

## SOVEREIGN 1061

### Chapter 1061: Huang Chun

All three of the middle-aged men were sent flying by the energy that swept out from Duan Ling Tian's body.

"Barf!"

"Barf!!"

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The three of them were all wounded by Duan Ling Tian's strength. Their faces were red and swollen as they spat out a few mouthfuls of blood.

After they caught their breath, their gazes when they looked at Duan Ling Tian were filled with horror, dread, and anger.

They did not expect the purple-clad young man who looked like he was in his twenties would possess such terrifying strength!

He sent them flying and injured them in just a blink of an eye. It was so fast that they did not even have time to react. The Heaven and Earth Energy in the air had not even been mobilized, let alone form the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

They knew the young man's strength was far superior to their strength!

"I'll give you a span of three breaths to disappear before my eyes... Otherwise, you'll die!" Duan Ling Tian's voice was as cold as ice as he warned them emotionlessly.

Colors immediately drained from the faces of the three middle-aged men as they hastily turned around and scurried away. In just a blink of an eye, they flew into the building complex in front of them — the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's estate.

It was apparent the reason they were here was for the Alchemist Competition that was organized by the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's estate.

"Pheww!" After the three of them left, Duan Ling Tian's body suddenly shivered. He could not help but heave a sigh of relief.

He was overcome with the urge to kill the three middle-aged men for a moment earlier. He managed to suppress the urge at the final moment. This was the after-effect of the Devilseal Tablet.

Meanwhile, those who witnessed the scene earlier did not dare to get close to Duan Ling Tian, let alone look at Feng Tian Wu who was lying inside the ice coffin.

"Let's head there, Xiong Quan," Duan Ling Tian called out to Xiong Quan. He brought the ice coffin along as they headed to the building complex in front. They followed the flow of people and headed toward the west side of the building complex before they landed on a vast field.

This vast field was further divided into two areas. One of the areas was near a row of magnificent palace buildings. The other area was an outdoor court. People were milling around the court.

Most of the people who descended from the sky, including Duan Ling Tian, were standing in the outdoor court.

Duan Ling Tian could see rows of tables arranged next to each other at the area close to the palace buildings. Moreover, the same medicinal materials were placed on each table as well.

"That Alchemist Competition must take place over there." Duan Ling Tian figured it out easily.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian suddenly turned his head slightly and looked into the distance as though he had noticed something.

Three middle-aged men were staring at him. The moment they saw him looking in their direction, they immediately shifted their eyes away. However, Duan Ling Tian did not fail to notice the anger and hatred in their eyes in that split second before they turned away.

The three middle-aged men were no strangers to Duan Ling Tian. They were none other than the three people whom he had injured outside earlier.

Duan Ling Tian shifted his gaze away after glancing once at the three individuals. The three of them were martial artists at the First or Second Level Void Transformation Stage and posed no threat to him.

In the distance, the three middle-aged men exchanged glances with each other and could see the horror and dread in each other's eyes when they shifted their gazes away from Duan Ling Tian.

"He's here for the Alchemist Competition too?" One of them asked unhurriedly in a deliberately lowered voice. A hint of anger could be heard in his voice.

"I think so." Another person nodded.

"So, does this mean he's human and not a demon?" The last person frowned.

Originally, he thought the purple-clad young man was a demon after he witnessed his strength. This was because that person was just too young!

A young man who appeared to be only in his twenties possessed strength that far surpassed theirs. They suspected his cultivation base was at least at the Fourth Level Void Transformation Stage.

Even in the Ou Clan and Lu Clan, more than half of the people in the clan focused more on Weapons Refinement Dao and Medicine Refinement Dao. As for the others, they could not become a weapon craftsman or an alchemist due to their limited talent. They could only focus on Martial Dao in order to raise their cultivation base and protect their clan.

The Ou Clan and Lu Clan were a weapon crafting clan and an alchemy clan respectively. They had existed for 10,000 years and the cultivation resources they had accumulated were not inferior to the first-rate forces.

Due to this reason, the disciples from Ou Clan and Lu Clan who focused on cultivating their Martial Dao naturally had quite impressive strength.

"If he's really here for the Alchemist Competition, that means he's human. It's basically impossible for a demon to become an Alchemist! This is the ultimate law of the Cloud Continent!"

The three middle-aged men looked at each other again. They could see the astonishment in each other's eyes with just a glance.

A young man who possessed a cultivation base that far exceeded their own strength really shocked them.

They were even more shocked when they discovered this person was most likely an alchemist who came to join the Alchemist Competition just like them. Their emotions were in turmoil that it took them a long time before they finally calmed down.

No matter what, the three individuals refused to believe that Duan Ling Tian was here to join the Alchemist Competition. Soon after, one of them speculated, "Maybe he's here to accompany the middle-aged man next to him."

"Maybe." The other two nodded. They hoped that this was the case.

In their opinion, their conjecture earlier was too preposterous. They felt that it was highly impossible for their earlier conjecture to be correct.

"Yao Liang, didn't you say one of the judges for the Alchemist Competition organized by the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan is your uncle?" One of the middle-aged men looked at the other middle-aged man dressed in green with bright eyes. "How about this? You play nice with your uncle and let him disqualify that alchemist who came with that guy?"

When he reached the end of his sentence, he looked at the middle-aged man standing behind the purple-clad young man in the distance. A faint sneer crept up on the corner of his mouth.

The person he was looking at was none other than Xiong Quan who was standing behind Duan Ling Tian.

The middle-aged man thought Duan Ling Tian was here to accompany Xiong Quan to participate in the Alchemist Competition. He thought Xiong Quan was the alchemist.

"That's right, Yao Liang! With just a word from your uncle, they'll have to leave immediately!" The other middle-aged man was also looking at the green-clad middle-aged man with anticipation on his face.

"Don't worry. Once uncle is out, I'll tell him about this. Since that guy dared to injure me, I'll revoke his companion's eligibility to enter the Alchemist Competition's preliminary round!" The green-clad middle-aged man said confidently as he narrowed his eyes.

A smug smile could be immediately seen on the faces of the three middle-aged men.

Duan Ling Tian was completely unaware of their scheme.

Naturally, he would not care at all even if he found out.

"I wonder if the current Northern Mountain's Lu Clan has a grade one alchemist." Duan Ling Tian was very curious about this matter.

Out of the corner of his eyes, he saw a middle-aged man standing nearby. He immediately smiled as he looked at him. "Hi, big brother, may I ask you a question?"

"Of course, you can." The middle-aged man had long noticed Duan Ling Tian. After all, the ice coffin hovering beside Duan Ling Tian was just too eye-catching. It was almost impossible for it not to draw any attention.

"I just arrived at the Northern Mountain Land not long ago. I only know the Lu Clan is one of the two strongest forces in the Northern Mountain land. I also know, in the past, there were not more than twenty grade one alchemists in Lu Clan." Duan Ling Tian looked at the middle-aged man and asked bluntly, "I wonder if there's any grade one alchemist in the Lu Clan currently?"

"No." The middle-aged man did not expect Duan Ling Tian's question to be so simple. He shook his head as he answered, "There's no grade one alchemist in the Lu Clan at the moment. The last known grade one Alchemist was from around 900 years ago."

"I see." Duan Ling Tian flashed a smile at the middle-aged man after he obtained the answer to his question. "Thanks for the information, big brother."

"You're welcome, brother." The middle-aged man smiled. His gaze then landed on the ice coffin hovering beside Duan Ling Tian. He asked curiously, "Brother, I wonder who is this lady lying in the ice coffin..."

"She's my woman..." Duan Ling Tian said gently without waiting for the middle-aged man to finish his sentence. Duan Ling Tian gaze instantly shifted to Feng Tian Wu who was lying in the ice coffin.

Duan Ling Tian who was staring fixedly at Feng Tian Wu's beautiful face at this moment failed to notice her right hand had twitched the moment the words left his mouth.

The movement was so small that in just a blink of an eye, it soon returned to normal again.

Not only Duan Ling Tian, it also went unnoticed by everyone else, including Xiong Quan.

It was as though Feng Tian Wu who was lying in the ice coffin had heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

The middle-aged man saw Feng Tian Wu's beauty as she lay in the ice coffin. With a face full of envy, he said, "You're really blessed, brother."

Duan Ling Tian politely responded by smiling.

"My name is Huang Chun. How should I address you?" The middle-aged man asked.

"Duan Ling Tian," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"That's a good name!" A hint of praise was evident in Huang Chun's words.

He turned to Xiong Quan. "How should I address you then?"

"I'm Xiong Quan." Xiong Quan nodded at Huang Chun.

"Are you two here to join the Alchemist Competition?" Huang Chun asked again.

"I'm not an alchemist." Xiong Quan shook his head.

"Then, you must be here to accompany Brother Ling Tian to participate in the Alchemist Competition. Brother Ling Tian's really young and promising. So young, and he's already a grade six alchemist. His future is bound to be limitless," Huang Chun praised. "With your talent and becoming a grade six alchemist at such a young age, Brother Ling Tian, it's certain that you'll become a foreign disciple of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan!"

The minimum requirement for entering the Alchemist Competition was one had to be a grade six alchemist. Due to this reason, Huang Chun felt that Duan Ling Tian must be a grade six alchemist.

It did not even cross his mind that Duan Ling Tian might be an alchemist of a higher grade.

Duan Ling Tian was so young, being able to become a grade six alchemist was already enough to elicit shock from the bottom of his heart.

His talent in Alchemy could already be considered as an accomplishment.

Chapter 1062: Personality

Duan Ling Tian merely smiled at Huang Chun's words.

'Was it certain he would become a foreign disciple of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan?'

The reason he came was not to become a foreign disciple of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan. Instead, he came so that the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan would grant him the position of an Interim Advisor or a Revered Elder.

He could imagine the Martial Monarch of Northern Mountain's Lu Clan greeting him politely if his identity as a grade one alchemist was revealed.

'However, I'll give this Alchemist Competition a try. When the competition officially begins, I can show off my grade one Pill Fire. I'm sure things will get interesting at that time,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as a smile crept up on the corner of his mouth.

Huang Chun did not miss the smile that appeared on his face. In his opinion, that smile seemed to show his confidence. It was as though he was confident he would be able to enter the top thirty in the Alchemist Competition and become a foreign disciple of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan.

If Huang Chun could read the thoughts in Duan Ling Tian's mind, he would probably faint from shock.

The Alchemist Competition had not begun yet. Everybody, including Duan Ling Tian, stood at the same spot, patiently waiting.

As time went by, fewer and fewer people came.

In the end, people finally stopped coming.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Suddenly, the sound of wind whistling reverberated and took everybody, including Duan Ling Tian, by surprise.

When Duan Ling Tian and the others looked in the direction of the sound, they noticed two old figures joining the crowd.

Between these two old men, one was wearing green while the other wore grey.

The green-clad old man had a sturdy body, and he had a determined expression on his face. His manner was imposing even though no hints of anger could be seen in his eyes. He exuded an inexplicable sense of oppression that was not visible to the eyes.

The grey-clad old man, on the other hand, looked emaciated with his thin body. He looked glum and exuded a gloomy aura.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

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After the appearance of the two old men, five more figures appeared behind them like shadows.

Among these people, some were old and some were middle-aged. They stood impassively behind the two old men. They stared straight ahead and did not waver at all from the beginning until the end.

"The Lu Clan's people are here!" Somebody bellowed. Everybody, including Duan Ling Tian, immediately regained their senses and re-examined the seven people before them.

"The two people at the lead are at the Eighth Level Void Transformation Stage. As for the other five, the weakest is at the Fourth Level Void Transformation Stage and the strongest is at the Sixth Level Void Transformation Stage." Duan Ling Tian's immediately extended his Spiritual Energy and probed the seven people's cultivation base.

Judging from the fact that Northern Mountain's Lu Clan was a second-rate force, the cultivation base of these seven people could not be considered strong.

However, Duan Ling Tian knew they did not need to have strong cultivation base.

