were even some shattered teeth mixed within.

Tong Lin got angry as well; he smashed his fist out and blasted Lian Ke away.

"Lian Ke, you actually dare to strike me?! Not to mention this is a misunderstanding, even if it isn't, I f**ked your woman and you should be honoured! If it wasn't for our Black Armor Army, could your Lian Clan be the number one clan in Black Armor City?" Tong Lin's voice was cold and indifferent, and mixed within was an awe-inducing coldness.

"Good... good! Tong Lin, I'll kill you today." Lian Ke rushed forward once again and started battling Tong Lin with his raging Origin Energy.

However, the both of them were on par and could not discern superiority in a short amount of time...

"Young Master." Just at this moment, when Lian Ke was forced to retreat by Tong Lin, a voice sounded.

An attendant that wore the Lian Clan's servants' clothes walked in quickly and respectfully passed the broom in his hand to Lian Ke.

Lian Ke didn't think anything of it and took the broom in his hand, then he poured his Origin Energy into it and smashed it towards Tong Lin.

"Pfft! Lian Ke, could it be that you think that you can use a broom to defeat...." Tong Lin stuck his fist towards the broom.

However, he hadn't finished his sentence when a strand of dusky grey force was emitted from the broom, It was like a thousand-pound hammer as it smashed down towards him. The force knocked away his fist and the terrifying strength within continued on and smashed directly on his head.

Splosh!

Brain matter splattered all over Lian Ke's face, causing him to be dumbstruck.

He looked at the broom in his hand as if he was looking at a monster.

"That was... an offense inscription? Who the heck are you?!" In this instant, Lian Ke seemed to understand something as he turned around.

But what he noticed was that the fellow that passed him the broom had vanished.

He realized that he had been schemed against, and this was all just a trap.

"Ah!" Just at this moment, Lian Ke's concubine saw Tong Lin's mangled corpse and was scared to the point of screaming before fainting.

Lian Ke took a deep breath. He knew that no matter what, what happened here couldn't spread. If word of this got out, his Lian Clan would surely suffer the rage of the Black Armor Army, which could even injure the vitality of the clan.

If the Black Armor Army really were to roll out towards the Lian Clan, that was no laughing matter...

Just when he calmed himself down and was about to secretly deal with Tong Lin's corpse.

"Lin!" A roar of rage that sounded like explosive thunder caused Lian Ke's expression to turn ghastly pale!

This voice was a voice Lian Ke was extremely familiar with.

Why would he come here?

For a moment, Lian Ke felt a wave of helplessness surge in his heart, as he realized that the person who devised this trap had purposely forced him on this road to ruin...

"Uncle Lei, hear me out!" Lian Ke tossed away the broom that was tainted full of blood and looked at the bearded man in front of him in panic.

"Lian Ke, all my son did was play with your concubine... you actually killed my son for a woman? Die!" In a state of explosive rage, the bearded man, or in other words, the Black Armor Army's Commander, struck out his fist which carried with it the force of a tempest.

"Brother Lei, show mercy!" Just at this moment, a figure flashed over like a gust of wind but was stopped by the two Black Armor Army Vice Commanders.

Bang!

The bearded man's attack, which contained his rage, blasted open Lian Ke's head.

"My son!" The person who had just arrived was none other than the Lian Clan's Patriarch. Seeing his son being killed with his own two eyes caused him to be enraged. He blasted away the two Black Armor Army Vice Commander's and started battling the bearded man.

Before long, the entire Lian Clan was alarmed, and no one noticed that while the Lian Clan Estate was in chaos, a clan servant had silently left.

"Done!" After taking off the servant's outfit, Duan Ling Tian's body flashed like a spirit serpent and disappeared at the end of the road.

He knew that his mission had been smoothly completed.

After returning to the inn and taking a bath, Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged on his bed and started tempering his fleshly body with Origin Energy.

Suddenly.

"Crackle crackle..." In the blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian could clearly feel the muscles and bones in his body undergoing a metamorphosis. Similarly, his fleshly body and lifeblood completed the final tempering.

"This..." Duan Ling Tian had a pleasantly surprised expression, as he didn't expect that he would complete the third level of Core Formation Stage fleshly body tempering at this time.

Duan Ling Tian lightly clenched his fists.

Whoosh!

Above him, six ancient mammoth silhouettes condensed into form... And this was only the strength of Duan Ling Tian's fleshly body!

Whoosh!

When Duan Ling Tian exerted his Origin Energy as well, three more ancient mammoths silhouettes appeared above him.

Presently, he was able to exert the strength of nine ancient mammoths.

"What an unexpected pleasant surprise. First I completed the mission, and now my strength broke through..." A brilliant smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face.

Deep in the night, Duan Ling Tian fell asleep.

The next day, the sound of the door being knocked disturbed Duan Ling Tian's sweet dreams.

He opened the door only to have the Captain Yang Da walk in bluntly. He looked at Duan Ling Tian, who was still drowsy, with a weird expression. "You.... How did you do it?"

Early this morning, Yang Da heard about what happened in the Lian Clan last night, the major event that caused the entire Black Armor City to quake.

The three great Commanders of the Black Armor Army were all heavily injured by the Lian Clan elders, whereas the Lian Clan Patriarch was nearly killed.

