

## SOVEREIGN 1031

### Chapter 1031: The Return

Due to the fact that his consciousness was suppressed, it could be said that he was insidiously devilified.

He was not sure if the Devilseal Tablet would have worked if he had initiated it.

It was not that it did not occur to him to try it out in private

It would be alright if he failed. If he had succeeded, he would have to bear the consequences and might have ended up in a coma for a long time.

He was fortunate to have met Ye Xuan previously.

If it had been another person, they might covet the Spatial Ring in his hands and kill him.

They could only claim ownership of the Spatial Ring once they killed him.

He had no idea what would happen to him if he went into a coma in an attempt to use the Devilseal Tablet. Moreover, he was not sure when he would be able to regain his consciousness. Who knows what would happen to the Crimson Sky Kingdom at that time!

'It doesn't matter if I can devilify myself or not. I must return to the Crimson Sky Kingdom... This is all my fault, I should bear the responsibility alone!'

Duan Ling Tian's eyes shone, and an imposing and masculine aura exuded from his body.

When he killed Lei Zhong at the risk of offending the northern desert's second-rate force, Izumo Sect, he was already prepared to be hunted by Izumo Sect and had come up with a backup plan.

In order to avoid getting the Five Element Sect involved, he had even publicly renounced the Five Element Sect.

He did not think about his hometown, the Crimson Sky Kingdom, at all.

Perhaps it was because it did not cross his mind that second-rate forces like Izumo Sect, Annica Sect, and North Nether Sect would bother with a tiny country like the Crimson Sky Kingdom that was so low on the food chain in Cloud Continent.

However, it seemed like second-rated forces from the Foreign Lands would do whatever it takes to achieve their own agenda.

Now that all this happened, Duan Ling Tian did not bother to think about whether he regretted his actions or not.

All he knew was he had to resolve this no matter what. He would not have any regrets even if he had to sacrifice his life for the peace of Crimson Sky Kingdom.

A man would take responsibility for his own his action!

A man would protect his home and country!

A man would not let his family and friends get hurt!

...

Duan Ling Tian had always been a righteous man. That was why he had to return to the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

He would stand tall and return to his hometown.

Crimson Sky Kingdom, Imperial City.

The place that occupied the most space within the inner city would undoubtedly be the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Imperial Palace.

The current Imperial Palace was entirely different from the previous Imperial Palace. It was less lively and a little more gloomy. The guards stationed in there were listless and downcast.

Since the arrival of the four individuals about two months ago, the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Imperial Palace had undergone earth-shaking changes.

First, the Emperor was detained, and the Divine Might Marquis was also caught and placed in the Imperial Palace with the Emperor.

Following that, the youth powerhouses from Xiao Clan Estate like Xiao Yu and Xiao Xun were also caught one by one.

Even Li Xuan from the Lee Clan Estate that was situated far away in Aurora City was caught.

All those people had one thing in common.

They were close to the Commander of the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Embroidered Uniform Guard, Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was well known in the current Crimson Sky Kingdom.

When he placed first in the Martial Competition organized by the Darkhan Dynasty, he became a national sensation when he returned to the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

The Crimson Sky Kingdom was a tiny kingdom. Even the most outstanding person in the history of the kingdom only had a position in the Darkstone Empire. It did not even have anything to do with the Darkhan Dynasty.

However, someone from the Crimson Sky Kingdom became the number one among the youths in Darkhan Dynasty, and it was publicly known in the entire Darkhan Dynasty. How could they not be excited?

For a time in the Crimson Sky Kingdom, all parents used Duan Ling Tian as an example for their children.

The younger generation regarded Duan Ling Tian as their idol and his achievements as their life goals.

The middle-aged and older generation could not stop smiling and would give a thumbs up whenever Duan Ling Tian's name was mentioned.

Duan Ling Tian had become the spiritual pillar for the Crimson Sky Kingdom's people.

However, four individuals whose origins were unknown appeared and demanded Duan Ling Tian to come forth when his reputation was at its peak. If he did not do as they had demanded, they would slaughter everyone in the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

Most importantly, they had suppressed the Imperial family and the Divine Might Marquis' estate, both were the strongest forces in the Crimson Sky Kingdom. Ever since the news spread, the people in the area surrounding the Imperial City of Crimson Sky Kingdom had been in a state of panic.

All these happened in the span of two months. The news would have spread all over the Crimson Sky Kingdom within half a year, and it would cause the entire kingdom to descend into a state of panic.

At the Divine Might Marquis' mansion. In the Main Hall.

"Now what? The four powerhouses are too terrifying... Xiao Revered Elder was a First Level Void Prying Stage martial artist, but even he was instantly killed by one of the middle-aged men!"

"More importantly, that person seems like he's only a subordinate to the strong old man," a red-clad old man said, his face was filled with fear as he looked at the strong old man.

"Old Marquis, what should we do now? They'll execute the Emperor and the Divine Might Marquis tomorrow, and I'm afraid we won't be able to escape death as well!" The red-clad old man said uneasily, horrified.

"You saw that person's attack... What level do you think his level is at?"

Old Marquis was the last Divine Might Marquis, Nie Rong. He said solemnly, "I'm ashamed to say this but I couldn't even catch his movement, let alone react to his attack... It seemed as though Xiao Revered Elder just suddenly fell to this death." The corner of the red-clad old man's mouth twitched. His face was filled with an expression of bitterness and helplessness.

"If it was an attack from an ordinary Void Initiation martial artist, you would still be able to react even if you couldn't catch his movements! It seems like that person is at the Void Interpretation or above," Nie Rong said solemnly.

Meanwhile, the woman beside Nie Rong said with a similar solemn expression, "That's the only explanation... Besides, they're here to find fault with Little Tian. I assume they know everything about Little Tian! During the Martial Competition organized by the Darkhan Dynasty a few years back, Little Tian won first place with his cultivation base at the Ninth Level Void Initiation! Currently, Little Tian must have already broken through to the Void Interpretation."

"They must have known all these, yet they still came to find fault with Little Tian... Their strength is definitely above the Void Interpretation." The woman was Meng Ping, the Sect Leader of Fly Bow Sect from the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom.

Originally, she was in a closed-door cultivation and had only come out recently. After she learned about her son's imprisonment, she anxiously rushed back to the Crimson Sky Kingdom as soon as she could. She had just arrived early that morning.

Void Interpretation!

The woman's word sounded credible and convincing. The expressions of the red-clad old man, including the other middle-aged man and young man, changed slightly when they heard her words.

The middle-aged man was the Dean of Paladin Academy, Sima Chang Feng. He was also Duan Ling Tian's former teacher at the Paladin Academy.

The young man was Nie Fen, the Little Marquis of the Divine Might Marquis' estate.

The current Nie Fen lived up to his name, he felt anxious as though his heart was burning.

"Grandmother, if they're really Void Interpretation powerhouses... Doesn't it mean father and the Emperor are dead for sure?" Nie Fen said sullenly.

After Nie Fen said that, the main hall descended into silence.

Nie Rong and Meng Ping did not know when their eyes became a bit misty. They evaporated their tears with their Origin Energy.

The Divine Might Marquis, Nie Yuan, was their son. Their son was facing a life and death situation, naturally, they would feel anxious as his parents.

"Tomorrow... Tomorrow is the day they'll make their move!" The red-clad old man paced restlessly. "Up until now, we still haven't received any words about Duan Ling Tian... If Duan Ling Tian doesn't come back, the Emperor and the Divine Might Marquis aside, I'm afraid it won't end well for us too!"

"Little Tian isn't necessarily in the Darkhan Dynasty," Nie Fen said with a bitter smile.

"Even if he's in Darkhan Dynasty and knows about this... He would probably be too afraid to come back unless he's confident he could deal with the four of them," the red-clad old man said in distress.

"Impossible! Little Tian isn't someone like that!" Nie Fen said with absolute certainty. Judging from his words, it could be seen that he had absolute faith in Duan Ling Tian.

The old man felt the atmosphere turn strange, and he suddenly remembered everyone present, apart from him, were close to Duan Ling Tian.

"That's not what I meant... What I meant was maybe he would feel it's futile to return so he might not return. However, he'll definitely avenge us." The red-clad old man corrected himself.

However, he quickly realized the other four people were not paying attention to him. It was as though they did not hear what he said.

Naturally, the other four did not intentionally ignore him. They were staring behind him as though they had discovered a new land.

"Who?"

The old man turned around in curiosity.

He saw two individuals standing at the entrance of the main hall with just a glance.

There was a young man, who looked around 25 years old, dressed in purple, and a woman with a red veil covering her face. Although her face was concealed, it could be seen from between her brows that she was about twenty years old.

"Who are you?" The old man asked as he furrowed his eyebrows.

The two individual ignored him and entered the main hall.

The old man was about to get angry when a voice entered his ears. He felt a hint a fear, and his previous thoughts were immediately dismissed.

"Little Tian!" The person who called out was Nie Fen. Nie Fen's tone was filled with excitement. "I knew it... I knew if you found about this, you would definitely return."

Chapter 1032: The Nie Family's Decision

The two individuals who had walked into the main hall of the Divine Might Marquis' estate were Duan Ling Tian and Feng Tian Wu. The both of them looked travel-weary.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Nie Fen and smiled as he greeted him, "Big brother Nie."

Nie Fen, the son of the Divine Might Marquis Nie Yuan, had taken great care of him when he was young.

He had always felt grateful to him in his heart.

Nothing had changed even if his strength had surpassed everyone in the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

"Grandfather Nie, Grandmother Meng." Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man seated in front and the woman beside him.

"Little Tian, when did you return?" The Old Marquis of the Divine Might Marquis Estate, Nie Rong stood up and welcomed him warmly. Although he was worried about the safety of his son, a bright smile appeared on his face when he saw the uninvited guests.

Meng Ping stood up as well. However, the smile on her face seemed a little forced with a hint of bitterness in it.

"Little Tian, are you confident?" Meng Ping asked bluntly.

Naturally, she knew Duan Ling Tian's return this time was due to the four powerhouses with unknown origins.

It was likely the four powerhouses would kill her son tomorrow. They might even destroy the entire Crimson Sky Kingdom.

It was not a coincidence Duan Ling Tian returned at such a critical moment.

When Meng Ping spoke, Nie Rong, Nie Fen, Sima Chang Feng and the red-clad old man turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian smiled apologetically and did not respond to her immediately. Instead, he looked at Sima Chang Feng and greeted him, "Teacher."

Meng Ping did not take it to heart. In fact, she developed an even more favorable impression of Duan Ling Tian.

It was rare he would still remember his roots even with all he had achieved so far.

Sima Chang Feng was somewhat flattered and shocked when Duan Ling Tian greeted him.

During their time in the Paladin Academy, they were teacher and apprentice in name only.

Duan Ling Tian's strength and achievement had greatly surpassed him, but Duan Ling Tian did not forget past sentiments. It truly warmed his heart, filled his heart.

"Duan Ling Tian, the proudest moment in my life was not when I was appointed as the Dean of Paladin Academy nor was it the time when I broke through to the Void Prying Stage... It was when I became your teacher," Sima Chang Feng said solemnly as he took a deep breath to suppress the emotions stirring in his heart.

Sima Chang Feng's words were sincere.

Although he was the dean of Paladin Academy, he did not reveal his identity to the students.

Naturally, it was not because he did not care about the Paladin Academy. He was just extremely committed to the Paladin Academy. In fact, he was posing as an ordinary teacher in the academy. No one knew his true identity in the academy apart from the vice dean.

He still remembered that year when he was teaching the freshmen like he usually did. An outstanding student had appeared and caught his eyes at the beginning of the semester.