"These seven people must be the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's people who will preside over the Alchemist Competition since they appear just before the Alchemist Competition raises its curtains! The people who preside over the Alchemist Competition are all alchemists themselves. Moreover, their grades must be high. Considering the fact that they're high-grade alchemists, their cultivation base is quite impressive." Duan Ling Tian's eyes gleamed. His gaze was so sharp. It was as though he could easily see through the seven people from the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan.

As it turned out, Duan Ling Tian had guessed correctly.

"Ladies and gentleman, a great welcome to all of you who came to participate and observe the Alchemist Competition that's organized by our Lu Clan. First of all, I'd like to represent the Lu Clan to thank you for your enthusiasm. Secondly, our Lu Clan will only recruit the top 30 people in this Alchemist

Competition. If some of you are unfortunate enough to be disqualified, please don't feel discouraged. Our Lu Clan will organize another Alchemist Competition in three years time," the green-clad old man said in a thunderous voice.

"I'm Lu Sou, the elder of Lu Clan. This person standing next to me is also an elder of the Lu Clan. I'm sure all of you must have heard of him before. He's none other than Elder Lu Zhao," the green-clad old man continued to speak. As he introduced himself, he also introduced the grey-clad old man by his side to the crowd.

"Elder Lu Zhao? Is he the Lu Clan's elder who always refined grade three pills with a 70% purity or above?"

"It must be him! I previously heard that one of the judges for the Alchemist Competition is Elder Lu Zhao!"

"Although Elder Lu Zhao is only a grade three alchemist, he's one of the best among all the grade three alchemists due to the fact that he can refine grade three pills with a 70% purity or above."

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Many people whispered as they discussed the grey-clad old man — Lu Zhao, the Lu Clan's elder.

"Elder Lu Sou's also a grade three alchemist from the Lu Chan. He has also refined grade three pills that has a purity of 70% or above. Although he's not as good as Elder Lu Zhao, he's not that far behind either."

"That's right! Elder Lu Sou is also very remarkable! If I can get some pointers from him, my progress in the Medicine Refinement Dao will be tremendous!"

"Apart from that, I heard that Elder Lu Sou is kind, and he doesn't put on any air. This is something that Elder Lu Zhao can never compare to."

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People continued to whisper again.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhao's face had darkened a little even though he did not react outwardly.

As for Lu Sou, a hint of happiness could be seen in the depth of his eyes even though his expression was devoid of joy or anger. Everybody, no matter who it was, loved to be praised and not criticized.

"Today, Lu Zhao and I will be the chief judges for the Alchemist Competition. The five people behind us are all excellent alchemists from our Lu Clan. They are the judges responsible for inspecting the results of your medicine refining," Lu Sou announced to the crowd.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian only heard half of Lu Sou's words. He did not hear the second half of it.

Naturally, it was not that he intentionally did not listen. However, his attention was caught by someone else.

His gaze was originally on Lu Sou and the other six people from the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan so it was easy for him to notice whose expression was not right.

At this moment, his attention was focused on Lu Zhao.

He noticed Lu Zhao was looking at a green-clad middle-aged man and nodding his head intermittently as though he was communicating with the green-clad middle-aged man.

Lu Zhao's eyes gleamed. It was as though he wanted to devour a certain someone.

"He..." Duan Ling Tian had originally found the silhouette of the green-clad middle-aged man to be slightly familiar, but he did not give it much thought. However, the green-clad middle-aged man suddenly turned his head to look at him at this moment.

Ridicule and scorn could be seen in the other man's eyes as a scheming smile appeared on his face.

"It's him!" Duan Ling Tian finally recognized the green-clad middle-aged man after seeing his face. "No wonder I find him familiar..."

The green-clad middle-aged man was one of the three middle-aged men whom he had punished outside of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's territory.

"It seems like he and that Lu Zhao know each other. Moreover, they appear quite close." Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes.

Needless to say, he could guess the content of the exchange between the green-clad middle-aged man and Lu Zhao. They were most likely discussing how to make things difficult for him.

However, he was not concerned about it at all.

If he was only a grade six alchemist, he would most likely fall for their tricks. However, he was not a grade six alchemist.

"Silence!" Soon after, Lu Sou's voice reverberated and suppressed the noise that was increasing in volume. The entire place immediately fell silent.

For a moment, everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, looked at Lu Sou.

When Lu Sou saw everyone's eyes were on him, he continued saying, "The Alchemist Competition is divided into three stages: preliminary, semi-final, and final. Before the preliminary round, all of you need to draw lots and obtain your number. The preliminary round will be carried out according to the order of the numbers."

"It's about to begin!" Most of everyone's eyes lit up instantly.

The preliminary round indicated the start of the Alchemist Competition. Only by passing the preliminary round could one enter the semi-finals.

After the semi-finals, the final round would begin.

Only the most outstanding thirty people could enter the final round.

Each of those who entered the final round would be able to enter the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan and become a foreign disciple.

The final round would determine the specific ranking of the thirty people. Those who were ranked at the top would receive lavish rewards. They would also become the focal trainee of the Lu Clan.

"In addition to obtaining physical rewards, I heard the top three in the finals will also be the personal apprentices of Lu Clan's grade two alchemists and get guidance from them!"

"My goal is to enter the top three in the finals! If I can get some guidance from a grade two alchemist, I believe I'll be a grade four alchemist in no time!"

"Those who came to the Alchemist Competition and who are quite capable do not only wish to be a Lu Clan's foreign disciple. All of them hope to get some pointers from the Lu Clan's high-grade alchemists!"

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Many people buried their heads together in a discussion as their eyes burned brightly.

There were many grade five alchemists among them. These people's biggest aim was to become the personal apprentice of a Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's high-grade alchemist.

As the proverb went, 'Those who are in a favorable position would gain special advantage.'

The personal apprentice would be able to work alongside the grade two alchemist. As long as he served the grade two alchemist well, he would be able to get some pointers from the grade two alchemist.

"Let them draw the lots," Lu Sou ordered as he turned to look at the middle-aged man behind him.

"Yes," the middle-aged man replied respectfully. He was prepared to fly out and take the items needed to draw lots so that the people who came to participate in the Alchemist Competition, including Duan Ling Tian, could draw their lots.

"Wait a minute!" At this moment, a voice suddenly resonated in the air. It halted the middle-aged man's movement.

"Elder Lu Zhao." The middle-aged man looked at the old man standing next to Lu Sou and did not dare to act recklessly.

"Lu Zhao, do you have something to add?" Lu Sou asked. He raised an eyebrow as he looked at Lu Zhao.

Lu Zhao nodded slightly before he stepped forward. He looked around before he opened his mouth to speak. "Today is the day of the Alchemist Competition organized by our Northern Mountain's Lu Clan to recruit outstanding foreign disciples. I'd like to give a warm welcome to all of you who made it here today. However, apart from looking for someone who's talented in Medicine Refinement Dao, the foreign disciples that our Lu Clan recruit must have a good personality as well! From what I've heard, some of you are short-tempered and would casually injure others. Such people are not qualified to participate in the Alchemist Competition organized by our Lu Clan!"

As Lu Zhao reached the end of his sentence, his eyes gleamed when they landed on the purple-clad young man and the middle-aged man standing in the distance.

Chapter 1063: Lu Clan's Third Young Master

The purple-clad young man was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

The middle-aged man standing behind him was undoubtedly Xiong Quan.

The moment Lu Zhao made his announcement and looked at Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan, everyone's eyes shifted toward the two of them as well.

In just a short while, the people standing close to Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan immediately put some distance between them. It was as though they feared they would get themselves in trouble as well.

For a moment, Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan's surroundings turned empty.

Apart from the ice coffin hovering next to Duan Ling Tian, only Huang Chun was left standing there. However, his face had turned incredibly pale.

He wanted to leave, but he felt bad leaving just like that the moment he recalled he and Duan Ling Tian could be considered as acquaintances now.

At the moment when Huang Chun was hesitating, Lu Zhao's shifted his gaze to him and casually asked, "Are you with them?"

The moment the words left Lu Zhao's mouth, horror dawned on Huang Chun's face. He hastily waved his hand. "N-No! No! No! I don't know them! I don't know them!"

Huang Chun was flustered. He immediately leaped away and quickly left Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan as though he was avoiding a plague.

Huang Chun's words clearly entered Duan Ling Tian's ears. However, he was not bothered by it at all.

Put aside the fact that he and Huang Chun had only just met, it was well within Huang Chun's right to decide on his own even if Huang Chun was really his friend. This matter should not be forced.

He was pretty open-minded about this.

Presently, only Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan were left standing at the field. To be more precise, there were three of them left.

There was still Feng Tian Wu who was lying in the ice coffin that was hovering next to Duan Ling Tian.

"The two of you have terrible temperaments! Our Lu Clan doesn't welcome you! Your eligibility to participate in the Alchemist Competition is revoked!" Lu Zhao said nonchalantly as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan.

The tone of his voice brooked no arguments. It was as though he was a judge that controlled the life and death of a person. With just a sentence, he had sentenced Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan to death. He did not allow them to explain at all.

Lu Sou who was standing by the side frowned slightly.

Naturally, he could see what was happening before his eyes. He knew Lu Zhao was trying to oppress the purple-clad young man and the middle-aged man standing next to him.

Earlier, he had noticed Lu Zhao exchanging looks with another participant of the Alchemist Competition. He found the green-clad middle-aged man slightly familiar. It was as though he had seen him somewhere before.

"Oh! He had visited our Lu Clan previously! He's Lu Zhao's nephew!" Soon after, Lu Sou finally recalled the green-clad middle-aged man's identity. He knew Lu Zhao was abusing his power for personal gains.

Although he was not entirely pleased about it, he had no intention of stopping Lu Zhao at all.

When it came down to it, the purple-clad young man and the man standing next to him were outsiders. They did not know each other at all.

As for Lu Zhao, he was still an elder of the Lu Clan no matter what. He could not possibly offend the latter for the sake of the former. Due to this reason, he chose to remain silent.

"Terrible temperaments?" Duan Ling Tian suddenly laughed. The laugh was so vivacious that everyone, with the exception of Xiong Quan, thought that he had gone mad.

"Laugh all you want! You won't be able to laugh for long anyway." When the three middle-aged men who were injured by Duan Ling Tian outside of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan looked at Duan Ling Tian again, mocking sneers could be seen on their faces.

In their opinion, now that one of the chief judges of the Alchemist Competition had spoken up and revoked the purple-clad young man's eligibility to participate the competition, the purple-clad young man would definitely have to leave now.

When Lu Zhao saw Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan had remained motionless after hearing his words, he felt as though they had trampled on his dignity. His eyes gleamed coldly as he asked in a deep voice, "Didn't you hear me?"

However, Lu Zhao words were not met with a reply from Duan Ling Tian and his follower or their departure. He was met with a righteous voice instead. "Elder Lu Zhao, you're not following the rules at all."

"Elder Lu Sou, what are you trying to say?" Lu Zhao's face darkened instantly when he looked at Lu Sou who was standing next to him.

The person who questioned him was none other than Lu Sou.

He did not miss the changes in Lu Sou's expression. He knew Lu Sou did not plan to poke his nose into his affair. Initially, he was inwardly praising how sensible Lu Sou was. Who knew, in just a blink of an eye, Lu Sou had suddenly wanted to stick his nose into this matter.

Although the development of the situation was a little out of the blue, Lu Zhao did not give it too much thought. He thought Lu Sou had refuted him in the public because Lu Sou did not want to spare his feelings.

"Elder Lu Zhao, you mentioned they have terrible temperaments. But I can't help but wonder how bad are they actually. Could it be that you've already met them prior to today? Or, perhaps, you know the

two of them?" Lu Sou seemed to have changed into another person. He had initially closed his eyes to Lu Zhao abusing his power for the sake of his nephew's grudge. Presently, he seemed to have transformed into a fair and righteous person.

Let alone Lu Zhao, Lu Sou's transformation was so sudden that even Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel surprised.

When Lu Zhao had righteously announced that he was revoking his eligibility to participate in the Alchemist Competition and told him to leave the Lu Clan, he had carefully studied the expression of this chief judge, Lu Sou.

At that time, Lu Sou's attitude was that of an indifferent bystander. Lu Sou's transformation was so abrupt that he could not make sense of the situation for a moment.