After countless inquiries, he finally found out the ins and outs of the matter. Everything that happened stemmed from the conflict between the son of the Black Armor Army's Commander and the Lian Clan's Patriarch's son...

As far as he was concerned, it was filled with questionable points, and thus at the first moment, he thought of Duan Ling Tian...

"What? How did I do what?" Duan Ling Tian asked while yawning.

"Don't act stupid! What happened at the Lian Clan last night? Don't tell me you don't know," Yang Da derided.

"So it was that matter."

Duan Ling Tian cleared his head before shaking it. "It's only a small matter and it's not even worthy of being mentioned."

Small matter?

The corners of Yang Da's mouth twitched, as he wondered if the youth in front of him had said that on purpose.

Their Iron Blood Army had schemed for years but were unable to cause the Lian Clan and Black Armor Army to fall out and become enemies, but now it was completed by this youth in front of him in but just a night.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Yang Da as he asked, "Right, my mission is considered complete, right?"

"It's completed."

Yang Da nodded, then his eyes flashed with a trace of curiosity. "How did you actually do it?"

Duan Ling Tian roughly explained the whole course of the incident.

After hearing the entire story, Yang Da couldn't help but be moved, as he didn't think that this youth would have such scheming ability. He was able to create so much trouble by only using Lian Ke's concubine...

More importantly, the entire matter was conducted perfectly and could also be said to be flawless.

Maybe Lian Ke had some suspicions, but he didn't even have the chance to explain before being annihilated by the Black Armor Army's Commander, who was in grief of the loss of his son.

"There's something I can't get wrap head around. Even if Lian Ke was any angrier, he probably wouldn't go so far as to kill Tong Lin for a concubine, right?" Yang Da looked at Duan Ling Tian with a burning gaze.

"Indeed. Although he was enraged at the time, he didn't have any killing intent on him." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"How did you do it?" Yang Da had a face full of anticipation.

"Secret." Duan Ling Tian shrugged before going to bathe and change his clothes.

"You..." Yang Da was slightly irritated, but it just so happened that he couldn't take any action against Duan Ling Tian, and thus he could only laugh bitterly.

Chapter 118: Origin-Sealing Parasite

Lucas

While Duan Ling Tian and Yang Da were on their way out of Black Armor City, they saw the soldiers of the Black Armor Army parading towards the Lian Clan Estate with a bearing that seemed like a dark cloud bearing down on the city and threatening to overwhelm it!

"Feels like I went a bit too far." Duan Ling Tian galloped his horse forward and rubbed his nose embarrassedly.

Yang Da rolled his eyes at Duan Ling Tian. "Isn't this all your doing, kid."

"If you want to talk about the initiator of all this, it definitely wasn't me, right? I have no grievances with the Black Armor Army nor the Lian Clan, and thus have no reason to entrap them. Wasn't it your Iron Blood Army that asked me to complete this bulls**t mission? Such a hard but thankless job!" Duan Ling Tian grunted.

"Let's go. Since the matter's settled, the Commander will presumably be relieved."

Yang Da's voice had only just finished echoing out when Duan Ling Tian galloped his horse forward, leaving behind a face full of dust for Yang Da.

"This kid!" Yang Da glared before catching up to him.

On the way over, the two of them spurred their horses forward and embarked on a three-month-long journey.

Presently, since the mission was complete, Duan Ling Tian and Yang Da slowed down their speed and leisurely travelled towards the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Iron Blood City.

Along the way, they stayed in the inns of some of the small towns and experienced various local customs and practices.

Only after five months did they arrive at a small town near Iron Blood City.

"We'll rest here for the night, and we'll arrive tomorrow after a day's travel," Yang Da said to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian nodded as the two of them galloped into the small town.

Every time he entered these small towns, Duan Ling Tian would have the feeling as if he'd returned to Fresh Breeze Town, as these small towns were of similar scale to Fresh Breeze Town...

"Captain, there were a few inns earlier that seemed pretty good." Duan Ling Tian noticed that Yang Da had brought him all the way into the small town and disregarded all the inns on the way.

"We're not staying in an inn tonight." Yang Da smiled.

"Now staying in an inn?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

"This is Solitary Goose Town, and is also my hometown." Yang Da's eyes flashed with a trace of warmth.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised.

Just at this moment, a fleet of wagons were like a swimming dragon as the formidable array entered into the town.

These wagons had some cages placed upon them, but there weren't fierce beasts or wild beasts locked inside; they were occupied by humans.

These people were dressed like beggars but were extremely ferocious. They emitted a sense of ruthlessness from between their brows and were obviously not ordinary people.

There were obvious brands on the faces of these people.

"This is..." Duan Ling Tian stopped his horse and looked on.

"These are the slaves the Cai Clan gathered from outside. They usually sell some in the Solitary Goose Town before heading to the County City. The Cai Clan has good relations with the County City's County Governor's Estate," Yang Da slowly said.

Just at this moment.

"Yang Da!" The man at the lead of the fleet of wagons galloped over before stopping his horse in front of Yang Da.

Instantly, the entire fleet of wagons stopped.

"Cai Hai, you actually took charge personally." Yang Da smiled back in a familiar manner.