From the very beginning, he could tell the student was not ordinary, and his future achievements would be great.

As time passed, he realized he had underestimated that student.

That seemingly docile student had caused several big problems at the Paladin Academy.

He would not be surprised if that student had died due to someone's vengeance.

However, the results were always beyond his expectation!

That student did not only live well, but he also lived better than anyone else.

He discovered the war strategy the student came up with put his own to shame.

He acknowledged that even he would not have been able to lead the Crimson Sky Kingdom's army to conquer the heavily guarded border city, Southern Champion Kingdom, without any casualties.

That student was a mastermind! He hid behind the scene and laughed as he destroyed his enemies with his strategy.

All of that was accomplished by that student.

He had thought the most outstanding student of the Paladin Academy's Star Mastermind Department would stay in the Crimson Sky Kingdom and help the Crimson Sky Kingdom expand its kingdom.

However, he did not expect the student to leave the Crimson Sky Kingdom for the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom and join the number one sect in Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom, the Seven Star Sword Sect.

Since then, shocking news spread to the Crimson Sky Kingdom one after another. He would be shocked whenever he heard the news.

He single-handedly destroyed the Azure Forest Tri-Sect and rebuilt the Seven Star Sword Sect.

He ranked first in the Darkhan Dynasty's Martial Competition and became publicly recognized as the strongest among the youths in the Darkhan Dynasty.

He even broke through to the Void Interpretation Stage before the age of thirty!

...

That student was the purple-clad youth standing before him, Duan Ling Tian!

"Teacher, you flatter me. A teacher is like a father figure. No matter where I am or what level my cultivation base is at, you'll always be my teacher," Duan Ling Tian said earnestly when he heard Sima Chang Feng's heartfelt words.

"Commander Duan, you still remember your roots even after achieving so much. That's rare." The red-clad old man flattered Duan Ling Tian.

He was taken aback when he saw Duan Ling Tian looking at him after he heard his words.

Commander Duan finally noticed him?

This Commander Duan was a big shot who had made a name for himself at the Darkhan Dynasty, went to Foreign Lands and joined the Martial Competition of the Ten Dynasties.

If Commander Duan was happy with what he said, maybe he'll reward him with seven or eight high-grade medicinal pills. Even one or two high-grade spirit weapons would be amazing.

"Commander Duan..." The excitement on the red-clad old man's face could not be concealed.

It was as though he could already see Duan Ling Tian rewarding him with medicinal pills or spirit weapons.

However, the smile on his face froze soon after.

"Do I know you?" Duan Ling Tian asked as he looked at the red-clad old man indifferently.

With just one sentence, it caused the red-clad old man's face to turn red. His mouth was open but no sound came out.

It was as though his throat was constricted.

Everyone looked at him in surprise as he turned around to face Meng Ping. "Grandmother Meng, regarding that... I'm not entirely confident." It was apparent Duan Ling Tian was responding to Meng Ping's previous question.

Meng Ping had previously asked if he was confident in dealing with those people who intended to kill her son tomorrow and destroy the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

Duan Ling Tian was speaking the truth.

His confidence would be at a hundred percent if he could get the Devilseal Tablet to devilify him.

However, he had no confidence at all since he was not sure if he could get the Devilseal Tablet to devilify him.

Duan Ling Tian's words entered everyone's ears and caused their faces to turn pale.

Even Feng Tian Wu's face paled slightly when she realized her biggest worry might come true.

Her Big Brother Duan was going to risk his life to deal with the powerhouses from Izumo Sect.

Feng Tian Wu assumed Izumo Sect was finding fault with Duan Ling Tian because she knew Duan Ling Tian had offended Izumo Sect.

She would not have so easily assumed it was Izumo Sect if she knew Duan Ling Tian had also offended North Nether Sect, and Annica Sect might also come after the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment in his hands. Moreover, both sects were equally as mighty as Izumo Sect.

Even Duan Ling Tian did not know which second-rate forces had come to pick a fight with him.

"No confidence? Then your return this time..." Meng Ping asked after she took a deep breath.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian only smiled coolly. "Now that I know they came here for me... I can't hide, can I?"

If he had hidden, he would not be Duan Ling Tian!

When Duan Ling Tian stopped speaking, Nie Rong's face changed instantly. For the first time in his life, he yelled at Duan Ling Tian, "Nonsense!"

Duan Ling Tian was in a daze. He was completely shocked by Nie Rong's outburst.

"Little Tian, if you're not confident... just leave the Crimson Sky Kingdom," Meng Ping said decisively as she took a deep breath.

She knew in her heart if Duan Ling Tian did not show up tomorrow, the four powerhouses with unknown origins would definitely kill her son.

However, she could not make herself trade Duan Ling Tian's life for her son's life.



If it was not for Duan Ling Tian back then, she might have been imprisoned, let alone being able to completely control the Fly Bow Sect.

She owed Duan Ling Tian for that. Moreover, even her husband owed Duan Ling Tian his life!

Her husband would not be alive today if Duan Ling Tian did not get rid of the Dark Nether Mink poison in her husband's body.

The red-clad old man's face changed dramatically, and he hurriedly said, "No way! All of us will die if he leaves!"

In the face of the impending doom, he seemed to have forgotten how terrifying Duan Ling Tian.

Unfortunately, he was completely ignored by the others even though he was frantic with worry.

"Little Tian, just go," Nie Rong said as he sighed. It seemed as though he had aged a few years in just a short time.

As parents, how could they be indifferent when their child's life was at stake?

However, he also could not trade Duan Ling Tian's life for his son's life.

"Yes, Little Tian... If my father's here, he definitely wouldn't want you to take the risk." Although Nie Fen was worried for his father's safety, he knew his father's character very well.

His father would not be able to accept it if Duan Ling Tian had died because of him.

With his father's temperament, he would still spare no effort in avenging Duan Ling Tian even if he knew he could not win.

At that time, his father still would not be able to escape death.

Sima Chang Feng stood aside and kept quiet. He felt like it was not his place to say anything.

"Grandfather Nie, Grandmother Meng, Big Brother Nie... Don't worry, I know what I'm doing." Duan Ling Tian was touched when he heard the Nie family's words.

Duan Ling Tian did not wait for a response as he disappeared before everyone's eyes.

The Nie family, Sima Chang Feng, and the red-clad old man had not even reacted when Feng Tian Wu also vanished into thin air.

From the very beginning until the end, the three members of the Nie family did not have time to react at all.

"Little Tian he... really broke through to the Void Interpretation Stage?"

Chapter 1033: The Dungeon

Nie Rong and Meng Ping looked at each other, and both of them could see the horror in each other's eyes.

Only martial artist at the Void Interpretation Stage or above could vanish into thin air without them being able to catch their movements. Moreover, it seemed like he was not an ordinary Void Interpretation martial artist.

Although they had suspected Duan Ling Tian's cultivation had broken through to the Void Interpretation Stage, they were still shocked when they witnessed it with their own eyes. Especially when they realized Duan Ling Tian was probably stronger than a First, Second or Third Level Void Interpretation martial artist.

"Little Tian he... is at the Fourth Level Void Interpretation or above?" Nie Rong asked his wife through Voice Transmission. He looked at her as though he was seeking confirmation from her.

"I think so. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to come and go without my knowledge! Apart from that, the cultivation base of the red-clad woman with a veil next to Little Tian should also be above the Fourth Level Void Interpretation." Meng Ping nodded. There was a hint of nobility in her tone.

'So, Little Tian's return is premeditated? But why did he say he's not confident?' Nie Rong was puzzled.

'Maybe... Little Tian knows the four powerhouses, and he knows they're stronger,' Meng Ping said.

"What should we do now? If something happens to Little Tian, I won't be able to live with it for the rest of my life." Nie Rong's face turned pale.

"There's no way we can stop him now... I heard what Little Tian said before he left. It's obvious he has a plan, and we can't interfere with his plan." There was a bitter smile on Meng Ping's face.

"I hope he'll be able to deal with the four powerhouses with unknown origins... Otherwise, it won't be just our son who's facing the impending doom."

At the Crimson Sky Kingdom, in the Imperial Palace.

Shou! Shou!

Two figures flew as fast as lightning into the Imperial Palace. Gusts of wind appeared in their wake and alerted the Imperial Palace guards.

However, the Imperial Palace guards only felt the wind, they could not see the two lightning fast figures at all.

The two fast-moving figures arrived deep inside the Imperial Palace in just a blink of an eye. One of them could not help but ask, "Big Brother Duan, do you know where they're imprisoned?" The woman's voice was soft and pleasant. From the voice alone, one could tell it belonged to a rare beauty.

"I don't... But I'm sure someone does..." The other person's voice was light and magnetic as he responded to the question.

Hu! Hu!

Soon after, the latter stopped moving. In the time he took to raise his hands, a few guards in front of a pavilion fell down. Only one of them remained rooted to the spot.

When the guard recovered from the surprise and saw the person who had stunned his companions, his eyes brightened. He asked excitedly, "You... You're Commander Duan?"

"Yes?" The person who had stunned the guards earlier was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had sneaked into the Imperial Palace after he left the Divine Might Marquis Estate.

Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he realized the guard he deliberately left awake had recognized him. He asked curiously, "Do you know me?"

"Commander Duan, you may not know me, but I know you!" The guard said with an excited expression on his face, "I'm a few years older than you are, but I was a student at the Star General Department of Paladin Academy too. I saw you leading the Crimson Sky Kingdom's troops and conquering the border city of Southern Champion Kingdom without a single casualty!"

"That battle is an epoch-making event in the history of Crimson Sky Kingdom... And I was lucky enough to witness it, Commander Duan." The guard's voice began to tremble in excitement as he spoke, "Duan... Commander Duan, I've regarded you as my idol ever since then!"

Idol?

The corner of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched. He did not expect a guard he had casually spared to recognize him and also regard him as an idol.

Hu!

A fiery-red figure silently landed in front of Duan Ling Tian.

Feng Tian Wu had removed the veil on her face. Her beauty once again eclipsed everything in her surroundings.

However, that guard only glanced casually at Feng Tian Wu before he turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian again. He could barely contain his excitement and exhilaration.

"Do you know where the Divine Might Marquis and the others are held?" Duan Ling Tian's face turned serious when he looked at the guard. "It's okay if you don't know or don't want to say anything... I'll just knock you out and ask someone else."

"I know! I know!" The guard nodded like a chick pecking at grains as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. It was as though he was afraid Duan Ling Tian would get impatient with waiting. "The Divine Might Marquis and His Majesty are held inside the dungeon of the Imperial Palace.

Dungeon?

Duan Ling Tian could not help but frown when he heard the words.

He had been to the Imperial Palace of Crimson Sky Kingdom many times, but he had headed to see the Emperor at the Imperial Hall everytime he was here.

Therefore, he did not know where the dungeon was.

"Commander Duan, I'll lead you there." The guard seemed to notice Duan Ling Tian's dilemma, and he quickly said, "I know where the dungeon is located."

"You're bringing me there? Aren't you afraid of death?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned, he did not expect the guard to be so brave.

It should be noted the current Imperial Palace was no longer under the Emperor's control. Instead, it was under the control of the powerhouses from one of the second-rated forces in the northern desert.

"Oh... Commander Duan, don't make fun of me! Although our brothers in the Imperial Palace seem like they have surrendered on the surface, but they're still loyal to the Emperor in their hearts."

"The four powerhouses are just a group of lunatics if you disregard their strength... They said if you don't show up by tomorrow, in addition to killing His Majesty, the Divine Might Marquis, and the others, they would slaughter us and the entire Crimson Sky Kingdom. They boasted about killing the whole kingdom... They really think they're the judge of life and death!" Anger filled the guard's face when he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes that contained a flash of coldness.