"Why does Lu Sou suddenly seems to have changed into another person? What exactly prompted him to change so suddenly?" Dun Ling Tian was extremely puzzled.

However, he felt that there must be a reason behind it.

Lu Sou's action would definitely offend Lu Zhao, an elder he had worked with for many years in the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan.

It would not be a surprise if Duan Ling Tian and Lu Sou knew each other and were on good terms with each other. However, the problem was he did not know Lu Sou at all.

At this moment, Lu Sou was going out on a limb for someone he had never met before.

Something was not right!

Duan Ling Tian was extremely sure about this!

"I don't know them!" Lu Zhao's eyes gleamed coldly in the face of Lu Sou's questioning. He replied in a deep voice, "BUT! Somebody knows them and was personally injured by them!"

"May I know who and where is that 'somebody' who was injured by them? Can you ask them to step forward and recount the story?" Lu Sou raised an eyebrow and nonchalantly said, "After all, who knows if they're intentionally framing him or not. What do you think, Elder Lu Zhao?"

"Hurmph!" Lu Zhao snorted before looking at the three middle-aged men, including that green-clad middle-aged man. He said to them indifferently, "Since Elder Sou wants to know the ins and outs of the story, tell him the incident without leaving out any detail!"

Originally, the three middle-aged men thought that the purple-clad young man who injured them would be quickly driven out. They did not expect Lu Sou to interfere in the matter. The moment they heard Lu Zhao's order, they quickly replied in unison, "Yes!"

They looked at Lu Sou. "Elder Lu Sou, he had blatantly injured the three of us outside the Lu Clan's estate. The three of us swear that we've never seen him prior to this. We don't even know who he is!"

The green-clad middle-aged man looked at Lu Sou and said with righteous indignation, "If a scum like him enters the Lu Clan, he'll only smear the good name of the Lu Clan!"

"He madly injured people in the vicinity of the Lu Clan. Moreover, the people he injured are participants of the Alchemist competition and potential foreign disciples of the Lu Clan! Such a person is not qualified to join the Lu Clan at all!"

"On top of that, his companion is also his accomplice! If the two of them enter the Lu Clan, they would be the black sheep in Lu Clan. They'll definitely tarnish the reputation of the clan!"

The other two middle-aged men continued to chime in righteously.

Meanwhile, a clamor erupted in the surroundings.

"If that's the case, the two of them really are not qualified to join the Lu Clan!"

"Hurmph! Lu Clan is one of the best clan in the Northern Mountain Land. How can it possibly accommodate such a violent person?!"

"Scram!"

"Get lost!"

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After hearing the green-clad middle-aged man and the other two middle-aged men's words, the people in the surroundings began to point and talk about Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan. They did not mince their words at all.

Duan Ling Tian remained indifferent to all of it. From the beginning until the end, his expression remained nonchalant. It was as though the person in the midst of the thunderstorm was not him but someone else.

However, the fact that he could remain so calm did not mean the others could remain this calm as well.

"All of you are like villains who like to lodge a complaint first!" Xiong Quan's face was extremely flushed. In the midst of all the finger-pointing and talks, he suddenly pointed a trembling finger at the green-clad middle-aged men and his two companions. He yelled, "Yes, it's true that Young Master did injure the three of you. But, why didn't you tell everyone the details of the story?! There are so many people present... why did Young Master only injure you but not the others?!"

Xiong Quan was so agitated that his body began to tremble when he reached the end of his sentence.

He did not care what others said about him, but it was unacceptable for the others to talk bad about his Young Master!

Xiong Quan's words immediately shifted the spotlight away from Duan Ling Tian to the green-clad middle-aged man and his two companions. "That's right! Why did he only choose to injure the three of you?"

"When I first arrived, I flew past him, but he did not harbor any intention to harm us at all!"

"Could it be that you all provoked him first? And because of that, you were all taught a lesson?"

...

Many people began to question the green-clad middle-aged man and his two companions.

The green-clad middle-aged man and his two companions were frowning. Meanwhile, Lu Zhao's expression turned sullen.

"Hurmph!" A snort filled the air, louder than the clamor.

Under the watchful eyes of the others, a handsome young man dressed in a silk robe flew out and stood haughtily before Lu Sou and Lu Zhao.

"Third Young Master." The moment this man appeared, Lu Sou, Lu Zhao, and the other five Lu Clan's disciples immediately bowed at him politely one by one.

Perhaps, this newcomer's cultivation base and his accomplishment in the Medicine Refinement Dao was currently not as good as theirs. However, this newcomer was the lineal disciple of the Lu Clan. His position in the Lu Clan was a lot higher, far from being comparable to those secondary disciples.

This was a clan that heavily favored their lineal kins.

"I've heard the ins and outs of the story when I was hiding by the side. Since Elder Lu Zhao thinks they're not eligible to stay in our Lu Clan, I agree they should leave!" The moment the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's Third Young Master appeared, the gaze he used to look at Duan Ling Tian and Xiong Quan was contemptuous. It was as though he was looking at two ants that he could trample on whenever he wanted.

"Third Young Master, you..." Lu Sou's face turned a little pale.

"What? Elder Lu Sou, you don't trust Lu Zhao's judgment... But, are you doubting my judgment as well?" The Lu Clan's Third Young Master interrupted Lu Sou's sentence. His gaze when he looked at Lu Sou turned even sharper.

Chapter 1064: A Loud Clap

Duan Ling Tian looked at the young man who had suddenly appeared with a calm gaze. "The Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's Third Young Master?"

The sudden appearance of the Lu Clan's Third Young Master and his current attitude had undoubtedly confirmed one thing — he was standing on Lu Zhao's side.

However, there was still no change on Duan Ling Tian's face. It was as though he would remain unmoved even if the sky collapsed on him.

When Lu Sou was at a loss after hearing the Lu Clan's Third Young Master's words, a loud voice resonated in the air and attracted the attention of everyone present. "Third Brother, how prestigious and majestic you are!"

In the distance, a young man flew out and arrived next to Lu Sou in just an instant.

"Second Young Master!" The moment the young man appeared, Lu Sou and the other five Lu Clan's disciples hastily bowed.

When the young man appeared, Lu Zhao frowned lightly before he gave a slight bow.

"It's Lu Bai! Lu's Clan's Second Young Master!"

"I didn't expect the Lu Clan's Third Young Master to make an appearance at the Alchemist Competition, let alone the Lu Clan's Second Young Master!"

"It's said that the Lu Clan's Second Young Master is also one of the two main heirs of the Clan Leader of Lu Clan!"

"The only person who can compete with Lu Clan's Second Young Master to become the next Clan Leader is none other than Lu Song, the Lu Clan's First Young Master."

"Indeed! As for this Lu Huai, the Lu Clan's Third Young Master... Although he's also quite good, he's still a little lacking compared to Lu Clan's First Young Master and Second Young Master. However, I heard that he's the younger brother of the Lu Clan's First Young Master."

...

Many people whispered in a heated discussion.

These people knew the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan quite well.

"I see..." Duan Ling Tian's ears were sharp. Naturally, he did not miss all the whispering in his surroundings. In just a second, he immediately grasped the situation.

"Second Brother, don't tell me you're trying to protect them? These people are despicable and are not qualified to enter our Lu clan!" Lu Huai snarled. His eyes gleamed coldly when he saw Lu Bai.

However, Lu Bai ignored him. It was as though he did not hear a single word that he had said at all as he continued to stare at the purple-clad young man standing nearby.

"We meet again." Lu Bai smiled faintly.

The purple-clad young man whom Lu Bai was staring at was none other than Duan Ling Tian. Since Lu Bai took the initiative to greet him, Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile as well, "Yes, we meet again."

When Lu Bai made his appearance, he had instantly recognized him.

It was none other than the brother of the pair of brother and sister whom he had met in the past when he left the Darming Dynasty to journey to the Ancient Desert City together with Feng Tian Wu and Feng Wu Dao.

He still remembered Feng Wu Dao had saved the lives of the pair of brother and sister.

At that time, he had no idea what it meant when he heard the pair of brother and sister said that they were from the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan. It was only when he arrived at the Northern Mountain Land that he knew the meaning of the words, 'Northern Mountain's Lu Clan'.

A clan that had 10,000 years of history!

An alchemy clan!

In their entire 10,000 years of existence, not more than twenty grade one alchemists had appeared in their clan.

"Lu Bai," Lu Bai suddenly announced as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was apparent that he was introducing himself.

"Duan Ling Tian." Duan Ling Tian smiled in response.

At the same time, his gaze swept past Lu Bai and Lu Sou who were standing together. He could vaguely guess what the situation was like.

'Earlier, Elder Lu Sou didn't intend to meddle in this matter. However, in just a blink of an eye, he suddenly seemed to be standing on my side. I found it strange initially... why would he help me? Looking back, he must have done it under Lu Bai's order. Lu Bai must have been hiding somewhere since the beginning and recognized me,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

At this moment, the fog that shrouded Duan Ling Tian completely dissipated.

The faces of the crowd changed, some drastically and some slightly, when they saw Lu Bai and Duan Ling Tian greeting each other like two old friends.

"He actually knows the Lu Clan's Second Young Master?" Colors immediately drained from the faces of the green-clad middle-aged man and his two companions. Hints of dread could be instantly seen in their eyes.

They did not expect the purple-clad young man whom they hated to the core actually knew Lu Bai, the Second Young Master who had a lofty position in the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan.

Moreover, the relationship between those two did not seem superficial.

"No wonder Lu Sou didn't hesitate to offend me and insist on poking his nose into this unimportant matter. So it turns out that he's a friend of the Second Young Master! Come to think of it, the Second Young Master must have signaled Lu Sou to help him." Lu Zhao's face darkened. He could vaguely figure out what had happened.

Meanwhile, his eyes were gleaming coldly. That cold gaze did not leave the purple figure standing nearby.

Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow when he sensed the cold gaze on him. He casually glanced once at Lu Zhao before he returned to ignoring him.

Grade three Alchemist?

Eighth Level Void Transformation?

To be honest, be it the Medicine Refinement Dao, or his Martial Dao practice, Lu Zhao did not warrant Duan Ling Tian's attention at all.

"Duan Ling Tian actually knows the Lu Clan's Second Young Master?" Huang Chun stood at the side as he looked at Duan Ling Tian who was smiling as he exchanged glances with Lu Bai, the Second Young Master of Lu Clan. At the same time, regret filled his heart. He felt as though his heart was bleeding.

He knew he had missed the opportunity to forge a relationship with the Lu Clan's Second Young Master.

If he did not flee from Duan Ling Tian earlier as though he was avoiding the plague or claimed that he did not know Duan Ling Tian, he would have been treated as a friend by Duan Ling Tian.

If he was Duan Ling Tian's friend, it would be easy for him to forge a relationship with the Lu Clan's Second Young Master through Duan Ling Tian.

However, he had destroyed all of this with his own hands.

"Second Brother, I was wondering why you would protect them. As it turns out, they're your acquaintances," Lu Huai exclaimed in a slightly astonished tone as he stared at Lu Bai.

"Wow! Second Brother, your social circle is really wide! I can't believe you actually know such lowly people." Lu Huai's tone was filled to the brim with ridicule. He paused for a moment before he continued saying, "However, even if these wretched and despicable people are your friends, they're still not allowed to enter the Lu Clan according to our Lu Clan's rule!"

However, Lu Bai continued to ignore him just like before.

This made Lu Bai's face darken even more.

"Why did you come to our Lu Clan?" Lu Bai asked as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. There was a hint of puzzlement in his voice.

Duan Ling Tian smiled as he announced his true intention, "I want to be a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor of the Lu Clan."

A Revered Elder? An Interim Advisor?

The instant Duan Ling Tian's words left his mouth, the entire place descended into silence.

Even Lu Bai was taken aback by bewilderment.

After all, it was not easy to become a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor of their Lu Clan.

If he was a martial artist, he would have to possess strength at the Martial Monarch Stage at least. Only a Martial Monarch was worthy enough to become a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor.

If he was an Alchemist, only a grade two Alchemist or higher was qualified.

Martial Monarch?

Grade two Alchemist or higher?