"Yang Da, you haven't come back for some time. Your cultivation has advanced, right? Once I'm done with sending these slaves over, I'll come to your Yang Clan to visit you, and I cannot do without some sparring with you." Cai Hai laughed.

"Then you have to use your time wisely; I'm leaving tomorrow morning." Yang Da laughed as well.

"Huh?" Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian frowned.

He noticed that a slightly robust figure inside one of the cages was gazing upon the Spatial Ring on his hand.

This was a middle-aged man, and his gaze emitted an uncontrollable agitation...

"He recognized this Spatial Ring?" Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded.

It was hard for him to imagine how the middle-aged man could have recognized this Spatial Ring, which was the possession of the Young Sect Leader of the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom's Boundless Sect.

"Eh!" Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian clearly saw that there was an obvious black pattern on the middle-aged man's neck.

This pattern... The memories of Rebirth Martial Emperor flashed within Duan Ling Tian's mind.

"Origin-Sealing Parasite!" Duan Ling Tian pupils constricted, as he knew the meaning that this pattern represented.

However, it was logically impossible for a parasitic poison that required such high skill to create to appear in the Crimson Sky Kingdom...

The Origin-Sealing Parasite was a parasitic poison that would seal a person's Origin Energy.

Even a Void Stage powerhouse would be infected by it if caught off guard, and once infected, the entire body's Origin Energy would be sealed, only leaving the victim with a cultivation at the ninth level of the Body Tempering Stage.

"Bound...less....Sect..."

Noticing the unkempt middle-aged man's fierce gaze sweeping towards him, Duan Ling Tian mouthed these two words.

Instantly, the middle-aged man's body trembled and his eyes emitted a sense of excitement.

"He's really from the Boundless Sect!" Duan Ling Tian's heart shook.

"Yang Da, who's this?" Meanwhile, Cai Hai's gaze had descended upon Duan Ling Tian.

"He's Duan Ling Tian. He's a member of this year's Genius Camp. He's already passed the final test and obtained the qualifications to enter Paladin Academy, so he will become a Paladin Academy student soon." Yang Da smiled as he spoke.

Cai Hai was visually moved and an amiable smile appeared on his face. "Brother Ling Tian, I'm Cai Hai."

"How should I address you?" Duan Ling Tian returned a smile but was unaware as to how he should address Cai Hai.

Cai Hai laughed heartily. "Brother Ling Tian, if you don't mind, then call me Big Brother Cai. How about it?"

"Big Brother Cai."

Duan Ling Tian greeted before asking, "Big Brother Cai, where did you get all these slaves you're transporting?"

Cai Hai said, with a smile, "Our merchandise is purchased from other kingdoms; they're mostly war prisoners and wanderers."

Purchased their stock?

Duan Ling Tian felt a sense of grief for these slaves. They were obviously human but were taken as merchandise.

"Big Brother Cai, I've always wanted to buy a slave but didn't have the connections... I wonder if I can buy one from you." Duan Ling Tian probed.

"Brother Ling Tian, you're treating me like a stranger. Not to mention the friendship between me and your Captain as we grew up, we've become friends at our first meeting, and it makes me feel considerably warm. Just take any one of these slaves as a meeting gift from your Big Brother Cai," Cai Hai generously said.

As far as he could see, since Duan Ling Tian had obtained the qualifications to enter Paladin Academy, his extraordinary natural talent was evident from his young age of 17.

Once he graduates from Paladin Academy, his future will certainly be boundless!

He would never have a chance to be on friendly terms with such a person in the future. Now, however, it was precisely the best time to do Duan Ling Tian a favor, and maybe in the future it would grant him an even larger favor.

"Thank you, Big Brother Cai." Duan Ling Tian didn't refuse it and purposely spurred his horse closer to the cages.

The slaves all looked at Duan Ling Tian with cold and indifferent gazes, seeming to wish nothing more than to tear him to shreds...

"I'll take him." Duan Ling Tian eventually pointing towards the middle-aged man that might be from the Boundless Sect.

Cai Hai's brows slightly twitched as he reminded, "Brother Ling Tian, that slave is only at the ninth level of the Body Tempering Stage and is the cheapest among this group of slaves. Why don't you pick another? How about that slave that's at the fifth level of the Core Formation Stage? It's one of the high quality merchandise among this batch of slaves."

"Big Brother Cai, this one is fine. You're giving me a meeting gift; how could I take advantage of you?" Duan Ling Tian smiled.

"Haha... Brother Ling Tian you're straightforward as expected! Once I finish arranging a place for these slaves, I'll bring him over to the Yang Clan." Cai Hai glanced deeply at Duan Ling Tian, as his feeling that this youth wasn't simple grew even deeper.

Cai Hai said his farewells to Yang Da before leaving.

"Duan Ling Tian, is there something special about that slave?" Yang Da looked at Duan Ling Tian with a slightly suspicious expression.

The corners of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched, "Captain, what do you think could be special about that slave? Isn't it just a ninth level Body Tempering slave?"

"Haha... I just think it's strange that you would be so 'sensible.'" Yang Da laughed loudly.

"Do I seem like the type of person that covets small gains?" Duan Ling Tian was speechless.

"You don't seem like one..."

"That's more like it."

"You were always one!"

"...."

That night, Duan Ling Tian stayed at the Yang Clan.

