

SOVEREIGN 1401

Chapter 1401: The End

In that split second, the bandit had a timely discovery of the arrow Duan Ling Tian shot. He lowered his head and rolled away pathetically.

However, he managed to avoid Duan Ling Tian's True Energy arrow.

A few strands of long hair of his were falling in the air.

"Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage!" Seeing how the bandit avoided the arrow, Duan Ling Tian was not disappointed. Instead, his eyes lit up.

Immediately, he released another arrow.

Body and Arrow Synchronization!

Duan Ling Tian jumped and shot out with the arrow. In the blink of an eye, he arrived in front of the bandit who was getting up after rolling away embarrassingly. Then, he landed steadily on the ground.

At that time, the bandit also discovered Duan Ling Tian and his face shifted. "Earlier, was it you who hit me below the belt?"

"Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, seven points." Duan Ling Tian's gaze on the bandit was like a hunter looking at his prey. They sparkled brightly like two shiny stars in the night sky.

"Boy, you dare to ignore me?! You're looking for death!" Being on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, the bandit had more pride than an ordinary person. He was enraged when he saw Duan Ling Tian daring to ignore him.

Boom!

He stomped his feet on the ground until it shook and cracked. Then, he seemed to transformed into a cannonball and launched towards Duan Ling Tian.

In his hands, a huge saber appeared.

The True Energy around the huge saber raged while the saber ray flared as if it had transformed into a foot-long giant saber. It fell towards Duan Ling Tian as if it wanted to split him in half.

"Die!" As the saber fell, the bandit smirked as if he had already foreseen the scene whereby the purple-clad youth in front of him was split into two halves.

In face of the bandit's saber, Duan Ling Tian appeared calm.

Body and Arrow Synchronization!

With another arrow shooting out, Duan Ling Tian stood on it on his feet were able to avoid the bandit's strike and instantly got near him.

Aerolite Shower!

Within the time needed to raise a hand, Duan Ling Tian took another shot.

When the bandit finally reacted and changed his expression dramatically, a sky full of arrows rained with an immense force as if there was a meteor shower.

Seeing this, the bandit did not dare to hesitate. He rapidly slashed out the saber in his hands while he lifted his arm to block the overwhelming arrow rain.

Aerolite Strike!

While the bandit was resisting the arrow rain and trying to escape, Duan Ling Tian made another move.

Sou!

One arrow pierced between the eyebrows of the bandit and killed him.

Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivators apart from those at the Peak Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage were like clay chicken and ceramic dogs in front of Duan Ling Tian; they were simply not worth mentioning.

“Duan Ling Tian, this bandit managed to avoid your shot earlier.” At that time, Zhu Lang who caught up commented in surprise.

It should be noted that almost all the bandits that they met along the way were killed by Duan Ling Tian in one shot. Now, this was the first bandit which managed to avoid Duan Ling Tian’s arrow.

“He was a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivator,” Duan Ling Tian responded with a smile.

“Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage!” Instantly, both Zhu Lang and Guo Li’s eyes lit up.

That was the first Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit they had ever met.

“With this one, we probably have 39 points now.” Zhu Lang looked delighted. He would have 13 points even if the three of them divided the points equally. 13 points could be converted into 1,300 Merit Points in the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City.

“We’ll continue.” Duan Ling Tian jumped up again and continued traveling on top of the trees with his left Strange Pupil in operation.

Naturally, the speed of the Strange Pupil operating was very slow. Otherwise, his spiritual energy would not be able to keep up.

It was also because of all that saving, Duan Ling Tian had only depleted one-fifth of his spiritual energy with four-fifths more for him to utilize.

Wherever the trio passed, it was as if they were harvesting the bandits’ lives.

Naturally, the one who did all the attacking was Duan Ling Tian.

"I really don't know why Duan Ling Tian would want to cooperate with the others. Along the way, the two of them never made a single move." One of the middle-aged men in silver armor, who was hidden in the dark and tailing the trio, could not help but shake his head.