"If that's the case, then you'll take us there," Duan Ling Tian said bluntly.

"Alright!" The guard hurriedly nodded as he led Duan Ling Tian and Feng Tian Wu and flew straight to the west side of the Imperial Palace.

The dilapidated palace in a remote area on the west side of the Imperial Palace was heavily guarded.

"That's the dungeon! They've formed an encirclement, and there's a floorboard at the center. Once you lift the floorboard, you'll be able to see a stone staircase leading downward. The dungeon is down there," the guard said to Duan Ling Tian and Feng Tian Wu as they hid at the side.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He looked at the guards guarding the dungeon with killing intent written on his face.

In his opinion, these guards received a salary from the Imperial family but were not reliable at all during critical moments. They helped outsiders to imprison the Emperor who had provided them with food and drinks. They were really ungrateful.

This kind of people should be killed!

"Commander Duan, it has not been easy for everyone... If they didn't do as they were told by the four lunatics, apart from them, even their families would not be able to escape death," the guard said with a bitter smile.

What?!

The guard's statement shocked Duan Ling Tian as his eyes gleamed coldly. "That's how they threatened you?"

Duan Ling Tian was completely enraged at the moment.

He really wanted to know which of the three largest second-rate forces in the northern desert would do something like this that could incur the wrath of heaven and the resentment of men.

Duan Ling Tian knew the answer without even having to listen to the guard's answer.

Shou!

Duan Ling Tian moved and vanished on the spot. When he reappeared, he was already standing by the floorboard that led to the dungeon.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

At the same time, the sound of bodies landing one after another reverberated in the air. More than twenty guards guarding the dungeon were stunned and knocked out by Duan Ling Tian without exception.

"This..." When the guard witnessed the scene before his eyes, his eyes narrowed immediately.

From his perspective, the Commander Duan whom he admired the most had vanished before his eyes and reappeared by the entrance of the dungeon in just a blink of an eye. At the same time, more than twenty guards suddenly fell.

What does that mean?

"Among all the powerhouses I've seen in my life... Apart from Commander Duan, I'm afraid only that four lunatics have this kind of strength! Even Void Prying Stage martial artists couldn't do that," the guard muttered to himself.

Soon after, he narrowed his eyes again.

He discovered the red-clad woman next to him had vanished before she reappeared again next to the purple figure in the distance.

Following that, he saw the floorboard concealing the entrance to the dungeon being lifted. Both of them flew in at the same time and disappeared before his eyes again.

"That woman... has such terrifying strength!" The guard's breath quickened.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Feng Tian Wu had entered the dungeon.

There were several guards in the dungeon, but they were all knocked out by Duan Ling Tian and Feng Tian Wu's attack.

The guards of Crimson Sky Kingdom's Imperial Palace were nothing before them.

Shortly after, both of them arrived before a huge cell.

There were five people sitting in a cross-legged position in the cell.

Two middle-aged men and three youths were focused on cultivating. Their eyes were closed, and they were completely unaware of what was happening in their surroundings.

"Is this how they're imprisoned?" Duan Ling Tian did not wake the five of them up for now. His eyes roved around the cell and soon landed on the dishes served to them nearby. He noticed the good wine and exquisite food they were served.

Even the cell they were imprisoned in was spotless and clean.

'It seems like the guard's right... These guards aren't really serving those men,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

"Li Xuan!"

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian's gaze fell on one of the figures. It was a fat man he was very familiar with.

That fat face and that figure looked the same as it always had.

"Those guys really went all out... Even Li Xuan who was situated far away in Aurora City was caught." The corner of Duan Ling Tian's mouth twitched.

In the meantime, Li Xuan's fat face trembled before he opened his small eyes as though he had sensed something.

He was stunned as soon as he opened his eyes.

Chapter 1034: The Storm Is Coming

"Boss!" Li Xuan's face twitched when he saw Duan Ling Tian, and he flew out and gave Duan Ling Tian a hug. "I knew you'll come back to save me."

"Get off!" Duan Ling Tian felt like he had fallen into a pile of fats, and he was breathless from being squeezed. He hurriedly raised a hand and batted Li Xuan's fat body away.

"Boss, look at me. I was caught in Aurora City to be imprisoned here... How can you bear to push me away when I'm so pitiful?" Li Xuan said to Duan Ling Tian with a forlorn expression after he used the wall to steady himself from Duan Ling Tian's push.

However, it was difficult for Duan Ling Tian to pity him after he looked at his face.

In any case, Duan Ling Tian had batted Li Xuan off with a trick move so it did not hurt Li Xuan in any way at all.

Li Xuan was his brother, naturally, he would not really hit Li Xuan.

"Pity you? It doesn't seem like you're imprisoned. It seems more like you're here to enjoy life," Duan Ling Tian retorted as he glanced at the good wine and exquisite food prepared by the guards for Li Xuan.

"Hehe." Li Xuan was exposed by Duan Ling Tian, and his fat face twitched as he snickered. "Boss, this is a blessing from His Majesty and Uncle Nie... However, most of the credit goes to you."

"Me?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

"Yes." Li Xuan nodded like a chick pecking on grains. "Boss, you probably don't know this but... most of the people guarding us regard you as their idol! After they found out I'm your brother, they would give me whatever I asked for." Duan Ling Tian sighed involuntarily when he heard his words. He turned to look at guards lying on the ground after they were knocked out by him and Feng Tian Wu.

"Was my attack too harsh?" Duan Ling Tian muttered.

At this moment, Li Xuan had also noticed the group of guards lying outside the cell. His small eyes gleamed as he exclaimed, "Boss, you didn't kill them, did you? Actually, they didn't have it easy as well. Moreover, they did not mistreat us at all."

"We merely knocked them out," Feng Tian Wu responded before Duan Ling Tian even opened his mouth.

When she followed Duan Ling Tian back to the Crimson Sky Kingdom previously, she also went to Aurora City with Duan Ling Tian and met Li Xuan there. She knew Li Xuan was close to Duan Ling Tian.

"That's good, that's good... Sister-in-law, how come you came along with my Boss? My Boss alone is enough to deal with those jokers."

"I would feel like I've sinned if you hurt yourself in an attempt to rescue me," Li Xuan said as he squinted his small eyes and forced a fawning smile on his face.

When Feng Tian Wu heard Li Xuan call her sister-in-law, a blush instantly rose on her beautiful face. However, she did not have the intention to contradict him.

"Don't underestimate them, they're really strong."

When Feng Tian Wu said this, the blush on her face disappeared and was replaced with seriousness.

People from a second-rate force would not be ordinary, right?

"So what if they're strong... They're nothing compared to my Boss!" Li Xuan said nonchalantly.

In his eyes, his Boss was invincible and incomparable!

Pa!

However, he received a smack on the back of his head as soon as he finished talking.

"Who would even hit their father?" Li Xuan yelled as his face turned cold.

However, he only gulped when he saw the culprit.

"So fatty, are you my father?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Li Xuan with narrowed eyes and a faint smile on his face.

The frost on Li Xuan's face was long gone when he saw Duan Ling Tian was the one who hit him.

When he heard what Duan Ling Tian said, he shivered involuntarily. At the same time, he said with a fawning expression, "Boss, you misheard... You definitely misheard what I said."

"Misheard? Are you sure?" The smile at the corner of Duan Ling Tian's mouth became more sinister.

"Boss, I'm wrong! My mistake!" Li Xuan saw the sinister smile and realized it would not be easy to fool Duan Ling Tian. He immediately pulled a face and said, "You're my father, you're my father alright?"

"Hey! Who wants to be your father?" Duan Ling Tian was speechless. He only wanted Li Xuan to concede, he did not expect Li Xuan to say that. "If the 5th Elder catches wind of what you said, he'll definitely break your leg!"

Who knew Li Xuan did not care even after he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. "That will only happen if he's able to win me in a battle."

Duan Ling Tian was once again rendered speechless.

Yes.

Currently, Li Xuan's strength had already surpassed his father, Li Ting the 5th Elder of Li family from Fresh Breeze Town.

"Little Tian!"

"Duan Ling Tian!"

...

At this moment, a few low voices sounded. Nie Yuan the Divine Might Marquis, the Emperor of Crimson Sky Kingdom, Xiao Yu, and Xiao Xun slowly woke up one by one.

They were all taken aback when they saw Duan Ling Tian.

"Uncle Nie. Your Majesty."

After Duan Ling Tian greeted Nie Yuan and the Emperor, he smiled and nodded at Xiao Yu and Xiao Xun as a greeting.

He knew Xiao Yu and Xiao Xun since they were children. Just a look and a simple action were sufficient to explain everything. There was no need to complicate things.

"Little Tian, those four seem to be very troublesome... How did you offend them?" Nie Yuan asked. His tone was not accusatory, it was just filled with curiosity.

After Nie Yuan spoke, everyone apart from Feng Tian Wu turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. It was apparent they were also curious.

"I still don't know which force they're from so I'm not sure how I offended them," Duan Ling Tian said honestly.

Presently, none of the martial artists in the top ten dynasties, including the Darkhan Dynasty, could compete with him.



He did offend three of the largest forces in the northern desert, but it was unlikely they would come for him so publicly... unless they wanted to antagonize the Five Element Sect.

The current Five Element Sect was no longer the same as how it used to be. In addition to obtaining the Profundity Fragment, their sect was about to have a Martial Monarch powerhouse. The Peak Master of Wood Peak, Qi Yu, would still become a Martial Monarch powerhouse given enough time even if he did not possess the Profundity Fragment.

In the future, the Five Element Sect would have two Martial Monarch powerhouses.

Due to that, the current Five Element Sect could not be compared to an ordinary third-rate force.

The Five Element Sect could be considered a second-rate force since they were about to get another Martial Monarch powerhouse. That fact alone was sufficient to intimidate a third-rate force.

Therefore, the culprit could only be from one of the three largest second-rate forces in the northern desert.

They were probably here to avenge their disciples if they were from Izumo Sect or North Nether Sect.

If they were from the Anicca Sect, then they were probably here to snatch the treasure away from him and kill him.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian still did not know who it was that came to pick a fight with him so publicly. That was why he did not know how he had offended those people.

"Duan Ling Tian, you mean... You've offended more than one force?" The corner of Xiao Xun's mouth began to twitch.

The others were also silent. They could only smile bitterly after they recovered from their surprise.

Then, they recalled back when Duan Ling Tian was still at the Crimson Sky Kingdom, he had always felt discontented.

Now that he was out exploring the world where the sea was boundless and the sky was vast, it was natural that he did not restrict his nature.

"Let's go."

Duan Ling Tian changed the topic and called out to the five of them. Along with Feng Tian Wu, they brought them away from the dungeon. All of them stepped into the air and headed outside of the Imperial Palace.

Hu!

As Duan Ling Tian waved his hand, a vast and invisible force surged and entwined around Nie Yuan and the others. It pulled them outside of the Imperial Palace with lightning-speed.

None of the guards in the Imperial Palace saw them.

"So fast!"

The five people who were flown by Duan Ling Tian were filled with amazement as their eyes widened.

"Haha... Boss, I knew you're the best!" Li Xuan laughed. His faith in Duan Ling Tian was apparent.

"All these in just a few years? Duan Ling Tian has grown so much." The Crimson Sky Kingdom's Emperor's eyes narrowed. Shock was written on his face.

"Duan Ling Tian..." Xiao Yu and Xiao Xun's eyes met, and they saw a hint of helplessness in each other's eyes.