Lu Bai shook his head silently as he sized Duan Ling Tian up. He thought that Duan Ling Tian was pulling his legs earlier.

"Hahahaha..." After a moment of silence, many people began to regain their senses and burst out in laughter.

Most of them looked at Duan Ling Tian like he was an idiot.

"Just with him alone? Even if he doesn't exploit his relationship with the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, I'm afraid it's still a question if he can successfully make it to the next round in the Alchemist Competition and become a foreign disciple in the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan."

"Exactly! Why doesn't he look at a mirror and take a good look at himself? He wants to be a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor of the Lu Clan? Who does he think he is?"

"I think the bragging has gone to his head. But, how dare he brag in front of so many people? I think he's just looking to be scolded!"

"Maybe he's daydreaming!"

...

Many people ridiculed Duan Ling Tian. All of them, without exception, thought Duan Ling Tian was bragging or daydreaming.

Did he want to be a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan?

There was no point in thinking about it if one did not have a cultivation base at the Martial Monarch Stage or if one was not a grade two or higher alchemist.

"This Duan Ling Tian has really lost his mind!" The green-clad middle-aged man and his two companions were sneering as they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They thought Duan Ling Tian was strange.

"He's an idiot after all!" Lu Zhao sneered.

"Haha... Second Brother, are you sure your friend is sane?" Lu Huai threw his head back laughing. The gaze that he used to look at Duan Ling Tian was filled with contempt.

SLAP!

At the exact moment when Lu Huai's words left his mouth, a loud and crisp clap echoed in the air.

Everyone could see a red palm print appearing on one side of the Lu Clan's Third Young Master's face. Soon after, that side of his face completely swelled up. Half of his face looked like a pig face.

At the same time, everybody noticed an additional figure standing in front of Lu Huai. It was a purple figure.

Most of the people, including Lu Bai, became completely stunned when they saw the purple figure.

"Y-You... D-Dare to slap me?" Lu Huai covered the swollen side of his face. His eyes gleamed red with killing intent when he glared at the purple-clad young man before him. He wanted to kill him on the spot.

However, he did not dare to act recklessly even though he was extremely angry and itched to butcher the man in front of him into a thousand pieces.

The fact that this person could slap him without him noticing meant that this person's strength far exceeded his own.

"Third Young Master keeps saying that I'm wretched and despicable... I wonder if the fact that you use your words to insult people as you please can also be considered as wretched and despicable?" The person who stood before him and had slapped him was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian looked calmly into Lu Huai's eyes. A faint smile could be seen playing on the corner of his mouth.

This smile seemed like a devil's smile in Lu Huai's eyes.

When Lu Huai heard Duan Ling Tian's words, the killing intent in his eyes turned even more intense. Without any warning, he suddenly shouted, "Lu Zhao, kill him!"

Whoosh!

A split second before Lu Huai finished his words, Lu Zhao who was prepared since the beginning flew out instantly and charged toward Duan Ling Tian like a flash of lightning.

"Die!" Lu Zhao's originally gloomy face and eyes were intensely cold. With a lift of his hand, a spirit saber appeared out of thin air and sliced down at Duan Ling Tian's head.

Swish!

An ear-piercing sound echoed as the saber cut through the air.

Chapter 1065: To Kill or Not to Kill?

Clang!

Swish!

The shrill sound of metal clashing reverberated in the air followed by the sound of slashing.

The people present on the scene could hear the sound of metal clashing, but not more than half of them heard the sudden sound of a sword slashing swiftly.

"That's fast!" Lu Sou was the strongest person on the scene apart from Lu Zhao. He seemed to have seen something that surprised him. His eyes narrowed and horror filled his face.

The others could not see what was happening at all.

In their eyes, after Lu Huai, the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, shouted, Lu Zhao, the Lu Clan's elder, made his move to kill Duan Ling Tian.

However, they heard the sound of metal clashing when Lu Zhao was charging toward him.

In the next moment, they saw fresh blood falling from the sky. It looked like dazzling roses in the air.

Bam!

Soon after, a body crashed to the ground.

"H-How's this possible?!"

Many people on the scene gasped in surprise when they saw the body that was no longer breathing.

Disbelief filled their faces and eyes.

Soon after, all eyes shifted to the purple figure that was standing there haughtily.

Shock and disbelief could be seen in their eyes.

"H-He really killed E-Elder Lu Zhao?"

"How could he possess such powerful strength?!"

"How old is he? He looks around 25 years old at the most!"

"I-Is he a demon?"

"No way! If he's a demon, how could he possibly participate in the Alchemist Competition organized by the Lu Clan? It's practically impossible for a demon to become an alchemist, let alone a grade six or above alchemist!"

"If he's really a human martial artist, it means that he's not only terribly talented in the Martial Dao. His talent in medicine refining is most likely good enough to cause others to envy him."

...

The gazes that were trained on the purple figure was immediately filled with hints of shock.

It was hard for them to imagine the existence of such a monstrous person in this world.

"Uncle!" A green figure cried out in sorrow as it flew out and landed next to Lu Zhao's body. His voice sounded extremely bleak.

"Uncle?" Duan Ling Tian who had caught the public's attention immediately swept a cold glance at the green-clad middle-aged man next to Lu Zhao's body. "No wonder this Lu Zhao was trying to find fault with me! As it turns out, one of the men I injured earlier was his nephew!"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally understood everything.

In the entire place, Xiong Quan, excluding Feng Tian Wu who was lying in the ice coffin, was the only one who was not surprised by the strength Duan Ling Tian had demonstrated.

All the others were so confounded that they did not regain their senses for a long time.

"He's actually this strong?! To think I was worried about his safety earlier!" After Lu Bai, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, regained his senses, he stared at the purple figure standing nearby. At this moment, all he felt was how huge and mighty the purple silhouette was.

"Did he really come from the distant area in the far South? That small rural place actually produced such a monster?" Lu Bai's face was filled with disbelief.

Due to their previous encounter, it was not hard for him to figure out Duan Ling Tian's background.

"How did Second Young Master meet this Duan Ling Tian! He's absolutely monstrous!" The corner of Lu Sou's mouth twitched violently.

Lu Zhao's speed was as fast as lightning when he charged at Duan Ling Tian that even Lu Sou could not react in time. He thought Duan Ling Tian would be killed by Lu Zhao, but who would have thought the outcome would be so dramatic.

"You... Y-You..." When Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Lu Huai, the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, Lu Huai who was standing near him turned pale and immediately panicked.

Just like everyone else, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian to possess such terrifying strength. He was so strong to the point that Lu Zhao, who was at the Eighth Level Void Transformation Stage, died in his hands.

From the moment Lu Zhao made his move to the moment he died, Duan Ling Tian's Heaven and Earth Phenomenon that was mobilized by his energy did not appear at all. In fact, even Lu Zhao did not have time to mobilize the Heaven and Earth Energy to gather the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

Lu Zhao was the one who made the first move.

The instance he made his move, he was already killed!

Everything happened in just a blink of an eye.

Duan Ling Tian's movement was awfully fast. From the very beginning until the end, he did not even get to see everything clearly.

Lu Huai's face turned red as he looked at Duan Ling Tian in horror. Both his legs were trembling uncontrollably. At this moment, Duan Ling Tian made his move.

Whoosh!

A hand extended out as quick as lightning and easily grabbed Lu Huai by the neck before it lifted him up forcefully. His feet were lifted off the ground and hung in the air.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's eyes that were looking into Lu Huai's eyes were filled with a hint of coldness.

Killing intent rose from Duan Ling Tian's body. It was obvious he intended to kill Lu Huai.

"Y-You want t-to kill... m-me?!" Lu Huai asked with difficulty. His face had turned purple from Duan Ling Tian's hold on his neck. The horror that rose from the bottom of his heart and soul could be seen in his eyes.

"Since you've already ordered somebody to kill me, is there any reason why I can't kill you?" Duan Ling Tian's face and voice were calm.

However, the people present on the scene could feel the cold killing intent from his calm voice. All they felt were chills running down their spines.

"Is this Duan Ling Tian crazy? He actually wants to kill the Lu Clan's Third Young Master?!"

"If he really kills the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, it'll be hard for him to escape death even if he's talented in Martial Dao and medicine refining!"

"Killing the Lu Clan's Third Young Master is equivalent to giving the Lu Clan a slap in the face. The Lu Clan will never give up until he dies!"

"At that time, it'd be useless even if the Lu Clan's Second Young Master pleads for mercy on his behalf! He would definitely die!"

...

The people watching at the side whispered among each other. Each and every one of them had an extremely glum expression.

The green-clad middle-aged man crouched next to Lu Zhao's body and lifted a hand to close Lu Zhao's eyes that were staring blankly into space. He roared with an enraged expression on his face as he glared at Duan Ling Tian with crazy eyes. "Kill him! Kill him!"

He knew he would never be able to avenge his uncle. For this reason, he could only place his bet on the Lu Clan.

The fact that Duan Ling Tian killed his uncle meant that he had already offended the Lu Clan.

However, the Lu Clan would definitely not kill Duan Ling Tian and avenge his uncle if the Lu Clan's Second Young Master pleaded for mercy on his behalf. After all, his uncle was only a secondary disciple of the Lu Clan. His life was as low as a weed compared to the Lu Clan's Second Young Master!

However, everything would be different if Duan Ling Tian killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master.

At that time, the Lu Clan would spare no effort in killing Duan Ling Tian even if the Lu Clan's Second Young Master pleaded for mercy

"Duan Ling Tian, don't kill him!" Lu Bai, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, and Lu Sou, the Lu Clan's elder, shouted almost simultaneously.

Panic could be seen on their faces.

As a member of the Lu Clan, there was no doubt they knew what consequences he would face if he killed a lineal disciple of the Lu Clan.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian frowned as he turned to look at Lu Bai. He was quite fond of Lu Bai. However, he could not let go of Lu Huai just like that.

Although he had killed Lu Zhao who attempted to kill him earlier, it was Lu Huai who had given him the order.

Lu Huai was the real culprit.

He would not let go of someone who wanted him to die.

"Duan Ling Tian, calm down! Calm down! You must not be so impulsive! Although Lu Huai deserves to die, there's no point in sacrificing your future for his sake!" Lu Bai tried to persuade him continuously as his breathing quickened.

"Sacrifice my future?" Duan Ling Tian raised a brow.

"No matter what, Lu Huai is still a lineal disciple of our Northern Mountain's Lu Clan. If you kill him, it's equivalent to giving our Lu Clan a slap in the face! The entire Lu Clan will spare no effort in killing you!" Lu Bai quickly nodded his head as he voiced out his concern.

The moment Duan Ling Tian heard this, he fell momentarily silent. His eyes gleamed as though he was thinking about something.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere had turned incredibly tensed. Everyone's eyes landed on Duan Ling Tian one by one, they wanted to know what choice Duan Ling Tian would make.

Kill Lu Huai?

Or not to kill?

"I wonder if this Duan Ling Tian would kill the Lu Clan's Third Young Master or not..."

Many people whispered among themselves. Their voices were filled with doubt.

"Well, it's obvious he would die if he kills the Lu Clan's Third Young Master so I don't think he dares to do it!"

"I think so too!"

...

Majority of the people felt that Duan Ling Tian would not dare to kill Lu Huai.

After all, Duan Ling Tian would die if he killed Lu Huai.

If they were in Duan Ling Tian's shoes, they were certain they would not dare to kill Lu Huai.

In their opinion, their own lives were more important than everything else. There was no need to ruin their own lives in a moment of anger.

"Cough... cough... Y-You won't dare t-to kill me! Y-You won't d-dare to!" Lu Huai coughed twice. He glared spitefully at Duan Ling Tian with a smug look on his face even though he was lifted up by the neck by him.

"Are you sure... I don't dare to kill you?" After hearing Lu Huai's provocative words, Duan Ling Tian who was originally deep in thoughts regained his senses. His eyes were gleaming brightly.

His grip on Lu Huai's neck tightened immediately.

"Cough... Cough... Cough... W-What are y-you... d-doing?!" Lu Huai had difficulty breathing due to Duan Ling Tian's tightened grip.