"Everyone said beautiful women are worth dying for... It's so shocking that Duan Ling Tian would make such a choice for a woman." The other man also shook his head.

Obviously, he thought that Duan Ling Tian would cooperate and help Guo Li because he was hung up on Guo Li's beauty.

"Yes. If this woman didn't exist, the first place in the Lord City Governor's test today would definitely be his," sighed the former person, thinking that beautiful women were the root of all trouble.

From the beginning to the end, they could see that it was not Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li who had brought along a burden, but Duan Ling Tian himself lugging two burdens on his own.

"However, his eyesight is amazing! He fired his arrow even before we saw anyone in front of us. Apart from that Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit, the rest were killed in one shot."

"Yes, I don't think I could go that far either! His eyes aren't like human eyes. How can human eyes possibly see that far?"

...

The two persons, who were hidden in the dark to record the trio's results and protect them, were discussing through True Energy Voice Transmission.

From the start, they noticed that Duan Ling Tian's eyesight was far superior to an ordinary person's.

Perhaps, they were stronger than Duan Ling Tian, but they believed that their eyesight was far inferior to his.

While Duan Ling Tian was clearing his path, there were several rapid-moving figures in the other directions which were headed towards the depth of the valley at a speed no less than Duan Ling Tian's.

Xiong Hu who ranked No. 2 among the Thirteen Gangsters was leading with Jin Yuan Bao who ranked No. 3 closely behind him.

After that, there was Sun Ge who ranked No. 4 and Zheng Jian who ranked No. 5.

Along the way, they met a handful of Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandits and a lot of Early and Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage bandits from whom they earned quite a lot of points.

However, although Sun Ge and Zheng Jian had each killed a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit, they were also severely injured.

"People from the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City? There's nothing that special about them!" A bang exploded along with a disgusted sneer while a figure flew away and smashed to the ground. He was disheveled and kept vomiting blood.

Looking at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit whose killing intent was apparent on his face walking towards him, Zhang Ji Long's face turned extremely gloomy.

'Duan Ling Tian... It's all your fault! If it weren't for you, I would've at least evenly matched him even if I couldn't defeat him!' In face of the bandit who wanted to kill him, Zhang Ji Long gnashed his teeth but the target of his hatred was not the bandit before him. Instead, it was Duan Ling Tian.

In his opinion, he would not end up in this current predicament if it were not for Duan Ling Tian who had severely injured him the day before yesterday, which led to him partaking in the test with an injured body.

Just as the bandit was about to kill Zhang Ji Long, a silver figure appeared.

"36 Guardians of the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City!" When the bandit saw the youth in silver armor before him, his face changed dramatically and he hurriedly turned around to escape.

Currently, there was only one thought in his mind.

Run!

Run as far as he could!

However, could he escape?

The youth in silver armor disappeared on the spot. By the time he reappeared, he was already blocking the bandit's escape route and the bandit was killed before he had time to even beg for mercy.

The whole process was as smooth as passing clouds and flowing water.

After killing the bandit, the youth in silver armor coolly glanced at Zhang Ji Long and declared, "You're eliminated."

Zhang Ji Long stood up with a sullen expression as he turned around and walk along the way he came...

He knew that he was not fated with the City Governor of Mound Hill City to be his disciple.

'12 points...' Zhang Ji Long became moodier and moodier when he thought of the points he had obtained.

While Zhang Ji Long was eliminated, Hou Lin was also severely injured by a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit someplace else. Fortunately, the guardian who was guarding him made a move and managed to save him.

However, he was also eliminated after that.

When Zhang Ji Long and Hou Lin walked out of the valley, they discovered four others who had been eliminated before them. The four of them ranked the bottom four among the Thirteen Gangsters.

However, the four of them were merely Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivators.

After discovering that, both their faces became a little bit sadder.

"Damn it! Duan Ling Tian still hasn't come out..." Both of them were in a foul mood when they saw that Duan Ling Tian had not been eliminated.

Even though they really wished that he would die in the valley, they knew that it was impossible because of the protection of the 36 Guardians. Now, they only hoped that he would be eliminated earlier.