From the beginning, it had already been difficult for them to compete with Duan Ling Tian. However, the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed today made them realize they were destined to look up to Duan Ling Tian in this life.

"Little Tian, good for you." When Nie Yuan saw Duan Ling Tian's strength, he was truly happy for him from the bottom of his heart.

Shou!

A figure similar to a fire elf trailed behind Duan Ling Tian as the five people Duan Ling Tian brought with him flew outside of the palace. Wherever they passed, a burning aura would spread and sweep across the land.

"Duan Ling Tian! You finally appeared!" Almost instantly, a loud voice reverberated seemingly from every direction. Duan Ling Tian and the others heard the voice clearly.

Li Xuan recognized the voice immediately. He gnashed his teeth in anger before he said, "Boss, this is the fellow who caught me in Aurora City."

However, Duan Ling Tian ignored him and looked at Feng Tian Wu immediately with a grave expression. He said through Voice Transmission, "Tian Wu, bring them away! Their target is me so they won't go after all of you."

"Big Brother Duan..." Feng Tian Wu's pretty face changed at once when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

However, her heart jolted for seemingly no reason when she saw Duan Ling Tian's swift and piercing gaze.

This was the first time her Big Brother Duan had spoken to her like that.

Feng Tian Wu was afraid of Duan Ling Tian's anger. That was why she clenched her teeth and did not hesitate as she took Nie Yuan and the others away from Duan Ling Tian's hand so she could bring them away from the Imperial Palace.

Hu!

Meanwhile, the sound of wind whistling resounded as two figures simultaneously appeared in Duan Ling Tian's line of sight.

One of them was leading the other person.

One of them looked at the middle-aged man before him and said with a fawning expression, "Elder Zhong, this Duan Ling Tian would've escaped with Nie Yuan and the others if I didn't tip you off."

Chapter 1035: A Martial Emperor Attacks!

The person who spoke earlier was a red-clad old man.

Judging from his words, it was obvious he was trying to take credit for his deed.

"Hurmph!" When the middle-aged man heard the red-clad old man's words, he snorted in disdain and asked, "What? Are you worried that our Izumo Sect will shortchange you?"

"No! Of course not!" The red-clad old man was so surprised that he hastily shook his head as cold sweat broke out at his forehead immediately.

Although he had never heard of Izumo Sect prior to this, the sect had to be quite impressive to house four powerhouses at the Void Interpretation Stage and above.

If the middle-aged man, who was also an elder in Izumo Sect, could read the red-clad old man's thoughts, he would most likely send that man flying with a slap out of anger.

Void Interpretation Stage?

Even the outstanding young powerhouses in Izumo Sect were already at the Void Transformation Stage.

Just a mere Void Interpretation Stage could not even be compared to a speck of dirt in Izumo Sect.

"Izumo Sect!" The moment Duan Ling Tian heard the middle-aged man's words, his eyes narrowed as a hint of coldness gleamed in his eyes.

Although he had expected this and was quite certain the people who came looking for trouble were from one of three major second-rate forces, he could not help but be consumed by the hatred that rose from the bottom of his heart.

When he killed the two strongest people from the current younger generation of Izumo Sect, he had already expected to offend Izumo Sect and was ready to be hunted down by them. Otherwise, he would have shown some mercy when he faced Lei Zhong and Lei Jun previously.

If Izumo Sect had hunted him down, and he was killed from his insufficient strength, he would have sincerely admitted defeat.

However, Izumo Sect was using the Crimson Sky Kingdom to threaten him!

This kind of behavior was utterly despicable.

Duan Ling Tian took a good look at the red-clad old man standing next to the Izumo Sect's elder. It was the same red-clad old man he encountered at the Divine Might Marquis' estate.

The Revered Elder of the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Imperial Palace!

Previously, he and Feng Tian Wu did not instantly reveal themselves at the Divine Might Marquis's estate. Instead, he had hidden above the main hall and had a good time eavesdropping like a thief.

At that time, he had heard the red-clad old man's words. When that red-clad old man was speaking, hints of dread could be heard in his voice. Moreover, he possessed an indecisive and fickle attitude.

Therefore, Duan Ling Tian was not particularly fond of that red-clad old man. He did not even bother to be courteous to the red-clad old man.

Even in hindsight, he did not think he had done anything wrong.

That red-clad old man was not worthy of his kindness. He was a person who would bend with the wind.

Whirlwind!

Duan Ling Tian's eyes suddenly turned cold. It was as though his entire person had transformed into a hurricane as he charged toward Elder Zhong from Izumo Sect at a speed that seemed faster than lightning.

"Hurmph! A mantis trying to stop a chariot?!" The Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong snorted in disdain when he saw Duan Ling Tian charging at him.

With a lift of his hand, he prepared to make his move on Duan Ling Tian.

However, he narrowed his eyes when he saw the scene before his eyes.

Nine Dragons' Radiant Flash!

Duan Ling Tian had successfully attracted the attention of Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong when he charged at him. A Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword suddenly appeared in his hand, and he quickly demonstrated his sword technique.

In an instant, nine divine dragons swept out. However, their target was not Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong but the red-clad old man.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

Beams of radiant flashes shot out from the nine divine dragons' eyes. It seemed as though they had divine help as they immediately left eighteen bloody holes on the red-clad old man's vital parts.

Blood gushed out continuously and left trails of fresh blood on the ground that formed a tiny stream.

Boom!

The red-clad old man was already dead on the ground before the Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong could figure out what was happening.

From the very beginning to the end, the red-clad old man did not even have time to react.

Duan Ling Tian's speed was just too fast!

It was so fast that it was terrifying.

"Duan Ling Tian! YOU!!!" The Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong felt as though his pride was trampled on when he saw Duan Ling Tian kill the red-clad old man even though he did not care about the red-clad old man's life-and-death.

He instantly felt his stomach churn with rage that kept rising as though it was about to explode.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian who had just killed the red-clad old man happened to meet the Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong's gaze, and he continued to stare at him without any fear.

Both of their gazes that were as sharp as saber and sword seemed to produce sparks as they clashed with each other.

A big battle was on the verge of breaking out!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

At the moment when the Izumo Sect's Elder Zhong was about to make his move against Duan Ling Tian, three figures silently appeared beside and in front of him.

Two of the men — one old man and one middle-aged man — stood next to him.

The last person appeared in front him, and he retreated in a respectful manner.

The sturdy old man had eyes that appeared lifeless and dull, but in truth, it concealed a killing intent. The robe on his body fluttered even though there were no wind or magic. It was as though he had merged with the Heaven and Earth when he exuded a strong and oppressive aura.

At the Divine Might Marquis' estate.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

Streaks of figures that seemed to appear out of nowhere materialized in the main hall of the Divine Might Marquis' estate. It surprised Nie Rong, Meng Ping, and Nie Fen who was waiting inside.

"Father! Mother! This ungrateful son of yours is finally back. I'm sorry for letting the both of you worry about me." A loud voice reverberated and broke the silence in the main hall.

It was none other than Nie Yuan who was sent back by Feng Tian Wu. He kneeled before Nie Rong and Meng Ping, and his body trembled from the overwhelming emotion.

Initially, he had resigned himself to death, but who knew an unforeseen circumstance would occur — Duan Ling Tian had appeared and rescued him.

He felt like he had been walking the thin line between life and death. It was as though he had fallen into hell before he was brought back to heaven again. The difference between the two experience had nearly driven him crazy.

"It's alright! Everything's fine as long as you come back!" Meng Ping's face was filled with joy when she saw Nie Yuan had returned. She did not even think about how he managed to extricate himself out of the dangerous situation he was in.

She only knew her son had survived, and she no longer had to suffer the pain of watching her child die before she did.

Compared to Meng Ping who was completely elated, Nie Rong the Old Marquis of the Divine Might Marquis' estate appeared particularly calm and collected.

When he saw the Crimson Sky Kingdom's Emperor who had appeared together with Nie Yuan, he immediately greeted, "Your Majesty."

"Old Marquis," the Emperor quickly responded.

In terms of seniority, he was in the same generation as Nie Yuan the Divine Might Marquis. However, the Old Marquis, Nie Rong was Nie Yuan's father. That would mean he was the Old Marquis' junior.

In terms of meritorious deeds, he was still only a little kid when the Old Marquis was expanding the Crimson Sky Kingdom's territory. When he was young, he had looked up to the Old Marquis as an idol.

In terms of personal favors, it was also thanks to the Old Marquis that he was able to successfully climb up to the throne. He would have been long killed by his half-brother from the same father if it was not for the help from the Old Marquis.

Due to this reason, he owed his life to the Old Marquis.

It was precisely because of these reasons that he did not dare to put on airs even though he was already the Emperor when he met the Old Marquis.

"How did you manage to free yourselves? Where's Little Tian?" Nie Rong asked curiously.

The moment his words left his mouth, he looked at the red-clad girl, Feng Tian Wu, who was standing by the side with a gloomy expression.

Before the others could even reply, Feng Tian Wu who was anxiously frowning suddenly said, "Since I've brought you back safely, I'll take my leave first."

The instant the words left her mouth, she thought to herself, 'Big Brother Duan, wait for me please.'

Just as the thought flashed across Feng Tian Wu's mind, she disappeared without a trace before everybody's eyes.

Above the sky of the Imperial Palace.

Duan Ling Tian closely examined the sturdy old man from top to bottom. His face was extremely solemn.

It was difficult for him to see through the old man. Suddenly, his heart jolted when he finally recalled something.

"Martial Emperor!"

Since his memory had merged with Rebirth Martial Emperor's memory from his two lives, he quickly figured it out.

"You're Duan Ling Tian?"

That sturdy old man staring at Duan Ling Tian was precisely the Martial Emperor from Izumo Sect just like Duan Ling Tian had speculated.

He was also the only supreme elder in Izumo Sect and shared equal fame with the Martial Emperors from Anicca Sect and North Nether Sect in the northern desert.

When he was looking at Duan Ling Tian, the depth of his gaze was filled with a bloodthirsty and deep hatred.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded his head lightly. He was neither happy, angry, humble nor haughty.

At this moment, he had already guessed the identity of the sturdy old man.

There was only one Martial Emperor in Izumo Sect.

The sturdy old man — Tong Shan the supreme elder of Izumo Sect — glared at Duan Ling Tian coldly as he asked, "So you're the one who killed Lei Zhong, my direct disciple?"

The instant the words left his mouth, a wave of powerful aura emanated from his body and shrouded Duan Ling Tian mercilessly. It was as though it was trying to bear down on Duan Ling Tian.

Unfortunately, the aura did not affect Duan Ling Tian at all even though it was strong.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian's Spiritual Energy was already at the Seventh Level Void Transformation Stage. He had a certain degree of immunity against a Martial Emperor's aura.

Due to the fact that he had merged with the Rebirth Martial Emperor's memory, he had a deep understanding of Martial Emperors. That was why he was not the slightest bit afraid of the Martial Emperor's aura.

"Yes!"

Duan Ling Tian did not evade the question. Instead, he admitted it calmly in a tone that was neither too haughty nor servile.

The other three people from Izumo Sect felt chills run up their spines when they saw Duan Ling Tian admitted to killing Lei Zhong in front of their supreme elder without any hesitation.

"This Duan Ling Tian is doomed!"

"The supreme elder is most likely itching to make his move now!"

...

The three people from Izumo Sect felt that Duan Ling Tian was about to meet his maker when Tong Shan, the Izumo Sect's supreme elder, finally regained his senses and proceeded to make his move.

The robe on his body immediately fluttered as he glared fixedly at Duan Ling Tian with his cold eyes.