"Duan Ling Tian! No!" Horror dawned on Lu Bai instantly when he saw this.

"Duan Ling Tian, you must think about it carefully! Once you kill the third Young Master, you won't be able to live anymore!" Lu Sou advised.

"Young Master!" Xiong Quan had more or less been affected by the surroundings' atmosphere. He looked at Duan Ling Tian with a worried expression as he persuaded him too, "There's no reason to put yourself in danger for his sake!"

It did not seem like Duan Ling Tian heard the advice from Lu Bai, Lu Sou, and Xiong Quan as he muttered to himself, "The Northern Mountain's Lu Clan has existed for 10,000 years..."

When he reached the end of his sentence, he suddenly stilled.

In the next instance, he turned his head and looked at Lu Bai before asking, "In the history of your Lu Clan, was there anyone who survived after killing a lineal disciple of Lu Clan?"

"Yes, there were." Although Lu Bai did not understand the purpose of Duan Ling Tian's question, he still nodded his head.

"Who were they?" Duan Ling Tian asked as his eyes lit up curiously.

Chapter 1066: Two Types of People

"They're divided into two types of people — one of them was a Martial Monarch whom even our Lu Clan was powerless against!" When Lu Bai reached this point in his sentence, he paused for a moment as his face turned glum. There was a bit of helplessness in his tone.

Martial Monarch!

Moreover, the Martial Monarch was so strong that even the Lu Clan was powerless against him!

Lu Bai's words were clearly heard by everyone present at the scene.

For a moment, everyone agreed with him.

A Martial Monarch who could make the Lu Clan powerless was obviously stronger than the strongest Lu Clan's Martial Monarch.

The Lu Clan could not act against someone like that.

If he killed the lineal disciple of Lu Clan, the Lu Clan could not do anything to retaliate even if they were enraged.

Although the Lu Clan had connections with some of the first-rate forces at the other side of the Ruo Shui River, the first-rate forces would only make a move if the Lu Clan was facing destruction.

Unless the Lu Clan's was under the threat of annihilation, the first-rate forces would not make a move even if the Clan Leader died, let alone the death of a lineal disciple.

They guarded the Lu Clan, not an individual from the Lu Clan.

"How about the other type?" Duan Ling Tian continued to ask with brightly lit eyes.

"The other type is not a Martial Monarch," Lu Bai explained unhurriedly. After successfully getting the attention of everyone else other than Lu Clan's disciples, he continued to add, "The other type of person's attainment in the Medicine Refinement Dao is almost at the peak. They're none other than grade one alchemists!"

Grade one alchemists!

The moment the words left Lu Bai's words, the entire place descended into silence.

At this moment, even the sound of a needle falling on the ground could be heard.

"Ahh, so it was a grade one alchemist!"

"The Northern Mountain's Lu Clan is a family of alchemists. A grade one alchemist would definitely gain the respect of the Lu Clan!"

"Moreover, a grade one alchemist is very influential! This could be seen in the legacy passed down in the Lu Clan. The Lu Clan could endure for 10,000 years is because of those grade one alchemists in the past."

...

After everybody regained their senses, they were hit by a pang of realization.

In terms of martial strength, a grade one alchemist might not be better than the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan's powerhouse.

However, the influential power a grade one alchemist possessed was enough to elicit dread from the Lu Clan. It was to the point that they did not dare to offend him at all.

"Cough cough... D-Did you h-hear that? O-Only a Martial M-Monarch o-or a grade... o-one alchemist... cough cough... c-can kill m-me... a-and get a-away wi-th it... cough... cough... Y-You a-are not... q-qualified enough to k-kill... me!" Lu Huai who was lifted up by the neck once again became agitated as he glared scornfully at Duan Ling Tian. He felt no fear since he knew he had something to fall back on.

"Only a Martial Monarch or a grade one alchemist can kill you and get away with it?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes gleamed as he looked at Lu Huai calmly.

Horror dawned on Lu Huai when he sensed Duan Ling Tian's grip tightening again. He struggled as he yelled, "No...no!!"

"Duan Ling Tian!" Horror also dawned on Lu Bai who was standing by the side. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would choose this dangerous path even after knowing he would die if he killed Lu Huai.

Snap!

The loud and crisp sound of bones breaking echoed in the air causing everyone present to feel chills running down their spines.

One of the five Lu Clan's disciples who followed Lu Sou and Lu Zhao immediately turned around and fled the scene.

The other four also had disbelief written all over their faces.

All of their gazes were fixed on that purple figure.

The people's eyes were focused on the purple figure as well. The owner of the purple figure was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

Lu Huai's neck was broken by Duan Ling Tian's tightened grip. At this moment, his head drooped to the side listlessly.

Boom!

With a raise of his hand, Duan Ling Tian calmly tossed Lu Huai's body on the ground. His action was so nonchalant, it was as though what he had done was just a small matter.

"He's crazy! He's crazy!" Majority of the people looked at Duan Ling Tian as though they were looking at a ghost. They thought he was insane.

"H-He really killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master?"

"He's not afraid of death?"

"Now that he has killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, it's useless even if the Lu Clan's Second Young Master pleads for mercy on his behalf! It's impossible for him to escape death now! What the hell is he thinking?"

"He probably doesn't want to live anymore!"

...

Many of the onlookers buried their heads together in discussion. They found it difficult to comprehend Duan Ling Tian's action.

Although he knew it would be difficult to escape death after killing the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, he still hardened his heart and killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master. Was he not pushing himself into a corner by doing this?

"Duan Ling Tian..." Lu Bai's face was pale. The thing he worried about the most had happened.

Naturally, the cause of his ashen face was not Lu Huai's death.

Although he and Lu Huai were both lineal disciples, they were not blood-related at all. He was vying for the position of the next Clan Leader with Lu Song, the First Young Master of Lu Clan. Due to that reason, Lu Huai, who was Lu Song's blood brother, had schemed in the dark and tried to kill him multiple times.

To be completely honest, he was quite happy that Lu Huai was dead.

However, his heart sank a little the moment he remembered Duan Ling Tian might be killed because of this matter.

Although he and Duan Ling Tian had only met twice, he was saved by the powerhouse next to Duan Ling Tan when they first met. Like the saying went, 'The love for the house extends even to the crows perching on its roof'. Due to the feelings of gratitude, he did not wish for anything to befall Duan Ling Tian.

Otherwise, how could he possibly face the benefactor to whom he owed his life to?

"Young man, you're too eager to win." Lu Sou sighed.

He thought after Duan Ling Tian was provoked by Lu Huai, he had lost his senses and killed Lu Huai due to his ego.

A single slip could cause lasting sorrow.

In his opinion, this saying was very appropriate to describe Duan Ling Tian's current situation.

It did not matter if it was Lu bai or Lu Sou, none of them asked Duan Ling Tian to flee at all.

It was not because they wanted to see Duan Ling Tian's misfortune. They knew the Lu Clan would still catch him even if he fled.

It was meaningless for him to escape now unless he was a Martial Monarch.

"This Duan Ling Tian is most likely going to die today. What a waste of his monstrous talent!"

"Exactly! This Duan Ling Tian is really monstrous. He has such a horrifying cultivation base that he could even kill Lu Zhao with just one blow. I think he's already at the Ninth Level Void Transformation. Moreover, his talent in Medicine Refinement Dao is equally as terrifying!"

"A genius whom even God is jealous of!"

...

The majority of the people present felt that Duan Ling Tian would definitely die today. They sighed and shook their heads as they lamented Duan Ling Tian's impending death.

"Uncle, did you see that? Duan Ling Tian killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master! He killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master!" The green-clad middle-aged man smiled widely. He crouched next to Lu Zhao's body as he lowered his head to whisper to the body at his side, "You must watch carefully! That Duan Ling Tian will be killed by the Lu Clan soon!"

At this moment, the green-clad middle-aged man's face filled with joy. It was as though he could already picture the scene of Duan Ling Tian being killed by the Lu Clan's powerhouse.

"Young Master!" Xiong Quan, unlike everyone else who felt that Duan Ling Tian would definitely die, had a different opinion.

He was carried away by the atmosphere earlier so he was initially a little worried his Young Master would kill the Lu Clan's Third Young Master in a moment of recklessness and invite trouble for himself.

However, his heart had calmed down after his own Young Master had killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master.

He understood his Young Master very well. He knew his Young Master would not act impetuously if he did not have the confidence.

He had a feeling his Young Master had a way to overcome this crisis.

He was looking forward to seeing it.

"Who are you? Why did you kill my Lu Clan's lineal disciple?"

At this moment, a boisterous voice reverberated from the distance and attracted everyone's attention.

In the next instance, two old men appeared at the place where everybody was looking at — one was fat, and the other was thin.

The fat one was short while the thin one was tall. The former looked like a ball while the latter looked like a bamboo.

The two old men flew in the air before coming to a halt near the crowd. As they hovered in the air, their eyes immediately found the purple-clad young man standing nearby.

Soon after, another figure appeared. It was none other than the Lu Clan's disciple who had left earlier.

He was the one who called the two old men over.

"Elder Yuan, Elder Gui!" The instance the fat and thin old men appeared, Lu Sou and the other four Lu Clan's disciples bowed politely to them.

Even Lu Bai, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, took the initiative to nod at the old men.

However, the two old men did not respond to Lu Bai and the others. This was because their attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian.

When they inadvertently saw the body lying near Duan Ling Tian, they could not help but be consumed by rage even though they had already prepared themselves for it.

Their eyes turned fierce as they glared at Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, there was turbulence in the air surrounding their bodies even though they did not move and no energy could be seen rising from their bodies.

The sounds of the explosion could be faintly heard as well. As one fell, another rose in succession.

"Two Martial Monarchs?" The Spiritual Energy Duan Ling Tian had extended out the moment the fat and thin old men appeared felt as though it had met a bale of cotton when he tried to probe them.

He could sense the two old men before him were true Martial Monarchs!

"As expected of the Northern Mountain's Lu Clan. Just the death of a lineal disciple and two Martial Monarchs immediately come knocking on the door!" At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally understood the meaning of the word 'clan'.

If it was just a sect, this situation would not happen.

"Why did I kill your Lu Clan's lineal disciple?" Duan Ling Tian looked fearlessly at the two Martial Monarchs as he replied unhurriedly, "Since he wanted to kill me, why can't I kill him? Don't tell me I should just stand there and wait for my death?"

Chapter 1067: Dumbstruck

"The reason's not important to us. What's important is the end result."

"Do you know the consequence of killing our Lu Clan's lineal disciple?"

The fat and thin old men spoke almost simultaneously. Everyone heard their words clearly.

Hua! Hua!

When they spoke, a terrifying aura surged out of their bodies and swept toward Duan Ling Tian as they glared at him.

However, Duan Ling Tian remained unmoved even in the face of the two imposing Martial Monarch.

He remained motionless like a mountain in the midst of a storm.

"En?"

Both old men were stunned when they saw that. A hint of surprise could be seen on both their faces.

"This brat is pretty good... Too bad you killed a lineal disciple from our Lu Clan. You'll have to die today!"

The old man who was as round as a ball narrowed his eyes and stepped forward. He was Lu Yuan, the Lu Clan's Guardian Elder. The rolling energy on his body rose as though it was just waiting for the old man to release it.

"Elder Yuan, please show mercy!"

At the moment when Lu Yuan was about to attack Duan Ling Tian, a voice suddenly sounded. It caused Lu Yuan to withdraw his energy slightly.

His gaze then landed on the figure that appeared as quick as lightning in front of Duan Ling Tian.

"Lu Bai?"

Lu Yuan could not help but furrow his eyebrows when he saw the person pleading for mercy on Duan Ling Tian's behalf.

He did not expect their Lu Clan's Second Young Master would plead for mercy on behalf of the person who killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master.

An old man who was as skinny as bamboo looked at Lu Bai with a sullen expression. He was also a Lu Clan's Guardian Elder, Lu Gui. His voice was indifferent as he said, "Lu Bai, you should know the Lu Clan's rules as the Lu Clan's Second Young Master... Withdraw!"