Unfortunately, they were destined to be disappointed.

When the trio almost reached the end of the valley, four others had also reached consecutively and they saw one another.

“Duan Ling Tian! Guo Li!” Four pairs of eyes landed on Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li in unison. Zhu Lang who was by their side was totally ignored.

“Duan Ling Tian, I didn’t expect you to be so lucky that you managed to reach this far... I thought you’d be eliminated halfway through,” Zheng Jian mocked with a fake smile.

“I’ve always been lucky. That’s nothing extraordinary.” Duan Ling Tian coolly glanced at Zheng Jian. “You, though, surprised me by coming this far.”

“Hmph!” Zheng Jian scoffed and looked towards Guo Li who was beside Duan Ling Tian. “Sister Guo, you should’ve cooperated with me... By cooperating with Duan Ling Tian along the way, you didn’t score many points, did you?”

As Zheng Jian spoke, he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a smirk.

Duan Ling Tian was silent even after hearing Zheng Jian’s words.

However, Zhu Lang who was beside Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li almost laughed out loud. Did not score many points by cooperating with Duan Ling Tian?

“Hahahaha...” Just as Guo Li’s face sank and wanted to say something, a burst of mad laughter burst from the depths of the valley, getting closer and closer to them.

Not long after, a figure appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian and the rest.

It was a middle-aged man dressed in a gray robe with several scars on his face which looked hideous.

“Since you’ve made it here, it must mean that all of you are pretty strong. It’s a pity that all of you have to die here today!” The person glanced back and forth between Duan Ling Tian and the rest indiscreetly.

Chapter 1402: Please Don’t Intervene

‘Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage!’ Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

After using the Divine Eye, he immediately identified the cultivation base of that hideous middle-aged man in gray in front of him.

His opponent was a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse!

“He’s the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.” While looking at the middle-aged man in gray, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes were laced with wariness.

“Do you have the strength to even want all of us to die here!?” Zheng Jian sneered.

At that moment, Zheng Jian’s attention was fixated on the gray-clad man. He totally did not notice that Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao’s faces had become serious as if they knew they faced a powerful enemy.

Even Sun Ge’s eagerness fizzled out after looking at both their expressions.

“I’ll let you see my strength now!” With a vicious smile, the man in gray disappeared from his spot like a gust of wind without any movement. When he reappeared, he was already in front of Zheng Jian.

“Lightning fast!” His speed was so quick that it everyone gaped incredulously.

A little whirlpool appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s left pupil after he utilized the Strange Pupil. He felt that he had depleted less than half of his spiritual energy to capture the moving figure of the middle-aged man in gray.

The amount of spiritual energy he consumed at that moment was almost comparable to the amount of spiritual energy he had consumed throughout the journey.

‘Is that the speed of a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage?’ Duan Ling Tian’s heart trembled.

In addition to opening up more Saint Veins and having a ridiculously large Qi Sea, the amount of True Energy contained by a person on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage was not comparable to someone on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, let alone someone on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

The True Energy in the body of a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivator which was exerted could reach an extremely terrifying stage regardless of its strength or speed.

Duan Ling Tian had discovered that during the battle between Ling Yun and Su Qi yesterday.

‘I’m afraid that the strength of this Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit would be above Ling Yun’s!’ Duan Ling Tian came up with a shocking conclusion after comparing the bandit and Ling Yun who ranked No. 1 among the Thirteen Gangsters.

Maybe it was difficult for his old self to differentiate that, but now, he had the Strange Pupil, so he could easily discover that after utilizing it.

Shua!

Zheng Jian’s face changed dramatically.

He never expected that the middle-aged man in gray would arrive in front of him the minute after he finished his sentence.

Then, he also looked terrified as he guessed his opponent’s cultivation base. “Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.”

Instantly, the True Energy on his feet surged as he planned to escape by exerting a movement technique.

However, he noticed his opponent’s hand hurtling towards him like a cattail leaf fan when he moved. It was so fast that he could not avoid it.

At that moment, Zheng Jian looked desperate.

Bang!!