His eyes were so dark that nobody could see if there were any hints of joy or rage in them. It was similar to the eyes of a dead man rather than somebody who was still alive.

In any case, Duan Ling Tian was going to turn into a dead man soon in his opinion.

Boom!

The Origin Energy in Tong Shan's body skyrocketed. It transformed into a milky-white flame that soared up to the sky and shrouded Tong Shan entirely.

The Heaven and Earth Energy swirled above the sky and quickly gathered into the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

A total of 2,000 silhouettes appeared as though it was a testament to how terrifying the Origin Energy surging from Tong Shan's body was.

"Just his Origin Energy alone is equivalent to the strength of 2,000 ancient horned dragons... It's the First Level Martial Emperor Stage!"

Duan Ling Tian could not help but gasp when he saw the scene before his eyes.

Chapter 1036: Who'll Be Killing Who?

Although he had long realized the sturdy old man standing before him was a Martial Monarch, Duan Ling Tian still could not help but be taken aback when that old man demonstrated his Martial Monarch Stage's Origin Energy.

"Duan Ling Tian, you're doomed from the moment you killed Lei Zhong! I'll send you to the other world, and you can be Lei Zhong's slave there!" Tong Shan's thunderous voice filled the entire palace of Crimson Sky Kingdom and took everyone by surprise.

"C-Commander Duan is back?" The people in the palace were shocked, and they could not help but break out in cold sweat since they felt anxious on Duan Ling Tian's behalf.

There were many among them who had never met Duan Ling Tian before. However, in these few years, Duan Ling Tian had risen as high as the sun and became the representative of the Crimson Sky Kingdom. As a result, he became the national idol in the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

The people from the Crimson Sky Kingdom only needed to say — "Duan Ling Tian is from our Crimson Sky Kingdom" — when they encountered people from the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom or the Darkstone Empire to elicit envy and hatred.

They could not help but feel smug whenever that happened.

Duan Ling Tian had unwittingly become the spiritual pillar for most people in the Crimson Sky Kingdom. Due to this reason, many people were worried about him when they saw him faced with such a crisis.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian frowned. It was because he saw the milky-white flame on Tong Shan's body had changed into an overwhelming crimson flame the moment his words left his mouth.



A fierce and intense flame soared and skyrocketed. It was as though Tong Shan had transformed into a fiery gigantic beast.

The fiery crimson mane on the gigantic beast fluttered as it opened its bloody mouth. It looked as though it was poised to attack.

Whoosh!

The Heaven and Earth Energy swirled above Tong Shan's head. Another 2,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons appeared next to the 2,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons that were mobilized by the First Level Martial Monarch Stage's Origin Energy.

The First Level Emperor Stage Fire Profundity!

4,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons appeared above Tong Shan and writhed as they descended in an overbearing manner, exuding an aura of oppression.

However, that was not the end.

Soon after, streaks of lightning appeared around the overbearing flame on Tong Shan's body. Gusts of solidified saber chi followed closely like a shadow and integrated harmoniously with the flame.

Another 2,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons materialized next to the 4,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons.

The 2,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons made their appearance separately. 1,000 silhouettes appeared first before the other 1,000 appeared.

"Ninth Level Advance Thunder Concept! Ninth Level Advance Saber Concept!" Duan Ling Tian raised his brows when he saw the 6,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons above Tong Shan's head. He was not particularly surprised by the sight.

After all, if a powerhouse at the peak of the Void had only comprehended two types of Ninth Level Void Transformation Concepts, it would be hard for him to comprehend the Emperor Stage Profundity that a Martial Monarch usually possessed.

Naturally, there were exceptions as well. For example, a powerhouse at the peak of the Void who had simultaneously comprehended two Ninth Level Void Transformation Concepts such as the Fire and Water like Qi Yu, the Peak Master of Wood Peak from the Five Element Sect.

Water and Fire were conflicting elements and were extremely resistant to each other.

Due to the resistance, the Concepts would easily overcome the adverse ascension process and become Emperor Stage Profundities!

At that time, one's cultivation base would be able to break through to the Martial Monarch Stage as well!

A martial artist who had reached the peak of the Void like Qi Yu was destined to break through to the Martial Monarch Stage. It was only a matter of time.

Once that time arrived, everything would come naturally come to fruition.

Tong Shan was a powerhouse at the peak of the Void who had seemingly comprehended three Ninth Level Void Transformation Concepts. Due to the pressure from the other two Concepts, the Fire Concept had completed its transformation first and became the First Level Emperor Stage Fire Profundity!

The strength of 6,000 ancient horned dragons that Tong Shan displayed was the strength he possessed without the use of any spirit weapon. Once he used his spirit weapon, his strength would definitely increase.

A Martial Monarch like Tong Shan might not have a grade one spirit weapon because he was from a third-rate force in the Foreign Lands, but he might possess a grade two spirit weapon.

A grade two spirit weapon would usually grant a 77% or 78% strength boost.

Tong Shan's Origin Energy that had the strength of 2,000 ancient horned dragons would have at least an additional 1,500 ancient horned dragons after the boost.

In other words, Tong Shan would have the strength of over 7,500 ancient horned dragons if he used a grade two spirit weapon!

The strength of 7,500 ancient horned dragons?

Even Duan Ling Tian who had comprehended the Fifth Level Advance Sword Concept, thanks to the word 'Sword' that Saint Sword Feng Qing Yang left behind in the Cloud Continent, only had strength that was equivalent to 3,500 ancient horned dragons even after he unleashed his full strength with the help of his Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword.

A cultivation base at the Sixth Level Void Transformation Stage had the strength of over 800 ancient horned dragons.

The Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword's boost granted another 800 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons.

The First Level Advance Thunder Concept was equivalent to the strength of 200 ancient horned dragons.

The Third Level Advance Wind Concept and the Third Level Advance Fire Concept each had the strength of 400 ancient horned dragons. With the Wind Concept fueling the Fire Concept, the Fire Concept would have an additional 200 ancient horned dragons. There would be 1,000 ancient horned dragons after it was all added up.

The Ninth Level Intermediate Earth Concept had the strength of 100 ancient horned dragons.

The Fifth Level Advance Sword Concept had the strength of 600 ancient horned dragons.

In total, Duan Ling Tian's full strength would amount to the strength of 3,500 ancient horned dragons.

However, it was not entirely accurate to say that amount was his 'full strength'.

After all, the Earth Concept could communicate with the Earth and borrow the Earth Energy. Based on the Earth Concept Duan Ling Tian had comprehended, the Earth Energy he could borrow by communicating with the Earth would grant him an additional 50 ancient horned dragons.

However, Duan Ling Tian was currently hovering in the sky so there was no way for him to borrow the Earth Energy.

Nobody in their right mind would casually battle a martial artist who had comprehended the Earth Concept on the ground unless it was at a place similar to the environment at the Martial Emperor's secret treasure that Martial Emperor Qing Feng left behind.

"It looks like you're really not afraid of death!" Tong Shan enunciated each word clearly. He had 6,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons above him as he stared at Duan Ling Tian with a cold gaze.

"Is there any use in fearing death?" Duan Ling Tian responded.

"You have really big balls! I've changed my mind! I'm still going to kill you. However, I'll cripple your Dantian first and make you watch as I flay you alive! I want you to witness your legs and arms turning into bones after it has been stripped of flesh and drained of blood. If you pass out, I'll wake you up so you can watch as you die from exsanguination," Tong Shan hissed. He sneered as his eyes gleamed coldly.

The three Izumo Sect elders standing behind him immediately shivered involuntarily the moment the words left Tong Shan's mouth.

They could feel chills running down their spines just by imagining the scene the supreme elder had described. There was no need to mention the person who had to experience it.

The eyes they used to look at Duan Ling Tian had a hint of pity in them.

"It seems like the supreme elder is really angry!"

"I did not expect the supreme elder to have such a bloody and ferocious side to him! I never knew he has this side to him at all!"

...

The three Izumo Sect elders talked to each other secretly through their Voice Transmission. Genuine fear could be heard in their voices.

As for Duan Ling Tian, he could not help but be taken aback as well when he heard Tong Shan's words.

Crippling his Dantian and make him watch as Tong Shang flayed him alive?

"So? Are you scared now? Feeling regret?" Tong Shan sneered when he noticed the changes in Duan Ling Tian's face. "You should've expected this moment to come the second you killed my direct disciple, Lei Zhong."

"Scared? Regret?" The instance Duan Ling Tian heard Tong Shan's words, he immediately regained his senses. His face turned calm as he stared at Tong Shan coldly. "Geezer, are you out of your mind? Before I killed Lei Zhong, I already knew he's from your Izumo Sect. I also knew he was the direct disciple of a Martial Monarch!"

Duan Ling Tian said unhurriedly, "If I was scared, do you think I would kill him at that time? IDIOT!"

As Duan Ling Tian reached the end of his sentence, Tong Shan and the three elders were shocked when he spat out the last word and looked at Tong Shan in disdain.

"T-This Duan Ling Tian just called the supreme elder an i-idiot? D-Did I hear it correctly?" One of the Izumo Sect elders asked hesitantly through Voice Transmission as he looked at his two companions.

"Yeah, you heard it correctly." The other Izumo Sect elder shook his head. At this moment, he could feel chills running up his spine. "Don't tell me Duan Ling Tian feels that his death is not quick enough?"

"Perhaps he really fears that he won't die fast enough. After all, if supreme elder really does what he described earlier, Duan Ling Tian would be flayed alive. At that time, he would be so miserable that he would probably beg for death since he would no longer have his cultivation base!" The last Izumo Sect elder voiced out his opinion.

The other two nodded their heads. They found his explanation reasonable.

"Hurmph!" Tong Shan, who was initially enraged by Duan Ling Tian to the point he wanted to kill him off instantly, snorted to vent his aggravated emotion.

"Duan Ling Tian, do you think I'll fall for your words? The more you wish to die faster, the slower I'll let you die!" Tong Shan's eyes gleamed coldly as he stared at Duan Ling Tian. "Today, no matter how you enrage me, I won't change my original intention at all! I'll cripple your cultivation base and make you watch as I flay you alive!"

Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless after he heard Tong Shan's words.

"Tong Shan, don't you think you're overestimating yourself too much? Do you really think the reason I called you an idiot was to enrage you so that you'll kill me quickly?" Duan Ling Tian sneered, and his eyes were filled with killing intent.

He swept a glance over at the three Izumo Sect elders who were also staring at him before he finally shifted his attention back to Tong Shan.

"I want to see between the two of us, who's going to be the one who does the killing!"

Chapter 1037: Tong Shan's Death

"Who'll be the one that does the killing?" Tong Shan was initially taken aback when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He then looked at Duan Ling Tian in disdain as he sneered. "Who do you think you are? Do you think you're worthy to speak those words in front of me?"

In Tong Shan's opinion, in the entire northern desert, only the two geezers from the North Nether Sect and Anicca Sect were worthy enough to speak to him like that. Both of them possessed strength that was not inferior to his.

However, Duan Ling Tian dared to speak such words.

He had to acknowledge that Duan Ling Tian's innate talent and strength were indeed amazing.

If Duan Ling Tian led a good life in the future, it was not impossible for his cultivation base to break through to the Martial Monarch Stage and become a Martial Monarch powerhouse like Tong Shan himself.

However, it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to fight him now.

One was like the Earth while the other was like the Heaven. It was impossible for him to overcome this gap!

"Hahahaha..." The three Izumo Sect elders standing behind him burst out laughing as soon as Tong Shan's words left his mouth. It was as though they had heard one of the biggest jokes in the world.

"Did Duan Ling Tian say he's going to kill the supreme elder?"