Only then did Duan Ling Tian know that the Yang Clan that Yang Da originated from was actually one of the three great clans of Solitary Goose Town.

The Cai Clan which Cai Hai was from was also one of the three great clans of Solitary Goose Town.

Besides this, Duan Ling Tian found out of another matter.

The wife of Swallow Mountain County's County Governor was actually the Cai Clan's Patriarch's elder sister.... And Pei San, whose arm was cut off, was precisely the nephew of the Cai Clan's Patriarch.

Cai Hai, on the other hand, was the Cai Clan's Patriarch's younger brother, and Pei San's uncle.

"One really can't avoid their enemies..." After finding out about all this, Duan Ling Tian couldn't help but sigh.

"If that Pei San knew that not only was his uncle extremely courteous to me but even gifted a slave to me, I wonder what he would feel... he probably would spit blood out of anger." Duan Ling Tian's heart flashed with a wicked thought.

"Young Master Ling Tian, the second master requests your company." Just at this moment, the voice of the servant girl entered the room.

"Looks like Cai Hai's arrived." Duan Ling Tian thought in his heart.

The second master that the servant girl spoke of was precisely the Captain Yang Da who was also the younger brother of the Yang Clan Patriarch.

In the Yang Clan's audience hall, Duan Ling Tian saw Cai Hai once again, and with him was the middle-aged man that Duan Ling Tian chose earlier.

After cleaning up and changing clothes, the middle-aged man seemed refreshed; however, the brand on his face undoubtedly proclaimed his low status as a slave.

"Big Brother Cai." Duan Ling Tian smiled to Cai Hai.

"Brother Ling Tian, you really have a good eye. Although this slave's cultivation is slightly low, his appearance and bearings are quite extraordinary." Cai Hai smiled.

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Duan Ling Tian bid his farewell and brought along the middle-aged man as he left.

In a quiet room, Duan Ling Tian and the middle-aged man stood staring at each other.

The middle-aged man's expression was calm without a trace of change as he grabbed Duan Ling Tian's shoulder and asked, in an agitated manner, "Why do you have the Young Sect Master's Spatial Ring? What did you do to him?"

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian's face sank, and his hand moved like a bolt of lightning and knocked the middle-aged man a distance away.

The middle-aged man's face turned grim as he growled, "If it wasn't for me being poisoned, even if a thousand of babies like you were you were to attack me, I would be able to annihilate them with a flip of my palm!"

"Even you yourself said that you're poisoned.... All I know is that you're currently a ninth level Body Tempering piece of trash! So behave yourself!" Duan Ling Tian moved forward two steps and gave the middle-aged man a slap.

"You!" The middle-aged man's face distorted as he moved to attack Duan Ling Tian.

"It seemed you've forgotten that I'm your liege now!" Duan Ling Tian's voice was cold and indifferent as he raised his hand and swung it out like a raging python swinging its tail, blasting the middle-aged man away once again.

Thump!

Duan Ling Tian put his foot on the middle-aged man's chest as he looked down at him and coldly said, "Remember that from today onwards, I'm your liege! Your liege that you're not allowed to disobey!"

Chapter 119: Xiong Quan

Lucas

The middle-aged man's face flushed as if he wanted to struggle, but he was unable to do so.

"What, you're unwilling to submit?" Duan Ling Tian's gaze went cold as he applied pressure with his leg.

The middle-aged man's face went pale and slowly became ghastly pale, then his body started to tremble...

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian withdrew his leg.

The middle-aged man took deep and heavy breaths for a long time before finally recovering, then he looked at Duan Ling Tian with an icy cold gaze.

Duan Ling Tian paid no attention to this as he indifferently said, "If you acknowledge me as your liege, I can help remove the Origin-Sealing Parasite within you."

"You know of the Origin-Sealing Parasite?" The middle-aged man's pupils constricted and astonishment filled his face.

As far as he knew, the Origin-Sealing Parasite was something that was absolutely impossible to be known by anyone in a small kingdom like this.

But the violet-clothed youth in front of him seemed to be well versed on the Origin-Sealing Parasite, and most importantly, he had the Boundless Sect's Young Sect Master's Spatial Ring on his hand.

"You're really able to remove the Origin-Sealing Parasite within me?" The middle-aged man took a deep breath as his eyes flickered.

"What, you doubt me?"

Duan Ling Tian swept the middle-aged man with a cold and indifferent gaze as he spoke. "Now tell me all about why you're infected with the Origin-Sealing Parasite and why you're here in the Crimson Sky Kingdom."

The middle-aged man caught his breath. "I'm Xiong Quan, the Guardian of the Boundless Sect. I and the Young Sect Leader successfully fled the scene when the Boundless Sect tragically met with the calamity of annihilation. In an effort to save ourselves, we each led away some of our pursuers. Although I was lucky and managed to flee my pursuers later on, the Origin-Sealing Parasite that I was infected with finally took effect, and I was only able to walk for a while in my sorry state before finally losing my strength and falling unconscious. When I next came to my senses, I noticed that I was locked up and branded with the mark of a slave!" As he finished speaking, Xiong Quan gnashed his teeth.

The dignified Guardian of the Boundless Sect had actually become a slave...

In the beginning, he even thought of dying; however, in the end, he gritted his teeth and persevered.