Lu Bai was a lineal disciple of the Lu Clan and also the Lu Clan's Second Young Master.

However, the Lu Clan's Guardian Elder was at the Martial Monarch Stage. They had a lofty status in the clan and was not inferior to the Clan Leader of Lu Clan.

A lineal disciple was beneath his notice.

"Elder Yuan, Elder Gui!" Lu Bai took a deep breath and focused his gaze on Lu Yuan and Lu Gui. He said in a tone that was neither arrogant nor servile, "Nobody's to blame for Lu Huai's death but himself!"

"As for Duan Ling Tian... He saved my life once. I will not stand and watch as my savior is killed!" Lu Bai said in one breath.

He looked at Lu Yuan and Lu Gui with a straight face. He did not waver once.

Hua!

Lu Bai's words created a storm.

"Duan Ling Tian saved the Lu Clan's Second Young Master's life?"

Many people were surprised.

"Young master saved the Lu Clan's Second Young Master's life?" Xiong Quan was also stunned.

His Young Master did not mention this matter before.

Duan Ling Tian lifted an eyebrow slightly.

Among everyone present, apart from Lu Bai, the only one who knew the truth was him.

He did not save Lu Bai's life.

The one who saved Lu Bai's life was Feng Wu Dao, not him.

Naturally, he was aware of why Lu Bai had said that. He was trying to save his life from the two Lu Clan's Martial Monarchs.

Lu Bai's good intention warmed Duan Ling Tian's heart.

"Lu Bai, it doesn't change the fact that he killed one of our Lu clan's lineal disciple even if he did save your life... He must die today!"

Lu Gui took a step forward and stood next to Lu Yuan.

At the same time, a domineering invisible energy surged out of his body. In just a moment, it shrouded Lu Bai completely and pulled him away from Duan Ling Tian.

"Elder Gui!" Lu Bai's face changed dramatically.

He discovered the invisible energy pulling him away from Duan Ling Tian was extremely strong, so much so that he could not escape the binding at all.

"Considering that you've saved the life of our Lu Clan's Second Young Master... We'll give you ten breath for you to say your last words. After that, I'll send you to hell."

There was a flash in Lu Yuan's small eyes when he spoke. His eyes were trained on Duan Ling Tian.

"Young master!"

Xiong Quan had taken over the task of towing the ice coffin. At this moment, his expression had changed drastically. He took a step forward with the intention of shielding Duan Ling Tian like Lu Bai did earlier.

"Stand back!"

However, a thunderous voice he was very familiar with sounded just as he just took a step forward.

Xiong Quan turned to look at Duan Ling Tian as he said anxiously, "Young master, I... "

"Don't worry, nothing will happen to me." Xiong Quan's words were interrupted midway by a voice. He recognized his Young Master's voice.

Although Xiong Quan did not know where Duan Ling Tian got his confidence from, he trusted Duan Ling Tian unconditionally. In the end, he stood earnestly at his original spot.

'Nothing will happen?'

Lu Sou shook his head and sighed in the distance when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian did not realize the severity of the situation he was in.

Since he had killed the Lu Clan's lineal disciple, he would have to be one of the two special types of people in order to escape death today!

There was no doubt about it.

"Is Duan Ling Tian crazy? He can still say he's fine even at this moment?"

"I think he's feigning confidence to console those around him."

"Judging by the way the Lu Clan greeted Elder Yuan and Elder Gui... I think they must be two of the three Lu Clan's Guardian Elders, Lu Yuan, and Lu Gui. Two Martial Monarch powerhouses!"

"Elder Yuan and Elder Gui personally came here. It's futile for the Lu Clan's Second Young Master to plead for mercy... This Duan Ling Tian will definitely die!"

...

Everyone present was caught up in their discussion. They thought Duan Ling Tian was insane.

At this moment, the look everyone gave Duan Ling Tian was as though they were looking at a dead person.

In their opinion, there was no way Duan Ling Tian would survive this.

From the very beginning, they did not think Duan Ling Tian belonged to either one of the two types of people the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, Lu Bai, mentioned. Subconsciously, they all thought it was impossible.

Even Lu Bai thought it was impossible subconsciously.

"If Duan Ling Tian dies... How can I explain this to my savior if I meet him again in the future?"

Lu Bai who was bound at the side by Lu Gui's power had an extremely glum expression on his face.

Although he felt anxious for Duan Lian Tian, he was completely helpless at the moment.

There was no way he could break out of the binding with his strength alone.

Lu Gui was a Martial Monarch powerhouse. It was far from what he could compete with.

"Arrogant kid!" Lu Gui had also heard Duan Ling Tian's words. His eyes gleamed coldly.

If Lu Yuan did not say he would allow Duan Ling Tian to say his last words, Lu Gui would have already attacked Duan Ling Tian.

The fact that Duan Ling Tian dared to say that in front of him meant that he did not take him seriously.

"You have the duration of five breaths left!" Lu Yuan spoke in a low tone.

The expression on his face was also slightly ghastly.

He did not expect the purple-clad young man to be so arrogant. If he had known this earlier, he would not have given him a chance to say his last words.

Everyone continued watching as the situation progressed.

After Lu Yuan spoke, Duan Ling Tian extended his right hand out. He flipped it so his palm faced upward and the back of his hand faced downward.

"What's he doing?"

Most of the people present were confused when they saw Duan Ling Tian's movement. They could not figure out what he was trying to do.

After a while, two breaths time had passed. Lu Yuan coldly said again, "Three more breaths left."

Since two breaths ago, Duan Ling Tian had maintained the same position.

Even Lu Yuan and Lu Gui, the two Lu Clan's Guardian Elder at the Martial Monarch Stage, could not figure out what Duan Ling Tian was trying to do.

"Lu Yuan, hand him over to me once the time's up," Lu Gui said calmly. It was obvious he wanted to deal with Duan Ling Tian personally.

"En." Lu Yuan nodded his head in assent.

"There's only two breaths time left... Duan Ling Tian won't die in vain since he's dying in the hands of the Lu Clan's Martial Monarch."

"Do you think Duan Ling Tian has a problem in his head? He's going to die soon, but still, he remains silent. Moreover, he's posing in such a weird way as well."

"Does he think the Lu Clan's Elder Yuan and Elder Gui will show him mercy because of that? He's too naive!"

"Duan Ling Tian's a prodigy. The mistake he committed on impulse will end in a tragedy... This shows that those whom God loves, die young!"

"Well, he dug his own grave! He could've spared the Lu Clan's Third Young Master, but he killed him."

...

Everyone present was whispering among themselves. A lot of them thought it would be a waste for Duan Ling Tian to die just like that.

After all, not only did Duan Ling Tian show a strong innate talent in the Martial Dao, his innate talent in refining medicine was extraordinary as well. He could be considered as an all-rounded monster prodigy.

However, this monster prodigy, Duan Ling Tian, had to die just because he killed a Lu Clan's lineal disciple.

Moments later, Lu Yuan opened his mouth again to say, "One more breath left."

His voice became colder. Even his gaze on Duan Ling Tian was icy.

"Heng!" Lu Gui snorted as his robe billowed and fluttered in the wind.

The energy on his body began to brew. It rose and gained momentum as he prepared to attack after one breath. He was going to kill the purple-clad young man standing before him in a blow.

Everyone held their breath and silently watched as the Martial Monarch gathered his energy.

"Young master."

Xiong Quan clenched both his fists. Although he trusted Duan Ling Tian, he was still worried about Duan Ling Tian since he was influenced by the tense atmosphere.

Duan Ling Tian who had been quietly and calmly standing there with his right hand raised finally had a change in his expression when he saw Lu Gui was about to attack. There was a faint smile on his face.

The smile was so faint that nobody saw it.

"Time's up!"

Finally, one breath had passed. Everyone present trembled in their hearts.

When everyone's eyes shifted to Lu Gui to watch him make his move, they found him hovering in the air motionlessly.

At this moment, Lu Gui was staring blankly ahead. He was dumbstruck.

## Chapter 1068: Grade One Alchemist!

Everyone's eyes followed Lu Gui's gaze that was trained on a purple-clad young man standing on the other side.

The person Lu Gui intended to kill was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

"This..."

However, everyone was taken aback when they saw Duan Ling Tian. It was as though the sight that met their eyes were extremely shocking.

"What's wrong with them?" Xiong Quan, who felt anxious on behalf of Duan Ling Tian, glanced at him once before he glanced at the others.

Apart from Feng Tian Wu who lay in the coffin and himself, everyone, including Lu Bai, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, was staring blankly at his Young Master like a fool.

"Is this because of the wisp of flame rising from Young Master's hand?"

Xiong Quan seemed to have discovered something as he focused his gaze on the flames rising from Duan Ling Tian's palm.

If one had to point out a difference between his Young Master then and now, it would be the wisp of flame that rose from his palm.

"Is that the Pill Fire?" Xiong Quan could vaguely guess what the flame was.

However, he could not figure out the grade of the Pill Fire that rose from Duan Ling Tian's hand.

"Duan... Duan Ling Tian... He..." The force that bound Lu Bai in the distance had disappeared due to Lu Gui being shocked, but Lu Bai was unaware of it.

He was staring blankly at Duan Ling Tian.

More accurately, he was looking at the wisp of flame that had unexpectedly risen from Duan Ling Tian's hand.

As the lineal disciple and Second Young Master of an alchemist family, the Lu Clan, he had instantly recognized that wisp of flame as the Pill Fire with just one glance.

"Purple Pill Fire edged in gold... Is that the Violet Gold Pill Fire? A grade one Pill Fire?!"

Lu Bai's eyes widened, shock and awe were written on his face.

Even in his wildest dream, he did not dream of seeing the sight before his eyes.

"That's the Violet Gold Pill Fire?"

"That seems to be the...Violet Gold Pill Fire. It's a grade one Pill Fire!"

"An alchemist that can manifest grade one Pill Fire is undoubtedly a grade one alchemist!"

"This... This Duan Ling Tian is a grade one alchemist?"

"How's that possible?!"

...

Lu Bai recovered from the shock at the same time with a small number of the people present. There was a lot of discussions, and awe was written on everyone's faces.

At this moment, there were only shock and awe in their eyes as they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

They were shocked by Duan Ling Tian's attainment in the Medicine Refinement Dao, and they were in awe of Duan Ling Tian's identity.

Grade one alchemist!

In the sky.

The two old men's faces that were originally ablaze with anger and killing intent had vanished and was replaced by respect.

Hu! Hu!

Soon after, they hurriedly flew down and landed before Duan Ling Tian. Their eyes were focused on the wisp of flame in Duan Ling Tian's hand.

Lu Yuan's round and fat face twitched as his small eyes widened. He said in a slightly startled voice, "It really is the Violet Gold Pill Fire!"

Meanwhile, Lu Gui stared blankly at the purple flame edged in gold in Duan Ling Tian's hand. He muttered to himself, "Grade one Pill Fire! He's really a grade one alchemist?"

"Why? Are Elder Yuan and Elder Gui worried that I'm pretending to be a grade one alchemist?" Duan Ling Tian asked as he narrowed his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian's words felt like two giant hammers that struck Lu Yuan and Lu Gui's chests with an immense force. It caused them to tremble before they slowly recovered from the shock.

Lu Yuan and Lu Gui were the two strongest Guardian Elders in the Lu Clan. They were Martial Monarchs.

Their gazes toward Duan Ling Tian had changed now that Duan Ling Tian's identity was revealed.

There were less contempt and more awe in their gazes.

"Greetings, master."

"Greetings, master."

As the Guardian Elders of an alchemist family, the Lu clan, they were very much influenced by the Lu Clan. Their regards toward a grade one alchemist were very different.

In their eyes, a grade one alchemist was someone they looked up to. Grade one alchemists were not to be provoked even if they were Martial Monarch powerhouses!

On Cloud Continent, the influence of a grade one alchemist was extremely shocking.

If a grade one alchemist was willing, they could move many people who were stronger than them by just making a promise to refine a certain amount of grade one spirit pills for those who wanted to kill them.

At that time, they would definitely be everyone's target.

Put simply, they could not afford to provoke a grade one alchemist!