"Although he didn't say it directly, it's implied in his words!"

"What a joke! He's not even in his thirties yet. Even if his cultivation base and innate talent are impressive, there's no doubt it's a fool's dream to think he can go against the supreme elder!"

The three Izumo Sect elders buried their heads together in discussion. They were mocking Duan Ling Tian relentlessly.

They did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to kill their Izumo Sect's supreme elder even in their death!

After all, he was the supreme elder of Izumo Sect. He was someone at the Martial Monarch Stage!

A young man who was barely thirty wanted to kill a Martial Monarch?

Who would even believe such words if the news spread out?

"You'll soon find out if I'm worthy or not. Oh, wait! I don't think you'll ever find out in your entire life." Duan Ling Tian's expression remained unchanged even when Tong Shan and the three Izumo Sect elders were ridiculing him. His gaze was calmly fixed on Tong Shan.

A sneer could be seen playing at the corner of his mouth when he reached the end of his sentence.

"Then, I'll cripple your Dantian first before I destroy your cultivation base! I'd love to see if you're still going to be this confident once you lose your cultivation base." Killing intent gleamed dangerously in Tong Shan's eyes as he began to lose control of his temper. He charged toward Duan Ling Tian in a flash as a gust of energy rolled out from his body.

In the sky, 6,000 silhouettes of ancient horned dragons swept out domineeringly with teeth and claws bared as they pounced toward Duan Ling Tian when Tong Shan charged forward.

Bam!

Within seconds, Tong Shan had arrived close to Duan Ling Tian. He pushed one palm forward and caused the airflow to ripple and spread out.

It seemed as though the palm was blessed with divine help as it headed toward Duan Ling Tian's Dantian immediately to destroy his cultivation base.

"Appear!" A shout reverberated in the air and shattered the silence at the moment when Tong Shan's palm was about to hit its target.

"Big Brother Duan!"

A figure similar to a fire elf appeared in the sky above the Imperial Palace. It was none other than Feng Tian Wu who came from the Divine Might Marquis' estate.

The second she came back, she saw Tong Shan appearing close to Duan Ling Tian.

Although she did not know what Tong Shan planned to do, she had a feeling her Big Brother Duan was in trouble the moment she saw Tong Shan appearing close to him.

For a moment, a panicked expression appeared on her delicate face.

However, the panic on her face disappeared in the next second when she saw her Big Brother Duan shooting out a talisman from his hand.

Feng Tian Wu seemed to have recalled what had happened previously.

She had witnessed how her Big Brother Duan killed Zhao Ming who was as strong as a Martial Monarch with that talisman in just a blow.

Due to this reason, she immediately heaved a sigh of relief when she saw the talisman shoot out of Duan Ling Tian's hand.

"Appear!" Soon after, Duan Ling Tian's shout entered her ears.

She did not need to look to figure out what would happen next.

The outcome was just as she had expected.

After Duan Ling Tian had shouted 'Appear!', the talisman that shot out of his hand transformed into powder and covered the entire sky as it flew in the wind before it disappeared before everyone's eyes.

Almost at the same time, Tong Shan who was charging toward Duan Ling Tian in fury began to slow down as he continued on his trajectory.

Duan Ling Tian easily evaded Tong Shan who was bearing down at him menacingly.

Meanwhile, something peculiar happened.

When Duan Ling Tian moved to evade the attack, Tong Shan continued to rush forward without slowing down his movement. His head drooped as blood gushed out from the spot between his brows.

At the same time, the Origin Energy Tong Shan had merged with one Profundity and two Concepts had also completely vanished into thin air.

The people present could clearly see a bloody hole between Tong Shan's brows as his body fell.

The bloody hole between his brows extended all the way to the back of his head. Both sides were gushing out blood.

However, the blood stopped gushing out within seconds.

Whoosh!

Tong Shan's body dropped down rapidly. Soon after, it fell on the ground of the Imperial Palace with a loud 'crash'. His body was a bloody and mangled mess.

There was no other way for him to die an even more terrible death than this!

For a time, the entire place was deadly silent.

"T-The supreme elder is d-dead?"

"I-I'm not dreaming r-right? Duan Ling Tian k-killed the supreme elder?"

"H-How did he manage to do that?"

...

The three Izumo Sect elders exchanged glances with each other and saw the panic in each other's eyes as they muttered to themselves.

The supreme elder was a Martial Monarch which meant that he was also the strongest person in Izumo Sect.

Such a powerhouse was killed in just a blink of an eye?

At the moment when the three Izumo Sect elders were trembling with fear, Duan Ling Tian flew out like a streak of purple lightning.

In just a flash, he arrived next to Tong Shan's body and lifted a hand to take his Spatial Ring.

Tong Shan was still a Martial Monarch after all. He had to have many valuable things in his Spatial Ring at all times.

Flee!

When Duan Ling Tian was taking off Tong Shan's Spatial Ring, the three Izumo Sect elders returned to their senses. After they hastily exchanged tacit looks, they immediately turned to flee.

What a joke!

Someone as strong as their supreme elder at the Martial Monarch Stage had already been killed by Duan Ling Tian.

Although they had no clue how he did it, they knew death would be their only outcome if they stayed on.

For the sake of survival, they resolutely abandoned the supreme elder who was the loftiest figure in Izumo Sect. They left the supreme elder's bloody and mangled body to stew in its own juice.

"Big Brother Duan." A familiar voice entered his ears while he was looking at the retreating backs of the three Izumo Sect elders.

Duan Ling Tian could guess whose voice it was without the need to think.

"Tian Wu." Duan Ling Tian rose up in the air and arrived next to Feng Tian Wu in just a blink of an eye. With a face full of questions, he asked, "Where are Uncle Nie and the others?"

"I've already sent them back to the Divine Might Marquis' estate," Feng Tian Wu replied.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. At the same time, he looked in the direction where the three Izumo Sect elders had left in and secretly sighed in relief.

He had used up his last life-saving talisman his miserly father left him to kill Tong Shan, the only Martial Monarch in Izumo Sect.

If the other three Izumo Sect elders were determined to avenge Tong Shan's death, there was no doubt he would have died!

Although his strength was quite powerful now, he dared not say he could defeat the three Izumo Sect elders. The fact that they were able to stay by Tong Shan's side meant that they might have reached the peak of the Void.

It was as rare as a phoenix's feather for a third-rate force to have a powerhouse who had reached the peak of the Void. However, it was a common thing for a second-rate force.

The second-rate forces were rated as second-rate because they had a Martial Monarch in their force.

It was the same conversely. Even if a second-rate force had many powerhouses at the peak of the Void, it would not be considered as a second-rate force without a Martial Monarch there. It would be considered as a slightly stronger third-rate force at most.

That was the future awaiting Izumo Sect.

Tong Shan the only Martial Monarch in Izumo Sect had died. Izumo Sect was destined to decline unless another Martial Monarch emerged in Izumo Sect to continue its glory.

"Looks like this time I made the right gamble," Duan Ling Tian muttered and smiled wryly when recalled the event earlier.

Feng Tian Wu's hearing was good. When she heard Duan Ling Tian muttering to himself, she could not suppress her curiosity so she asked, "Big Brother Duan, what gamble are you talking about?"

"That talisman that I used to kill Tong Shan earlier... Tian Wu, do you know that's the last talisman I have!" Duan Ling Tian sighed when he reached this part of his sentence.

He did not keep many secrets from Feng Tian Wu.

"WHAT?!" Feng Tian Wu was taken aback when she heard Duan Ling Tian's word. "Big Brother Duan, y-you... D-Did you deliberately scare the three Izumo Sect elders?"

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian nodded. He did not deny it.



From the very beginning, when he rushed back from the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom, he thought about using the Devilseal Tablet many times. However, he was not confident.

Moreover, he wanted to use the Devilseal Tablet against the group powerhouses at the peak of the Void. He did not plan to use it against a certain Martial Monarch from one of the three great second-rate forces.

He only had one talisman left after all.

Today, he had originally intended to devilify himself using the Devilseal Tablet to kill the remaining three Izumo Sect elders after he killed Tong Shan with the talisman.

However, a light bulb came on in his mind, and the method he had used earlier appeared in his mind.

He set up the atmosphere and killed Tong Shan using the talisman at the most appropriate time. At that time, the remaining three Izumo Sect elders would certainly be scared to death by him and flee.

"Duan Ling Tian! I'm sure you're familiar with this saying, 'The oriole lurks behind as the mantis stalks the cicada,' right?" A voice that was filled with ridicule suddenly rang out in the sky.

Chapter 1038: Tarnished

The voice that came out of nowhere caused Duan Ling Tian's expression to change.

Even Feng Tian Wu beautiful face that could entice all men gradually changed.

"That voice sounds quite familiar... Who is it?" Duan Ling Tian frowned as he looked at the sky where the voice came from. He could not recall where he had heard that voice before.

His face turned somber when he saw three silhouettes appearing out of thin air. One of the two men at the back caught his attention.

"Zuo Yue!" At this moment, the young man in the distance seemed to be the only person left in Duan Ling Tian's eyes.

That young man had escaped from him previously. He was the most powerful young man in Anicca Sect, Zuo Yue!

He still remembered the time when they entered the fourth level of Qing Feng Palace that Martial Emperor Qing Feng left behind after entering the Martial Emperor's secret treasure. He, Zuo Yue, and the most powerful young man in North Nether Sect, Xu Qing had passed the test and entered the fourth level's central zone.

Zuo Yue and Xu Qing had cooperated in an attempt to kill him.

When he was at the brink of death, he had unintentionally activated the Inscription Formation on the fourth level. Fortunately, he survived after he had successfully distracted the duo.

After that, he consumed the Spirit Fruit which was the reward for passing the test on the fourth level without Zuo Yue and Xu Qing noticing and achieved a major breakthrough in his cultivation base.

After the breakthrough in his cultivation base, he killed Xu Qing who had attempted to kill him for consuming the Spirit Fruit in one blow.

When he was about to kill Zuo Yue, his Origin Energy caused a major injury in his body due to the breakthrough and stopped him from chasing after Zuo Yue.

Zuo Yue who should have died in his hands managed to escape and live because of that.

Duan Ling Tian knew Zuo Yue would bring disaster to him after he had escaped!

That was because he knew Zuo Yue would spread the news of Duan Ling Tian killing Xu Qing and the news of him entering Qing Feng Palace's fifth level and obtaining the Profundity Fragments in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

"He's finally here." Duan Ling Tian knew whatever was about happen would begin when he saw that person standing behind a mysterious old man.

"I'm afraid this old man's ability is not inferior to Tong Shan!"

Tong Shan was the person he had just killed with the last talisman his miserly father left him. He was the only Martial Monarch powerhouse in Izumo Sect.

"He... should be the Martial Monarch powerhouse in Anicca Sect! He must be Zuo Yue's master." Duan Ling Tian tried his best to maintain the calm expression on his face, but he could not help the wave of fear that rose from within.

He managed to keep calm when he faced Tong Shan since he had a plan.

It was easy to kill Tong Shan with the talisman his miserly father left him, but it was difficult to create the atmosphere to chase away the three Anicca Sect elders.

After Duan Ling Tian came up with a plan, he was confident when he faced Tong Shan, the Martial Monarch powerhouse.

That was the only reason he managed to keep calm in front of Tong Shan even after discovering his identity.

However, it was a different story now.

'I'm afraid they overheard what I said to Tian Wu earlier,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he recalled his conversation with Feng Tian Wu.

Duan Ling Tian heard Zuo Yue's voice right after he told Feng Tian Wu he used the last talisman to kill Tong Shan.