He believed that he would someday be able to remove the Origin-Sealing Parasite and recover his strength.

At that time, he would annihilate the group of people that gave him this slave brand!

"So that's what happened.... Your Spatial Ring actually wasn't taken by them." Duan Ling Tian glanced at Xiong Quan's right hand.

On Xiong Quan's right middle finger was a rust-stained ring which no one would take a second look at, but Duan Ling Tian, however, was able to discern that it was a Spatial Ring... and maybe it was precisely because Xiong Quan's Spatial Ring was so inconspicuous that it wasn't taken away.

Xiong Quan had a vigilant expression as he put away his Spatial Ring.

Duan Ling Tian stared blankly for a moment before ordering, "Remove the ownership and give it to me!"

Xiong Quan's face distorted before turning into a face full of bitterness as he helplessly removed his Spatial Ring's ownership and passed it over to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian dripped his blood and established ownership before looking within. What he saw, however, was that it only contained some grade seven medicinal pills, and a narrow saber, which was a grade seven spirit weapon.

"Just this pile of trash?" Duan Ling Tian frowned as he casually removed his ownership of the Spatial Ring and tossed it back to Xiong Quan.

Trash?

The corners of Xiong Quan's mouth twitched. "Who the heck is this youth? Even grade seven spirit weapons and grade seven medicinal pills are considered trash to him?"

"Little... Little Brother..."

Xiong Quan looked at Duan Ling Tian as he spoke; however, he couldn't even finish what he wanted to say before being interrupted by Duan Ling Tian with a frown. "Who's your little brother!? I'll give you one last chance. If you don't acknowledge me as your liege, then I won't let you live, let alone remove the poison within you."

As Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, his body emitted a dense killing intent.

Xiong Quan let out a deep breath of cold air before speaking in a composed manner. "I want to know what happened to the Young Sect Leader. If the Young Sect Leader was killed by you, then I would rather die than acknowledge you as my liege!"

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Xiong Quan with a slightly surprised gaze. "I didn't notice earlier that you were a man of such integrity."

Xiong Quan grunted in reply.

"When I found your Young Sect Leader, he was already on the verge of death and left a Voice Transmission Jade Slip to me. He requested that I pass another Voice Transmission Jade Slip to an old man called Shang Guan Yan. I'll give you the Voice Transmission Jade Slip to discern its authenticity once I've removed your poison and helped you recover your Origin Energy," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently.

"Young Sect Leader!" Xiong Quan cried out in grief and his aged face was drowned in tears.

In the end, he stopped his tears before bowing to Duan Ling Tian. "My liege."

Duan Ling Tian glanced indifferently at Xiong Quan. "I will spare no effort in removing the poison within you, but I'll have to leave a contingency. I'll have you consume another type of highly toxic poison."

Xiong Quan's face instantly went ghastly pale.

"Don't worry, the effects of the poison I'll give you will only recur every six months, so as long as I give you the antidote, you'll be able to live without worry for six months. This is also my method of preventing you from going back on your word once you recover your Origin Energy," Duan Ling Tian added.

Xiong Quan's eyes flashed with a bright light and his face was filled with bitterness.

He never imagined that this youth would think so far ahead, as he really had such thoughts earlier.

"Don't have any hopes of getting lucky, I'm an alchemist." Duan Ling Tian withdrew his Alchemist Guild Grade Nine Alchemist Crest and shook it at Xiong Quan's face before putting it away.

"Grade Nine Alchemist..." Xiong Quan's face froze. "This youth that looks to be around the age of 17 is actually a Grade Nine Alchemist? There was never such a young Grade Nine Alchemist even in the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom."

"Follow me back to Iron Blood City tomorrow and I'll refine the medicinal pill to remove your Origin-Sealing Parasite. However, my current cultivation is limited, so I'm only able to refine a medicinal pill capable of removing one third of the Origin-Sealing Parasite's poison within you at most... What was your cultivation level when you were at your prime?" Duan Ling Tian asked Xiong Quan as he briefed him.

"Sixth level of the Void Prying Stage," Xiong Quan said respectfully.

"Sixth level of the Void Prying Stage?"

Duan Ling Tian's brows raised before he rubbed his chin. "Your cultivation should be able to recover to the Nascent Soul Stage after one third of the poison is removed. As for what level of the Nascent Soul Stage, that would depend on your own fortune."

"I can't completely recover?" Xiong Quan's expression froze and he was slightly disappointed.

"Hmph! I'm only a Grade Nine Alchemist right now, so the strength of my Pill Fire is limited. Once I step into the Origin Core Stage, I can become a Grade Eight Alchemist, and at that time I can remove another one third of the poison within you. Once I step into the seventh level of the Origin Core Stage and become a Grade Seven Alchemist, it will be sufficient to help you completely remove the poison within your body!"

"In other words, once I step into the seventh level of the Origin Core Stage, your cultivation will recover to its prime!"

Duan Ling Tian swept Xiong Quan with a cold and indifferent gaze. "What, can't wait?"

"I'm very satisfied with that" Xiong Quan hurriedly shook his head. It was more than enough to him that he would be able to recover his strength in this lifetime, and he was just momentarily blinded by his desire earlier.