Naturally, they backed down after Duan Ling Tian had revealed his identity as a grade one alchemist. However, they did not only back down because they were afraid they might invite trouble. They were also doing it for the sake of the Lu Clan.

If the Lu Clan, as an alchemist family, had offended a grade one alchemist, others would laugh at them and think they had no sense if the news spread. Moreover, if this grade one alchemist wanted to make trouble for the Lu clan, the clan would descend into chaos even if they were under the protection of the first-rate forces from the Inner Land.

Naturally, they could take the risk and kill this grade one alchemist who might not be as strong as they were.

However, they would then have to prepare for the possibility of a crisis.

Grade one alchemists, no matter how solitary they were, would most likely have done someone a favor and helped them refine grade one spirit pills. The connections a grade one alchemist had was enough to bring trouble to the Lu Clan!

If the situation progressed to that point, both parties would most likely end up dead.

No one knew the influence a grade one alchemist had better than the Lu Clan. It was all thanks to the dozens of grade one alchemist from Lu Clan that they managed to survive for 10,000 years.

"So, what now? You're not going to kill me now?" Duan Ling Tian sneered.

"No, we don't dare! We don't dare to!"

Lu Yuan and Lu Gui were still hovering mid-air as they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They were looking down at him condescendingly as though they were looking like an ant just a moment ago. However, they had to walk on eggshells like mice that had encountered a cat when they faced Duan Ling Tian now.

"This Duan Ling Tian turned out to be a grade one alchemist! Oh god, how old is he?"

"Previously, he had killed the Lu Clan's elder, Lu Zhao, who was an Eighth Level Void Transformation martial artist with just a blow... Taking his age into account, his strength and his innate talent in Martial Dao could be considered as monstrous..."

"The problem is, apart from being extremely talented in Martial Dao, he's even more talented when it comes to refining medicine! He's already a grade one alchemist at such a young age."

"If I didn't know it's almost impossible for a demon to be an alchemist, I wouldn't believe he's human like us."

...

At this time, everyone present had recovered from the shock. However, they were shocked again as they began to discuss the matter.

"How's that possible?!"

The green-clad middle-aged man who was standing next to Lu Zhao's body stared ahead blankly. Similar to his two other companions, he could not believe his eyes at all.

"Duan Ling Tian... is a grade one alchemist?"

Among everyone present, the one who felt the most regretful was Huang Chun.

Huang Chun had originally become friends with Duan Ling Tian. They had also exchanged pleasantries.

However, his friendship with Duan Ling Tian was ruined because of a wrong decision he made.

The error he committed on impulse might lead to lifelong sorrow!

At this moment, it was too late even if Huang Chun's heart was filled with remorse.

In this world, there was no medicine for regrets.

"Grade one alchemist? Young Master, he... he's a grade one alchemist?"

Xiong Quan's gaze brightened as joy filled his face. "So that's why Young Master said he'll be fine... As it turns out, he's a grade one alchemist!"

Grade one alchemists were one of the two types of people that could get away with killing a lineal disciple of Lu clan.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

At this moment, the Lu Clan's Second Young master, Lu Bai walked toward Duan Ling Tian with glowing eyes. "You're actually a grade one alchemist! I'm a little upset that you hid this from me," Lu Bai said in a disgruntled tone.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Lu Bai and smiled faintly. "You didn't ask me."

"If I knew you're a grade one alchemist, I wouldn't have worried." Lu Bai smiled bitterly.

Earlier, he felt as though his heart was hanging by a thread. He was afraid he would not be able to give an explanation to his savior.

After all, Duan Ling Tian was with his savior back then. It was obvious their relationship was not simple.

Lu Bai's eyes suddenly brightened. It was as though he recalled something as he stared at Duan Ling Tian like a precious treasure. "Right! I still remember... you said earlier the reason you came to the Lu Clan is to become a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor."

Revered Elder? Interim Advisor?

Lu Yuan and Lu Gui who were standing near Duan Ling Tian felt anxious initially. Their eyes brightened and their faces were filled with a pleasant surprise when they heard Lu Bai's words.

They immediately looked at Duan Ling Tian with keen and sparkling eyes.

If the young man before their eyes was a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor of the Lu Clan, it would undoubtedly bring good fortune to the Lu Clan.

He was a grade one alchemist!

Based on the Lu Clan's history, the appearance of the last grade one alchemist was nearly a thousand years ago. There was no grade one alchemist at all in the past few hundred years.

"The Lu Clan's Second Young Master's words also reminded me of what Duan Ling Tian said earlier... Duan Ling Tian seemed to have said he wanted to be the Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor."

"He did say that. I heard it. Then again, I thought he was only bragging earlier."

"Me too. I thought he was bragging! After all, those who are qualified to be the Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor are either Martial Monarch powerhouses or grade two alchemists or above... At that time, I didn't think he would have such qualifications."

"Who could've guessed he's not only an alchemist at grade two or lower, he's actually a grade one alchemist!"

...

After the reminder from Lu Bai, many recalled that Duan Ling Tian did say such a thing.

"Master!"

Lu Sou who slowly recovered from the shocked looked at Duan Ling Tian expectantly as he waited for his reply.

Chapter 1069: First Interim Advisor

Originally, Lu Sou, like the others, thought Duan Ling Tian was just bragging when he said he came to the Lu Clan to be a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor.

The first thought in Lu Sou's heart was Duan Ling Tian would certainly die when he saw Duan Ling Tian had ignored the Lu Clan's Second Young Master's advice and resolutely killed the Lu clan's Third Young Master, Lu Huai.

When the Lu Clan's two strongest Guardian Elders appeared and confronted Duan Ling Tian about the death of Lu Clan's Third Young Master, Lu Huai and the Second Young Master Lu Bai failed in pleading for mercy, Lu Sou did not think Duan Ling Tian would survive.

However, the subsequent development of the matter was completely beyond his expectation.

When the Lu Clan's Guardian Elder, Lu Gui was about to kill Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian manifested a wisp of Pill Fire.

Violet Gold Pill Fire!

Grade one Pill Fire!

He domineeringly revealed his prestigious grade one alchemist identity and completely reversed the situation. Not only did he survive, but he also earned the admiration of everyone present.

Grade one alchemist!

His identity was equivalent to a golden medallion to escape death in a second-rate force like Lu Clan.

That aside, this ridiculously young grade one alchemist had the intention of joining the Lu Clan to become a Revered Elder or an Interim Advisor?

How could he not be excited?

Once this grade one alchemist joined the Lu Clan, maybe he could rely on his status of being on the Second Young Master's side and ask some questions about refining medicine. As the saying went, 'A baker's wife may take a bite out of a bun, and a brewer's wife may drink from a tun. A fishmonger's wife may feed on a conger, but a serving man's wife may starve from hunger.'

Perhaps he might break through and become a grade two alchemist with some enlightenment from this grade one alchemist!

In the Lu clan, there was quite a lot of grade three alchemists but only a few grade two alchemists.

Once he became a grade two alchemist, he would soar in the sky and achieve greatness.

Lu Sou looked at Duan Ling Tian earnestly as he waited for his response.

He prayed anxiously.

He fervently prayed that the grade one alchemist master would not change his mind about the Lu Clan and dismiss the idea of becoming a Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor due to the unpleasant incident earlier.

However, Lu Sou was not the only one who felt anxious.

Everyone present including Lu Yuan and Lu Gui the two Lu clan Guardian Elders were also feeling anxious.

"Duan Ling Tian..." Lu Bai stared at Duan Ling Tian with a glint in his eyes and an expectant expression.

"After the earlier incident, I wonder if Master Duan Ling Tian would still be willing to join Lu Clan and become the Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor."

Everyone had their eyes trained on Duan Ling Tian. They were also curious about his reply.

Naturally, most of their gazes were filled with anticipation and hope.

These people were all confident in their attainment in the Medicine Refinement Dao. All of them felt they would definitely be able to pass the Alchemist Competition organized by the Lu Clan and join the Lu Clan.

They had subconsciously considered themselves as the Lu Clan's foreign disciples.

In their opinion, if this grade one alchemist master really became the Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor, they might have a chance to ask some questions regarding the Medicine Refinement Dao in the future. In turn, they would gain some insights and possibly break through.

"Maybe I should reconsider it... Earlier, those two were so keen on killing me." Duan Ling Tian glanced at Lu Bai before he looked at Lu Yuan and Lu Gui. His eyes narrowed as a faint mocking smile hung on the corner of his mouth.

Lu Bai heard his words, and his face changed dramatically.

"Elder Yuan, Elder Gui... I hope you can apologize to Duan Ling Tian! If the Lu Clan lost a grade one alchemist Interim Advisor because of your impulsiveness, you'll be considered sinners in the Lu Clan!" Lu Bai immediately turned to look at Lu Yuan and Lu Gui to yell at them, completely disregarding their surroundings.

He had completely ignored Lu Yuan and Lu Gui's lofty status in the Lu Clan. He knew he had to fight for Duan Ling Tian to stay and become the Lu Clan's Interim Advisor.

Usually, both of them would feel extremely dissatisfied if Lu Bai yelled at them in public.

However, they did not feel any dissatisfaction today.

Furthermore, as soon as Lu Bai ended his sentence, Lu Yuan and Lu Gui had already bowed at Duan Ling Tian and said in unison, "We apologize for our offense earlier. We hope Master won't take offense!"

"If Master is willing to join the Lu Clan, both of us will do anything you want to the best of our abilities! We won't object even if Master wants to punish us!"

A grade one alchemist was too important to the Lu Clan.

Due to this reason, Lu Yuan and Lu Gui who were Martial Monarchs and the Lu Clan's Guardian Elders were willing to bow, apologize and make promises in order to appease Duan Ling Tian and make him stay.

"It seems the reasons Lu Clan survived for 10,000 years and remained strong are not only because of the protection of the first-rate forces from the Inner Land. It's because the people from Lu Clan will do anything for their clan. How rare!"

"Yes. As the Lu Clan's Guardian Elders and Martial Monarch powerhouses, they actually bowed and apologized to make a grade one alchemist stay in the Lu Clan... Regarding this, not many Martial Monarchs from the other forces can do that."

...

While the people present were whispering among themselves and praising the resolution of the people from Lu clan, they were also staring intently at Duan Ling Tian.

All of them wanted to know if the other party would be willing to join Lu Clan and become their Revered Elder or Interim Advisor since Lu Yuan and Lu Gui was so sincere.

Suddenly, the air in a distance stirred.

Following that, a loud voice reverberated in the air.

"The Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui, along with Guardian Elder, Lu Zhi, and the rest of the elders welcome Master Duan!"

Under everyone's watchful eyes, a handsome and sturdy middle-aged man dressed in green robe walked abreast with a red-clad old man. A dozen more old men and middle-aged men followed behind them.

In just a blink of an eye, they all landed and stood next to Lu Yuan and Lu Gui as they looked at Duan Ling Tian with admiration in their eyes.

"It's the Clan Leader of Lu Clan!"

"And the Lu Clan's other Guardian Elder!"

"Oh, God! The Clan Leader of Lu Clan and all three Guardian Elders personally came! This is rare."

"All these is because of this master Duan Ling Tian."

"A grade one alchemist means a lot to the Lu Clan. The Lu Clan will definitely fight for it at all cost."

...

After the initial shock, everyone began to discuss among themselves.

Their discussion pushed Duan Ling Tian, a grade one alchemist, to a new height.

"Clan Leader. Elder Lu Zhi." Duan Ling Tian greeted Lu Rui and Lu Zhi with gleaming eyes. After that, he turned to look at all the Lu Clan's elders behind them and nodded slightly as a greeting.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by the arrival of the Lu Clan's senior officials.

When he displayed his grade one Pill Fire, he noticed the person from Lu Clan who had summoned Lu Yuan and Lu Gui earlier had quietly left again.

The senior officials led by the Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui, was obviously summoned by him as well.

"Master Duan is indeed a rarely seen prodigy in this world. At such a young age, you have not only achieved extraordinary Martial Dao and cultivation, you also have a shocking achievement in the Medicine Refinement Dao. You're already a grade one alchemist. It's very admirable," Lu Rui praised.

These words came from the bottom of his heart without any pretense.