It was obvious Zuo Yue had overheard the conversation that he did not bother to conceal with Feng Tian Wu.

Duan Ling Tian's heart sank when he realized that.

It was natural that he was not afraid of a Martial Monarch when he had the talisman in his hands.

However, the problem was he had used up all the talismans that he had. Without the help of the talisman, the only thing that he could depend on when fighting a Martial Monarch powerhouse was his own ability.

His current ability could be considered good since his strength was equivalent to 3,500 ancient horned dragons with the aid of the Quasi Royal Grade Spirit Sword, but he was nothing compared to a Martial Monarch who could unleash the strength of 6,000 to 7,000 ancient horned dragons.

"Supreme elder, this is Duan Ling Tian! He's the one who killed Lei Zhong and Xu Qing," Zuo Yue said respectfully to the old man standing before him.

The expression of the old man dressed in white was cold, and his eyes were devoid of emotion. His eyes gleamed when he heard what Zuo Yue said.

"You're Duan Ling Tian? The lucky man who obtained three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure?" The old man asked slowly as he stared at Duan Ling Tian calmly.

"Yes, I'm Duan Ling Tian... It seems a little arbitrary that you would bring up the matter of me obtaining three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body in the Martial Emperor's secret treasure," Duan Ling Tian replied as he fearlessly looked into the old man's eyes.

"Duan Ling Tian, stop pretending!" Zuo Yue said mockingly before the old man could reply. "Only you, me, and Xu Qing managed to successfully go through the Bumpy Road before arriving at Qing Feng Palace's fourth level."

"I made a move after you killed Xu Qing... You were the only one left on Qing Feng Palace's fourth level and had the opportunity to enter the fifth level! Who could have obtained the three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body if it's not you?" Zuo Yue grinned.

'He made his move?'

Duan Ling Tian's expression became a little odd after he heard Zuo Yue's words.

He remembered clearly that Zuo Yue was afraid he would be killed and had escaped right before his eyes.

Now Zuo Yue was saying he made a move first?

"Zuo Yue, I know you're jealous my ability is higher than yours after you saw me kill Lei Zhong... Moreover, you even attempted to take away the Profundity Fragment I obtained at the outer ring of the Martial Emperor's secret treasure," Duan Ling Tian said as he looked at Zuo Yue calmly. "However, you fabricated facts and slandered me for your own selfish desire. Isn't that a little too much?"

"You... You're saying that I slandered you?" Zuo Yue turned pale from rage after he heard what Duan Ling Tian said. He could not stay calm.

"Didn't you?" When Duan Ling Tian saw Zuo Yue's expression turned uglier and uglier, he did not plan to let him go just yet and proceeded to say with a grin, "Did you see me at Qing Feng Palace's fifth level

with your own eyes? Did you see me obtain the three Profundity Fragments in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body with your own eyes?"

Duan Ling Tian asked again and again. Zuo Yue was rendered speechless. He did not know what to say in response to all the questions.

"What? You no longer have any excuses left?" When Duan Ling Tian saw Zuo Yue gaping wordlessly, he continued to say sarcastically, "Zuo Yue, I have to say you're pretty capable!"

"Not only did you slander me, but you also used your own master, the Martial Monarch of Annica Sect, as your tool to satisfy your enmity against me." Every single word that Duan Ling Tian said hit the nail on the head. It caused Zuo Yue's expression to turn ugly from rage.

After Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, the old man and the middle-aged man next to Zuo Yue instinctively looked at him from the corner of their eyes.

"Master, don't listen to Duan Ling Tian's nonsense!" Zuo Yue's expression changed drastically when he noticed his master looking at him. He quickly said, "Everything I said is true."

"Judging by the situation at that time, he was the only one with the opportunity to get to the fifth level to search Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body for the three Profundity Fragments."

Zuo Yue was really scared his master would believe Duan Ling Tian's words and misunderstand him.

"So, what you're saying is everything you've said is pure speculation on your part." Duan Ling Tian smiled coldly.

Zuo Yue was no longer scared when he saw his master nodding at him to show his trust. He stared at Duan Ling Tian fearlessly as he said in a deep voice, "I admit the last part was my personal speculation... However, there's no way you can deny you were the only one left at Qing Feng Palace's fourth level after you killed Xu Qing and I left!"

"Why would I deny that?" Duan Ling Tian said calmly. "Besides, don't you think you're playing it down too much by saying you left? Are you sure you gave up the opportunity to explore Qing Feng Palace's fifth level and left willingly?"

Zuo Yue turned even paler. Duan Ling Tian did not plan to let him go at all. Instead, he ripped the last fig leaf on his body apart. "It's strange because I remember... somebody ran away in fear?"

"Hmph! Stop trying to change the topic. I'm sure you have all three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body," Zuo Yue said after he took a deep breath to calm his emotion.

"Are you sure about that?" Duan Ling Tian could feel his goosebumps rising when he looked at the Martial Monarch from Anicca Sect and the middle-aged man who was probably an Anicca Sect elder. However, he tried his best to maintain the calm expression on his face.

"Of course!" Zuo Yue answered without thinking twice.

"What if I take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath... and swear that I didn't take the three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Do you even dare to do that?!" Zuo Yue said with disdain and arrogance.

However, he was dumbstruck when he saw Duan Ling Tian prick his finger to take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath with his blood and swore that he did not take the three Profundity Fragments from the Martial Emperor's body.

'Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!'

...

Nine claps of thunder were heard one after another. The sound was deafening, and it was clearly heard by Duan Ling Tian, Feng Tian Wu, and the three people from Anicca Sect. Everyone in the palace heard it too.

Everything went back to normal after the nine claps of thunder sounded.

The thunder penalty did not come as Zuo Yue had expected.

"How's this possible?!" Zuo Yue's expression changed. He was unwilling to believe the 'truth'.

Chapter 1039: A Martial Monarch Congregation

"What's impossible?" Duan Ling Tian could not help but smirk when he heard Zuo Yue's words. "You admitted that everything was just your speculation... If you really managed to guess everything right, you wouldn't be the trash that you are right now."

'Trash!'

Zuo Yue's expression turned ugly when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He really did not know how to respond.

Although he was unwilling, he had to admit he was like a piece of trash compared to Duan Ling Tian.

It could be seen on Duan Ling Tian's lips that he was pleased when he saw Zuo Yue's expression.

He was willing to take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath and risk facing the thunder penalty even if it meant death to deny the fact that he had obtained the three Profundity Fragments from Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

After the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation released nine claps of thunder that resonated with his oath, the thunder penalty did not come.

Therefore, people thought he could not find Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body even though he went to the Qing Feng Palace's fifth level.

Otherwise, why would he dare to take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath? He would not dare to take the oath if he really did take the three Profundity Fragments in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

However, nobody knew he dared to take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath not because he did not see the Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

On the contrary, not only did he see Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body, he even obtained the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragments in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

He dared to take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath because he knew he did not violate the oath he took.

The oath that he took said he would be killed by the thunder penalty if he took three Profundity Fragments in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

Although he did obtain the Profundity Fragment in Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body, he only obtained one instead of three. The one he obtained was coincidentally the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

Even he had no idea who obtained the other two Monarch Stage Profundity Fragments.

Due to the fact that he obtained one Profundity Fragment instead of three, he did not violate the oath he took.

Duan Ling Tian was playing a number game with the three people from Anicca Sect while they remained completely oblivious. Moreover, they even believed what he said.

"Even if that's the case, you should have at least one Profundity Fragment in your hands!" Zuo Yue said through clenched teeth as he looked at Duan Ling Tian angrily.

"Idiot!" Duan Ling Tian said. He ignored Zuo Yue whose expression was getting uglier and uglier.

Zuo Yue's body began to tremble from rage when Duan Ling Tian continued to say, "Do you think the Profundity Fragments I obtained from the Martial Emperor's secret treasure belong to me?" Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man standing before Zuo Yue as he spoke. That old man was Bai Yu Hai, the Anicca Sect's supreme elder.

However, another voice sounded from above and interrupted Duan Ling Tian who was about to speak.

"Can you swear... that you didn't obtain any Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment at all?" The loud voice came from above where two silhouettes appeared almost simultaneously. They appeared near Duan Ling Tian. The person at the back stared at Duan Ling Tian ferociously.

It seemed as though the voice belonged to that person.

It was a middle-aged man who looked around fifty years old with eyes as fierce as a goshawk.

However, his appearance did not catch Duan Ling Tian's attention.

His attention was focused on the old man standing in the lead.

The old man was dressed in gray and exuded a ferocious aura.

In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, the old man's aura and bearing were similar to Tong Shan and Bai Yu Hai. The fact that he could indirectly suppress Duan Ling Tian meant he was not ordinary.

An ordinary martial artist would not be able to exude that kind of oppressive aura.

"Martial Monarch powerhouse!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed instantly as his heart jolted.

'Could it be he's from the North Nether Sect?'

The North Nether Sect was a second-rate force in the northern desert just like Izumo Sect and Anicca Sect. All three sects had a Martial Monarch powerhouse in charge.

He had heard about this Martial Monarch from some Five Element Sect's disciples when they were traveling to the Martial Emperor's secret treasure.

He was the strongest powerhouse in North Nether Sect. He was the Martial Monarch powerhouse, Feng Tong!

"Feng Tong!"

Duan Ling Tian heard Bai Yu Hai, the Martial Monarch from Anicca Sect, greeting the gray-clad old man when he appeared. There was a hint of surprise in his voice.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian realized his speculation was correct.

The person who had just appeared was Feng Tong, the North Nether Sect's pillar of support and guardian angel.

"Two Martial Monarch powerhouses..." Duan Ling Tian smiled bitterly.

The Anicca Sect's Martial Monarch powerhouse, Bai Yu Hai, was already a headache to deal with.

Now there was an addition of Feng Tong who was even more difficult to handle.

Bai Yu Hai was not as difficult to deal with since he was only persuaded to come here by his direct disciple Zuo Yue. His objective was to take the Profundity Fragment Duan Ling Tian obtained from Martial Emperor Qing Feng's body.

However, Duan Ling Tian noticed Bai Yu Hai's hostility toward him had lessened after he took the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath.

On the other hand, Feng Tong was here to avenge Xu Qing, not the three Profundity Fragments.

Xu Qing was the strongest young powerhouse in North Nether Sect. He was the direct disciple of the Sect Leader of North Nether Sect.

Xu Qing had attacked him mercilessly out of greed for the treasure when they were at Qing Feng Palace's fourth level.

However, he was eventually killed by Duan Ling Tian when his cultivation base suddenly had a major breakthrough.

Duan Ling Tian and Zuo Yue were the only ones who knew about Xu Qing's death.

Nobody would know he was the one who killed Xu Qing if Zuo Yue had died.

However, Duan Ling Tian was injured at a critical moment, and it allowed Zuo Yue to escape. Zuo Yue's escape was the catalyst for all the events that happened today. Duan Ling Tian felt exhausted having to deal with one disaster after another.

Feng Tong's eyes suddenly turned fierce. He stared unblinkingly at Duan Ling Tian as he enunciated each word clearly. "You're Duan Ling Tian?"

Meanwhile, a terrifying aura swept out from his body toward Duan Ling Tian like a sharp sword.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not feel any pressure when Tong Shan released his aura at him, he felt a wave of pressure when faced with Feng Tong.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew it did not mean Feng Tong was stronger than Tong Shan. Feng Tong was just better when it came to this kind of situation.

Duan Ling Tian did not respond to Feng Tong's question. He only glanced at him with a hint of fear hidden in the depth of his eyes.

He could see the killing intent flashing in Feng Tong's eyes.