At dawn the next day, Duan Ling Tian brought Xiong Quan along as he followed Yang Da back to Iron Blood City.

At this moment, Xiong Quan was wearing a mask that covered half his face, and with it the slave brand on his face.

Upon arrival at Iron Blood City, Duan Ling Tian gave Xiong Quan some silver to stay at a predetermined inn before following Yang Da back to the Iron Blood Army campsite.

Only now did Duan Ling Tian find out that he was the first Genius Camp member to complete the mission and return.

"Only another month remains from the one year deadline, but none the other 28 youths have completed their missions and returned! Looks like the places they went were extremely far as well," Duan Ling Tian guessed in his heart.

As expected, Duan Ling Tian was once again summoned by the Iron Blood Army's Commander, Teng Yun Hai, and this summon was a banquet that the Commander specially held in honor of Duan Ling Tian's return.

During the banquet, besides Commander Teng Yun Hai and Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan, another seven Captains, including Yang Da, were present. And thus, the high-ranking generals that were garrisoned at the Iron Blood Army campsite were all present.

"Duan Ling Tian, on behalf of the Iron Blood Army, we raise this cup of wine in your honor! From today onwards, the Black Armor Army is nothing to be afraid of!" Teng Yun Hai laughed heartily as he raised his cup.

The others raised their cups as well. As far as the Iron Blood Army was concerned, the Black Armor Army losing the assistance of the Lian Clan was comparable to losing its wings.

"Cheers!" Duan Ling Tian raised his cup as well before draining the cup with one gulp.

"Satisfying! They do say that heroes get their start when they are youngsters. This has been really eye-opening to me." A Captain looked at Duan Ling Tian as he led the praise.

Subsequently, the remaining Captains weren't stingy with their praise to Duan Ling Tian.

After the banquet ended, Duan Ling Tian followed Teng Yun Hai into the largest tent in the Iron Blood Army's campsite, or in other words, Teng Yun Hai's tent.

"Duan Ling Tian, I didn't think that you would really be able to complete that mission." Teng Yun Hai sighed.

Duan Ling Tian's gaze flickered. "What? Commander, if you weren't confident, then why did you give me that mission?"

Teng Yun Hai smiled as he spoke. "By your tone, it seems you have some slight resentment?"

"Commander, Sir, where's my proof of qualification?" Duan Ling Tian didn't reply to Teng Yun Hai but instead spread out his hand, obviously not interested in staying at this place for long.

Teng Yun Hai raised his hand and passed a document of proof to Duan Ling Tian. "The time to head to Paladin Academy and register starts half a year from now and ends a year from that time. You can prepare to start your journey as soon as you return home. If you bring your family along in a wagon, it would require around a year's time to travel from Aurora City to the Imperial City."

"You investigated me?" Duan Ling Tian frowned and was slightly displeased.

"Don't worry, I had no ill intentions." The smile on Teng Yun Hai's face never faded.

"Farewell." Duan Ling Tian put away the proof of qualification and turned around before leaving.

"He's still young but already has a mild temper.... Duan Ru Feng, you have a good son." Teng Yun Hai's eyes flashed with a trace of admiration.

Since Duan Ling Tian was currently considered to have passed the Genius Camp training, the rules he had to follow as a member of the Genius Camp were abolished and he could freely enter and leave the Iron Blood Army's campsite.

After leaving the Iron Blood Army's campsite, he found a few medicine stores and obtained sufficient medicinal materials before heading to the inn to look for Xiong Quan.

"My liege." Xiong Quan knew how to behave now and displayed respect and reverence in front of Duan Ling Tian.

"Stand guard for me as I refine the poison removal pill for you." Duan Ling Tian flicked his sleeve before directly entering the room.

Hearing what he said caused Xiong Quan to reply in excitement before respectfully standing guard outside the door like a guardian deity.

In the room, Duan Ling Tian separated the medicinal materials into categories before picking them up one by one and placing them into the cauldron. A Pill Fire appeared on his hand before he pushed it into the cauldron.

Chi!

Tongues of flames shot out of the cauldron and then the cauldron started trembling.

Two hours later, Duan Ling Tian finished up and retrieved the three medicinal pills that flickered with a green stream of light which shot out of the cauldron.

Chapter 120: Will

Lucas

Spirit-Cleansing Pill!

The medicinal pill that was currently Duan Ling Tian refining was a poison removal pill the Rebirth Martial Emperor invented after researching a myriad of different poisons. This pill was divided into nine grades.

Duan Ling Tian was only a Grade Nine Alchemist at present, so he was only able to refine a Grade Nine Spirit-Cleansing Pill.

Duan Ling Tian pushed open the room door and instantly saw Xiong Quan, who gazed at him with a face full of agitation.

Duan Ling Tian casually tossed the three Spirit-Cleansing Pills to Xiong Quan before indifferently saying, "Consume one pill first. The medicinal effect will probably require a month to completely manifest. After a month, consume the second pill, and after two months, consume the third pill. After three months, you will be able to recover one third of the strength you had at your prime."

"Thank you, my liege." Xiong Quan didn't hesitate to pop the Spirit-Cleansing Pill into his mouth and swallow it.

As for the other two pills, he put them away inside his Spatial Ring as if he would a treasure.