Such a young man with extraordinary Martial Dao and cultivation, in addition to being a grade one alchemist. He could not help but feel shocked even if he was the Clan Leader of the Lu Clan.

"Master Duan, Lu Clan's juniors have offended you. We hope you won't take offense to that! If Master Duan doesn't mind, please come to our Lu Clan's estate. We'll treat Master Duan as our guest of honor and compensate you," Lu Zhi said following that.

After Lu Zhi's finished his sentence, it was completely silent.

The cause and effect of today's incident were witnessed by everyone present.

First, Duan Ling Tian had killed a Lu Clan's elder before he killed the Lu Clan's Third Young Master.

The former might not be a huge issue, but the latter was the Lu Clan's prestigious lineal disciple. He was not someone one could kill at will even if Duan Ling Tian was in the right.

Due to that reason, two of Lu Clan's Guardian Elders came and to kill Duan Ling Tian without asking for his reason.

However, all of that was turned upside down after Duan Ling Tian revealed his grade one alchemist's identity.

First, the two Lu Clan's Guardian Elders apologized sincerely.

Then, the Clan Leader of the Lu Clan and another Guardian Elder along with the rest of the Lu Clan's elders came personally and apologized to Duan Ling Tian with Guardian Elder, Lu Zhi as their representative.

Based on their words, they even wanted to treat Duan Ling Tian who killed one of their Lu Clan's lineal disciple as the guest of honor and compensate him!

Everyone felt like they could not keep up with the development of this situation.

After they recovered from the shock, they were hit by a pang of realization. They knew it was all because Duan Ling Tian had shown by his ability to manifest a grade one Pill Fire and reveal his identity as a grade one alchemist.

Grade one alchemist!

"Clan leader. Elder Zhi."

At this time, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, Lu Bai, walked over to Lu Rui and Lu Zhi's side and whispered something to them.

As he spoke, Lu Rui and Lu Zhi's eyes brightened. Their faces were filled with a pleasant surprise.

"It seems that the Lu Clan's Second Young Master told them that Master Duan had intended to join the Lu Clan and become the Lu Clan's Revered Elder or Interim Advisor."

"That should be it."

...

A lot of them secretly guessed.

The subsequent scene proved them right.

"Master Duan, if you're willing to join us. The Lu Clan is willing to treat you as our first Interim Advisor! In the future, if Master Duan needs anything, Lu Clan will do its best to obtain what you need!"

The Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui, cupped his hands and bowed at Duan Ling Tian as he said sincerely, "Please, Master Duan. Please join the Lu Clan and become the Lu Clan's Interim Elder."

Following that, the Lu Clan's Guardian Elder, Lu Zhi, led all of the Lu Clan's elders and bowed respectfully to invite Duan Ling Tian to become an Interim Elder of the Lu Clan. It was indeed a high status.

At this moment, Lu Bai, Lu Sou along with Lu Yuan and Lu Gui also bowed down one by one and said, "Please, Master Duan! Join Lu clan!"

After that, everyone from Lu Clan bowed and sincerely invited Duan Ling Tian to join the Lu Clan.

Once again, the entire scene descended into silence.

For those present, the scene in front of their eyes was definitely a scene they would remember for the rest of their lives!

Chapter 1070: Elder Duan

A young man who looked like he was in his twenties made the senior officials from the Lu clan, one of the two largest forces in the Northern Mountain Land, bow to invite him to be their First Interim Advisor.

Duan Ling Tian's expression was carefree when faced with the sincere invitation from the Lu Clan's senior officials like the one being invited was not him. It was as though he would remain calm even if Mount Tai collapsed before his eyes.

At this moment, the Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui's words echoed in Duan Ling Tian's ears.

"... In the future, if Master Duan needs anything, the Lu Clan will try its best to obtain it for Master Duan!"

Was that not the reason he came to the Lu Clan?

"Since Lu Bai is a friend and seeing how sincere the Clan Leader of Lu Clan and all the elders are, it would unreasonable for me to refuse..."

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian slowly spoke. He had seized the opportunity and indirectly did Lu Bai a favor.

He said yes.

As expected, the senior officials from Lu Clan turned to look at Lu Bai after Duan Ling Tian stopped talking. He immediately became the center of attention.

"Lu Bai, you did well." The Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui, nodded as he looked appreciatively at Lu Bai.

For a moment, Lu Bai could not help but feel a little scared.

Although he was the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, he was only second among the younger generation of the Lu Clan's lineal disciples.

Relationship-wise, the Clan Leader of Lu Clan was his second cousin once removed.

The younger generation of the Lu Clan's lineal disciples was ranked according to their age. Currently, there were more than twenty of them... Lu Bai was ranked second, hence he was known as the Lu Clan's Second Young Master.

The next Clan Leader would be chosen among them.

Currently, the ones who had the highest chance to inherit the Clan Leader position was Lu Bai, the Lu Clan's Second Young Master, and the Lu Clan's First Young Master.

Since Lu Bai was praised by the Clan Leader, it showed that he was undoubtedly one step closer to inheriting the position of Clan Leader.

"Even when the Second Young Master was very young, I knew he wasn't simple. In fact, I thought he was a promising child... It seems that I'm right judging by how things turned out. He managed to win over a very important person for the Lu Clan this time."

"Judging from the relationship between the Second Young Master and Master Duan, there's no need to worry about the prosperity of Lu Clan if he inherits the position of Clan Leader, right?"

"You're right."

...

Meanwhile, many of the Lu Clan's elders began to flatter Lu Bai.

The elders who sided with Lu Bai seized the opportunity to express the benefits if Lu Bai became the next Clan Leader of the Lu Clan.

The elders who sided with the Lu Clan's First Young Master, Lu Song, looked at each other and smiled bitterly.

They would have taunted their rival if they heard them flattering the Second Young Master in ordinary circumstances. However, they did not dare to do so now.

Who knew if Master Duan would leave if they acted without thinking.

After all, he was a friend of the Second Young Master, Lu Bai, and they seemed to be close.

They did not want to become a traitor to the Lu Clan so they could only dutifully remain silent.

Meanwhile, some of them were filled with anxieties as they deliberated over abandoning their master and showing their allegiance to the Second Young Master, Lu Bai.

Since the Second Young Master, Lu Bai had a connection with a grade one alchemist, his position in the Lu Clan would definitely rise in the long run.

Even the Lu Clan's Clan Leader and three Guardian Elders would pay more attention to him who was previously in a weaker position.

Lu Bai could not help but smile bitterly to himself when he heard the elders, who had previously remained impartial, flatter him to show their allegiance. Those impartial Lu Clan's elders did not side with him or Lu Song previously.

He did expect that just a word from Duan Ling Tian would be more effective than his careful planning for the past ten years.

He had planned for ten years before some of the Lu Clan's elders came to his side to help him.

However, Lu Bai was also comforted by the thought.

After all, Duan Ling Tian was a grade one alchemist. His existence in the Lu Clan was superior and inviolable.

In fact, there was no need for him to fight Lu Song at all if Lu Bai was a grade one alchemist. There would be no dissent even if he wanted the current Clan Leader to abdicate so he could take the position for himself.

In the Lu Clan, one's status would be above everyone else as long as one managed to break through and become a grade one alchemist.

If he said one, no one in the Lu Clan would dare to say two. That included the Clan Leader and the other Lu Clan's Martial Monarch powerhouses.

The earliest rule that was passed down in the Lu Clan stated that a grade one alchemist had the highest status in the Lu Clan regardless of whether he was a lineal disciple or a secondary disciple.

It was a rule that could not be violated.

Perhaps, that was the reason the people from Lu Clan reacted like a mouse encountering a cat when they met a grade one alchemist.

"However, I killed the Third Young Master of Lu Clan earlier. Won't I be punished after I become the Lu Clan's Interim Elder?" Duan Ling Tian suddenly said at the moment when the people of Lu Clan were rejoicing. It was as though he had suddenly poured cold water on them while they were taking a hot shower.

One by one, they regained their senses and collect their stray thoughts.

"Of course not!" The Clan Leader of Lu Clan, Lu Rui, was the first to recover and immediately shook his head.

"Lu Huai, that boy had always been trouble... I think Elder Duan wouldn't have killed him if he didn't actively provoke Elder Duan," Lu Zhi, the Lu Clan's Guardian Elder, added.

\When Lu Zhi spoke, he addressed Duan Ling Tian as Elder Duan.

From the moment Duan Ling Tian promised to be a Lu Clan's Interim Elder, he was already considered a prestigious Lu Clan's elder.

As stated by the Clan Leader, Lu Rui, he was the Lu Clan's first Interim Advisor!

In light of his position, even Lu Rui had to be respectful to him.

To a certain extent, his current status in the Lu Clan was above everyone else.

"You're right! In the past, I've always thought that Lu Huai boy had shifty eyes and didn't look like a good man. Elder Duan, you did well by killing him. You got rid of a Lu Clan's scourge," the other Guardian Elder, Lu Yuan, continued saying.

"Yes, Elder Duan, you helped clean up the Lu Clan. There's no way we'll punish you. In fact, we must thank you."

The Guardian Elder, Lu Gui, who previously proclaimed that he wanted to deal with Duan Ling Tian personally to avenge Lu Huai, had completely changed his attitude. The change was so drastic that everyone present was dumbfounded.

However, no one dared to say anything.

It was not a joke!

They were not like Duan Ling Tian who was a grade one alchemist.

If they dared to gossip about this Lu Clan's Guardian Elder, he would never let it go. Even if he did not deal with them now due to his reputation, he would find a chance to deal with them later on.

"If one describes the Cloud Continent as a starry sky and the people on Cloud Continent as the stars in it... Young Master's undoubtedly the brightest one!" Xiong Quan stood in the distance with a smile on his face. He was proud to be able to follow a master like Duan Ling Tian.

However, he could not help but feel dejected when he recalled his insignificant strength.

He would not be able to help his Young Master with his current strength, he would only drag him down.

'I hope I can further improve my strength by relying on the Lu clan... According to the Young Master, I can use spirit fruits to boost my cultivation and use that Profound Assimilation Formation to improve my comprehension of the Sword Concept." Xiong Quan recalled what Duan Ling Tian said to him not too long ago.

'This Lu Clan should have spirit fruits and that Profound Assimilation Formation, right?' Xiong Quan felt a little anxious when he thought about this.

"Alright then."

Although Duan Ling Tian was certain the senior officials from the Lu Clan would not seek revenge after he revealed his identity, he was still glad when he heard them verbally confirming it.

He never thought the identity of a grade one alchemist could be so useful.

'Of course, that's because the Lu Clan's family is an alchemist family... Other families might not be so accommodating.'" Duan Ling Tian understood this very well.

"Elder Duan, you've been traveling on the road, and I'm sure you're tired. Please rest in the estate," Lu Rui said warmly to Duan Ling Tian before he looked at Lu Bai. "Let Lu Bai bring you there."

"There's no rush... I still want to see the Alchemist Competition," Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head.

Although it was impossible for him to join the Alchemist Competition now, he was still interested in observing. It was the first alchemist competition he had ever seen in his life.

He was very curious and excited.

He was curious about how the Alchemist Competition was judged as well as the alchemists' levels in the Foreign Lands.

He was excited about seeing a group of alchemists in action. It was his first time seeing so many alchemists.

"Since Elder Duan is so interested, we'll accompany you then," Lu Rui said to Duan Ling Tian as he smiled.

The other senior officials from the Lu Clan nodded. They did not have any other opinion nor did they dare to have any other opinion.

"Clan Leader, elders, I'm just taking a look... All of you can head back and rest," Duan Ling Tian hurriedly said. He was discomfited by the enthusiasm of the Lu Clan's senior officials.

Lu Zhi smiled and said to Duan Ling Tian, "Elder Duan, the reason we want to stay is to hear your opinion on the young ones... Since you're here, I think you should be the main judge of the Alchemist Competition."

However, the smile on his face looked like the smile of an old fox in Duan Ling Tian's eyes.

"Yes, Elder Duan. All of us would like to hear your opinion on the young ones." The group of Lu Clan's elders seized the opportunity and agreed with him.