He knew Feng Tong could not wait to kill him so he could end this matter once and for all.

Duan Ling Tian felt worried and uncertain at this moment.

"Duan Ling Tian, you should take another oath... Take the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath and swear that you don't have the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment. I won't trouble you any further if you're still alive after taking the oath," Bai Yu Hai said slowly as he glanced at Duan Ling Tian.

He was influenced by the words of the middle-aged man from North Nether Sect. As a result, Duan Ling Tian was forced into a dead end with no other way out.

Duan Ling Tian's facial expression changed slightly after he heard the words.

He knew there was no way for him to escape even if he denied the fact that he had the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

Bai Yu Hai was here for the treasure while Feng Tong was here to avenge Xu Qing.

Even if Bai Yu Hai did not trouble him, Feng Tong would still kill him.

"That's right! I obtained the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment." Duan Ling Tian directly admitted.

He looked at Feng Tong as soon as he made his confession.

He was trying to observe the changes in Feng Tong's eyes.

He felt a wave of relief when he saw the greed flashing in Feng Tong's eyes.

This might be a turning point for him. In any case, it was the only turning point he had at the moment.

Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment!



The eyes of the people from Anicca Sect lit up one after another when they heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

Currently, they were looking at Duan Ling Tian as though he was some sort of precious treasure.

"Hmph! Seems like my speculation is correct. You're the one who obtained the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment." Zuo Yue scoffed and looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he had seen through him since the beginning. It seemed like he was trying to show off the fact that he was right all along.

Meanwhile, two terrifyingly cold killing intent swept toward Duan Ling Tian in unison.

Duan Ling Tian quickly regained his senses and discovered the killing intent came from the two Martial Monarchs, Bai Yu Hai and Feng Tong.

Let alone the two First Level Martial Monarch martial artists, even a Ninth Level Martial Monarch powerhouse would be interested in the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

However, none of them attacked him. They remained motionless as they stood there.

In their opinion, they had to possess the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment in Duan Ling Tian's hands.

They were currently thinking of ways to defeat each other to obtain the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

They had been rivals for many years, and they knew each other like the back of their hands. That was the reason for their hesitation and lack of movement.

"Feng Tong, aren't you here to avenge Xu Qing? I can give you his life... However, that thing in his possession belongs to me," Bai Yu Hai said to Feng Tong with a gleam in his eyes.

"Bai Yu Hai... If you think his life is more precious than the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment, then I'll give you his life and take the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment for my own," Feng Tong retorted. He revealed his intention through his words.

Although it was important to avenge Xu Qing, it could not compare to the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

Chapter 1040: Concern of the Two Martial Monarchs

All of a sudden, the two Martial Monarch powerhouses faced each other as though they were on the verge of a fight!

The both of them were unwilling to concede since both of them wanted the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment that Duan Ling Tian possessed.

Duan Ling Tian watched coldly as he stood aside. It was all within his plans for them to fight each other!

However, Duan Ling Tian's expression changed in the next moment.

He saw the two Martial Monarchs who seemed as though they were about to fight suddenly prick their fingers. Two drops of blood appeared and ascended into the sky before they vanished into the clouds.

"I, Bai Yu Hai, Anicca Sect's Supreme Elder, vow with the Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath that I'll fight fairly for the ownership of the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment with Feng Tong after I obtain it from Duan Ling Tian... If I violate this oath, I'm willing to be killed by the thunder penalty!"

"I, Feng Tong, North Nether Sect's Supreme Elder..."

The two Martial Monarch powerhouses, Bai Yu Hai and Feng Tong, came to a common understanding quickly.

They would obtain the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment first before they fight for it.

Obtaining the Emperor Stage Profundity would remain as their top priority.

"Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!"

...

Eighteen consecutive deafening claps of thunder broke the silence above Crimson Sky Kingdom's sky.

It was the confirmation of the duo's Ninety-Nine Heavenly Tribulation oath.

The explosive thunders made everyone in the Crimson Sky Kingdom anxious. Many of them sat weakly on the ground. It took them a while before they could stand up again.

"Are those thunders?"

"I think so."

"Could it be Commander Duan is fighting with the four unknown powerhouses?"

"It could be."

...

Everyone in the palace had anticipation written on their faces. They were anticipating Duan Ling Tian to win the fight and come back with glory.

In their opinion, Duan Ling Tian was not only the strongest powerhouse in the Crimson Sky Kingdom, he was also the kingdom's guardian angel.

Duan Ling Tian was the only one with the ability to get them out of this predicament!

It was apparent how highly they regarded Duan Ling Tian. It was to the extent that they were almost worshipping him. It would not be an exaggeration to say that his status and charm was even higher than the Emperor of the Crimson Sky Kingdom.

However, the people in the palace did not know their Commander Duan was facing the biggest crisis of his life. A crisis that could possibly take his life away.

He was a Sixth Level Void Transformation martial artist who was simultaneously targeted by two Martial Monarch powerhouses.

Perhaps he was the only Sixth Level Void Transformation martial artist in the world who would ever encounter such a situation.

Above the palace, Bai Yu Hai and Feng Tong stared fiercely at Duan Ling Tian after they came to an agreement.

There was greed deep in their eyes.

"Duan Ling Tian, hand over the Emperor Stage Profundity... We'll keep your dead body in one piece!" Feng Tong said calmly.

Although Bai Yu Hai could kill Duan Ling Tian directly with the back of his hand since he was a Martial Monarch and take the Spatial Ring in his hands, he did not dare to do that.

After all, he was not sure if Duan Ling Tian kept the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment in the Spatial Ring he carried wherever he went.

If Duan Ling Tian did not have the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment with him, that meant only he knew where he hid the fragment away.

If they killed him, they would lose the only lead they had on the location of the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

They were most unwilling to see that happen.

"Duan Ling Tian, if you hand over the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment... I'll forgive you for deceiving me earlier!" Bai Yu Hu said as he glared fiercely at Duan Ling Tian.

Similar to Feng Tong, he was afraid Duan Ling Tian did not have the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment on him.

He and Feng Tong did not dare to take the risk.

They could kill Duan Ling Tian and obtain his Spatial Ring, but everything would be in vain if the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment was not in the Spatial Ring.

Duan Ling Tian could not help but grin when he heard what the two Martial Monarch powerhouses said.

Naturally, he knew what they were thinking.

They were worried he did not have the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment with him, and they might not be able to find the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment after if he died.

"It's my honor to die by two Martial Monarch powerhouses' hands... Please do it," Duan Ling Tian said suddenly as he closed his eyes. He opened his arms with a smile on his face. The pose clearly indicated he was ready to die.

Feng Tong and Bai Yu Hai's expression changed when they heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

The more Duan Ling Tian behaved like that, the more worried they became.

In their opinion, Duan Ling Tian would not be able to remain so calm if he had the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment with him.

Feng Tong and Bai Yu Hai looked at each other. None of them planned to attack at all.

"Hmph! Since you want to die, there's no need for my master to do it himself... I'll kill you on behalf of my master!" A scoff could be heard at this moment. All they could see was a silhouette charging out from behind Bai Yu Hai toward Duan Ling Tian at lightning speed.

The silhouette's speed did not concern Bai Yu Hai.

He was concerned about the fact that the silhouette had arrived close to Duan Ling Tian and was preparing to attack him.

"Zuo Yue, stop!" Bai Yu Hai shouted immediately, and his expression changed when he saw Zuo Yue poised to attack. Zuo Yue's Origin Energy ran rampant as his Concept trailed behind like a shadow.

Everything would be over if Zuo Yue killed Duan Ling Tian!

They would not be able to obtain the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment, and it would be all for naught.

That was why Bai Yu Hai panicked.

"Stop!" Feng Tong shouted as soon as he regained his senses. His facial expression had changed drastically.

He might not be able to use the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment now, but he might be able to witness the birth of a Martial Emperor if he contacted a Ninth Level Martial Monarch powerhouse on Cloud Continent.

If that happened, he and the North Nether Sect would be allied with the Martial Emperor. At that time, they would be invincible on Cloud Continent.

Which first-rate force or top force would dare to provoke a Martial Emperor powerhouse?

'Whoosh! Whoosh!'

Bai Yu Hai and Feng Tong vanished from their spots in the next moment.

They were going to stop Zuo Yue. Unfortunately, they were too late.

'Bang!!'

A loud explosion resounded. Bai Yu Hai and Feng Tong immediately stopped moving. They were standing near Duan Ling Tian so they could see everything clearly.

Feng Tong sighed in relief when he saw what happened.

Bai Yu Hai, on the other hand, looked terrible.

Zuo Yue was charging toward Duan Ling Tian in an attempt to crack his head. However, it was his own head that exploded like a watermelon following the loud explosion.

Blood splashed everywhere and rained down like bloody flames. The scene was strangely beautiful.

'Whoosh!'

Meanwhile, Zuo Yue's headless body fell from the sky and smashed to the ground. His body was nothing more than a pulpy mess of flesh and blood.

Zuo Yue's body landed less than ten meters away from Izumo Sect's Supreme Elder Tong Shan's body. The way they died was exactly the same. Both of their bodies were mangled beyond recognition.

"Duan! Ling! Tian!" Bai Yu Hai enunciated each word fiercely in his deep voice. His eyes had turned red.

The pause between each word seemed to emphasize the rage he felt.

'Bang!'

All of a sudden, a milky Origin Energy ran rampant on Bai Yu Hai's body. It transformed into a blue energy surrounded by purple bolts of lightning and wisps of green energy.

Heaven and Energy whirred above the air and eventually formed the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

A total of 6,000 ancient horned dragons' silhouettes appeared out of thin air as it descended majestically.

"He has the same ability as Tong Shan." Duan Ling Tian's heart jolted when he saw the scene before his eyes. However, he remained calm on the surface.

It seemed as though he was enjoying the view as he fearlessly observed the 6,000 ancient horned dragons' silhouettes. Not only did he not seem shocked, it seemed like the scene before him did not interest him at all.

"If I, Duan Ling Tian, have to die, I rather die by a Martial Monarch's hand... Zuo Yue is not worthy!" Duan Ling Tian calmly said to Bai Yu Hai who was glaring at him in anger. There was a hint of coldness in his voice when he spoke.

He had defeated Zuo Yue back then, and Zuo Yue could only run away when he encountered Duan Ling Tian.

Due to that, he had never taken Zuo Yue seriously.

Zuo Yue was only looking for death when he attempted to take advantage of the situation to kill him.

"You!!" Bai Yu Hai's expression changed greatly when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. The energy on his body fluctuated wildly as though he was going to attack at any given time.

However, he did not attack in the end.

It was only natural for him to be mad since his direct disciple was killed.

After all, he had trained his direct disciple for more than twenty years. He had treated him like his biological son.

If it was someone else had killed him, that person would have already been killed by Bai Yu Hai.

However, Duan Ling Tian was the who killed his direct disciple. He was the one who obtained the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment, and they still did not know if he had hidden it somewhere.

Therefore, he chose to endure for the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment. At least for now.

'Zuo Yue, rest in peace... Please wait a moment on the path to death. I'll accompany you after I kill Duan Ling Tian and find out where the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment is,' Bai Yu Hai thought to himself with a grave expression on his face.

Initially, it did not matter to him if Duan Ling Tian died or not. He was only interested in the Emperor Stage Profundity Fragment.

However, he was enraged now that his direct disciple Zuo Yue was dead.

He could not wait to kill Duan Ling Tian right away!

Feng Tian Wu, who had remained silent all this while, had a change of expression. At the same time, her concerned voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears.

"Big Brother Duan!"