"Keep in mind that I've mixed a highly toxic poison within the medicinal pill, and if you don't behave yourself, then only death awaits you!" Duan Ling Tian added.

"Yes, my liege." Xiong Quan had long ago been mentally prepared for this.

In the following days, Duan Ling Tian stayed in the inn, as the living conditions of the Iron Blood Army campsite were too inferior to the inn.

Duan Ling Tian had already started to charge towards the fourth level Core Formation Stage threshold.

"Once I step into the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage, my Origin Energy will undergo a qualitative change and directly increase my strength by two ancient mammoths." Duan Ling Tian's eyes abruptly started shining brightly.

"At that time, even if I don't use a spirit weapon, I can still possess the strength of 11 ancient mammoths with just my bare hands; that's comparable to an eighth level Core Formation martial artist! As expected of the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique which is at the same level as the Three Lives Rebirth Technique that Rebirth Martial Emperor cultivated! Once I break through to the ninth level of the Core Formation Stage in the future and complete the final fleshly body tempering of the Raging Python Form, I will be able to possess the strength of 23 ancient mammoths!"

"Without the assistance of external forces such as spirit weapons, an ordinary ninth level Core Formation martial artist only possesses the strength of 12 ancient mammoths. I, however, will have an extra 11 ancient mammoths compared to them due to my fleshly body being far stronger than an ordinary person's."

"Even a first level Origin Core martial artist only possesses the strength of 20 ancient mammoths! Thus, at the ninth level of the Core Formation Stage, I can firmly defeat a first level Core Formation martial artist!"

"However, a second level Origin Core martial artist would possess the strength of 30 ancient mammoths, and thus only when I step into the first level of the Origin Core Stage will I be able to battle with such a martial artist!" Duan Ling Tian's surging state of mind quickly returned to a calmed state.

Cultivate seriously!

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, Raging Python Form!

Origin Energy continuously circulated within Duan Ling Tian's body in an effort to break through to the fourth level of the Core Formation Stage as soon as possible...

Although Duan Ling Tian had currently obtained the proof of qualification to enter Paladin Academy and thus could return home directly, he didn't return because he wanted to know the results of Xiao Yu's, Meng Quan's, and Luo Cheng's missions.

Ten days later, another person finally returned.

It was Su Li. He completed his mission and obtained the proof of qualification.

"Duan Ling Tian, I want to challenge you!" Su Li's gaze stared fixedly at Duan Ling Tian.

"Su Li, you've broken through?" Duan Ling Tian smiled as he asked.

Hua!

Su Li's body lightly trembled as seven ancient mammoths silhouettes flickered above him.

"Su Li, are you sure you want to battle me?" Duan Ling Tian had a face full of smiles as he took a step forward.

Hua!

The energy of heaven and earth trembled above Duan Ling Tian as eight ancient mammoths silhouettes condensed into form.

"You...you..." Su Li had a lifeless expression as a sense of loss arose in his heart, but he recovered before long.

"I understand now."

Su Li took a deep breath and looked at Duan Ling Tian with a gaze that had a battle intent as it did before. "Duan Ling Tian, I'm inferior to you now, but I'll work hard to catch up to you! See you at Paladin Academy one year from now."

After he finished speaking, Su Li left the Iron Blood Army campsite as if he had transformed into a gust of wind.

"This Su Li is interesting as well." Duan Ling Tian lightly smiled.

In the following days, both Tian Hu and Yu Xiang returned.

"Duan Ling Tian, my Yu Clan will absolutely not let you off!" Yu Xiang threatened Duan Ling Tian just when he was about to leave.

"What, you aren't afraid I'll take care of you on your journey back?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed and killing intent flashed within them.

Yu Xiang's face went ghastly pale, as he was truly shaken by what Duan Ling Tian said. Although he had obtained the proof of qualification to enter Paladin Academy, he temporarily was too afraid to leave.

He went to look for one of his brother's former best friends, Centurion Fang Chun, as he wanted him to send him away from Iron Blood City to prevent Duan Ling Tian from trying to kill him.

"Yu Xiang, I've been quite busy lately and I'm afraid I won't have the time to send you home." Unexpected to him, however, Fang Chun refused his request.

What a joke!

Since the moment Duan Ling Tian killed Yu Hong, he had long ago sworn in his heart that he would absolutely not offend a malefic existence like Duan Ling Tian.

Presently, he even suspected that Centurion Bai Feng had died by Duan Ling Tian's hand the other day. Or else, with his strength, how could Bai Feng have vanished into thin air....

Yu Xiang's face slightly sank

"Yu Xiang, how about this: since you're worried about Duan Ling Tian coming after you, why don't you temporarily stay at our Iron Blood Army's campsite and wait for Duan Ling Tian to leave? When he's gone, you can take a detour and leave under the cover of the night. How about it?" Fang Chun pondered for a moment. He was good friends with Yu Hong after all, and thus he made this suggestion to Yu Xiang out of that friendship.

Yu Xiang's expression was as unsightly as it could possibly be. He was the dignified genius disciple of County City's Yu Clan, and he had even obtained the proof of qualification to enter Paladin Academy, but he actually had to leave in such a cowardly manner.

Nevertheless, he knew that he had no choice.

Duan Ling Tian naturally wasn't aware that a single threat from him had actually caused Yu Xiang to be so distressed as to only dare leave after he leaves Iron Blood City.

A few days passed by before Duan Ling Tian finally met Xiao Yu, who had returned after completing his mission.

"Xiao Yu, you... broke through?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised when he saw Xiao Yu once again.

"How did you notice?" Xiao Yu was stunned.

"It isn't hard to guess when you're in such high spirits." Duan Ling Tian laughed.

"Accompany me for a while." Xiao Yu's eyes flickered as he slowly spoke.

"What?" Duan Ling Tian was dazed.

"I want to go challenge Yu Xiang." There was a trace of icy coldness mixed within Xiao Yu's voice.

Yu Xiang was afraid of Duan Ling Tian but not of Xiao Yu, and thus he naturally agreed upon being challenged by Xiao Yu.

In the end, Xiao Yu relied upon his Sleeve Dimension and gained a slight advantage to take the victory...

Xiao Yu recalled the enmity from before and flicked his sleeve, blasting Yu Xiang away and causing him to be heavily injured to the point of fainting.

Duan Ling Tian laughed as he asked, "Finished venting?"

Xiao Yu nodded as a wide grin appeared on his face...

Before long, as the one year deadline approached, all of the remaining Centurions returned one after the other, whereby most of them returned alone and only a few of them brought with them a Genius Camp youth.

In the end, the Centurions that left with Luo Cheng and Meng Quan had returned.

However...

Meng Quan and Luo Cheng were nowhere to be found!

Duan Ling Tian's and Xiao Yu's hearts sank, and they eventually got an answer.

Meng Quan and Luo Cheng had lost their lives!

Meanwhile, all of the Centurions had returned, and the number of youths who passed the test were only seven including Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Yu.

"Duan Ling Tian, Xiao Yu!" Just after Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Yu had received news, Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan appeared before them... And in his hands were two letters.

Meng Quan and Luo Cheng's wills!

"Meng Quan and Luo Cheng both prepared two wills when they were still amongst the living. Among Meng Quan's two wills, one was addressed to Xiao Yu; and one of Luo Cheng's wills, on the other hand, was addressed to Duan Ling Tian." Qiao Qing Shan passed the two wills to Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Yu.

"You have my condolences." Qiao Qing Shan sighed before turning around and leaving.

He had seen too many partings in his life, and thus knew how Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Yu were feeling at this moment.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath and opened up Luo Cheng's will.

Luo Cheng's writing was beautiful; it seemed like it was written by a young girl.

Duan Ling Tian, when you receive this letter, it means I probably didn't pass the final test... Sigh, I still failed in the end. However, I don't regret it because I've tried my best.

Being able to meet you, Meng Quan, and Xiao Yu was the happiest thing in my life. It was all of you that let me realize how to be a true man, so thank you. Help send my regards to Meng Quan and Xiao Yu... That's if they're still alive when you read this letter.

Besides that, I still have a matter I can't let go of. This matter was the drive that urged me to come to the Genius Camp. If possible, I hope that you can help me....

....Luo Cheng signing off.

Crush!

Duan Ling Tian's hand trembled as he crushed the letter in his hand into a ball.

Although he'd only been acquainted with Luo Cheng for three months, but in his heart he had already taken Luo Cheng as a friend...

Now, this friend of his had parted with him forever.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath as he solemnly said in his heart, "Luo Cheng, don't worry, I'll surely help you on that matter!"

"Meng Quan!" Xiao Yu, who was standing to the side, had also finished reading Meng Quan's will, and his ice cold face emitted a trace of melancholy.

"Meng Quan..." Duan Ling Tian's eyes flickered as he couldn't help himself from recalling how full of high spirits Meng Quan was when they were still in Aurora City...

Meng Quan, rest in peace.

Xiao Yu took a deep breath as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, I plan to leave today and return to help Meng Quan finish his unfulfilled wish."

"I need to make a visit to Luo Cheng's clan as well." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

The two of them went to see Vice Commander Qiao Qing Shan and took along the other wills that Meng Quan and Luo Cheng had prepared before leaving Iron Blood City.

Xiong Quan silently followed behind the two of them, protecting his liege, Duan Ling Tian.

A month had passed and he had finished dissolving the medicinal strength of the first Spirit-Cleansing Pill, so he had regained his Origin Energy, and his cultivation recovered to the Origin Core Stage.

Luo Cheng's clan was situated at Pine City.

Pine City was in between Iron Blood City and Aurora City, so it was on the way.

Duan Ling Tian's group of three veered off their course halfway towards Aurora City and entered Pine City.

The Luo Clan was only a small clan in Pine City.

Duan Ling Tian's group of three arrived outside the Luo Clan Estate and bribed a Luo Clan disciple. They thus smoothly entered the Luo Clan Estate and met Luo Cheng's younger sister, Luo Qian.

At first sight, Duan Ling Tian had a slightly breathtaking feeling.

Luo Qian's age was similar to his, and she was very pretty and charming, delicate and appealing...

In terms of appearance, Luo Qian was only slightly inferior to Ke Er, Li Fei, and Xiao Yan, but she surpassed Li Shi Shi.

"You all..."

Luo Qian had only just opened her mouth when she was interrupted by Xiong Quan's stern shout.

"Who?! Come out!"