A loud blast sounded along with vast airwaves which made everyone's robes flutter.

In the next moment, everyone saw it.

A silver figure appeared in front of Zheng Jian. It was a middle-aged man in silver armor who blocked the palm attack from the gray-clad man.

The 36 Guardians who were behind Zheng Jian had finally appeared at that crucial moment and saved his life.

The gray-clad man trembled and looked at the silver-armored man gloomily. "The 36 Guardians of the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City? Didn't your City Governor's Estate ask us to attack those that enter the valley? Why did you intervene?"

"You attacking them is your business. Protecting them is mine... Master City Governor said that if you can eliminate all of them, then you'll be allowed to live."

After coolly glancing at the gray-clad man, the silver-armored man looked towards Zheng Jian and announced, "You're eliminated."

Zheng Jian's expression was clouded, but he could not do anything else apart from turning around to leave with the middle-aged man in silver.

As he was leaving, he did not forget to turn his head around and glare at Duan Ling Tian fiercely.

"Treating me as a litmus test?" At that time, the gray-clad man finally came to his senses. The City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City had treated him as a litmus test.

"You guys are from the Latent Dragon Camp of the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City, aren't you?" After he regained his senses, he glanced at Duan Ling Tian and the others to ask in a deep voice.

"Hmph! I could guess that without an answer from you lot." After snorting, he continued saying, "Although I won't be able to kill all of you, none of you should hope to pass through this level. I will eliminate all of you!" As he spoke, strong self-confidence exuded from his eyes.

Having heard what the gray-clad man said, Jin Yuan Bao instantly changed his stance dramatically as he yelled out loudly, "Everyone, we must join hands now!"

Currently, regardless of Jin Yuan Bao, Xiong Hu, or Sun Ge, all of them had confirmed that the cultivation base of their threat was on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

Facing a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse, none of them would be able to match him.

They would only stand a chance if they joined hands.

"Join hands?" The man in gray could not help but smirk when he heard Jin Yuan Bao's words. Then, he disappeared before Xiong Hu, Jin Yuan Bao, Sun Ge, Guo Li, and Zhu Lang.

Duan Ling Tian utilized his Strange Pupil which enabled him to barely capture the gray-clad man's figure. In the blink of an eye, the man arrived in front of Jin Yuan Bao and used his palm.

Boom!

The True Energy on the Saint Weapon Gloves surged and transformed into a solid palm print which was about to land on Jin Yuan Bao.

Bang!

Another middle-aged man in silver appeared and blocked the palm attack from the man. It was one of the 36 Guardians.

The silver-clad man looked towards Jin Yuan Bao and announced coolly, "Eliminated."

Jin Yuan Bao looked feeble and there was a bitter smile on his face. His opponent was so fast that he could not have reacted at all.

Although he knew that the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse was strong, he did not expect him to be that powerful.

He arrived in front of him in the blink of an eye.

"Eliminated!"

"Eliminated!"

...

After Jin Yuan Bao was eliminated, several other neutral voices sounded as well. Zhu Lang, Guo Li, Sun Ge, and Xiong Hu were eliminated consecutively.

Among the four of them, only Xiong Hu managed to resist until a second motion was made.

Before Xiong Hu left, he was the last one to say, "That's fast!" He looked with a dignified expression towards the afterimage which moved along with an arrow that shot out. "Duan Ling Tian's speed is faster than mine."

The afterimage which moved along with the arrow was Duan Ling Tian.

Guo Li and Zhu Lang had left; none of them were worried about Duan Ling Tian's safety with the 36 Guardians there.

Naturally, they did not think that Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

"It seems that no one will be able to earn these 20 points." On a big tree beside them, a middle-aged man in silver stood and was shaking his head gently.

20 points were what one would obtain by killing a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was the only one left among the Latent Dragon Camp's Thirteen Gangsters. Even though he was quite strong and managed to defeat ordinary Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivators, that did not mean that he could compete with a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivator.

"His speed is even faster than Xiong Hu who ranks No. 2 among the Thirteen Gangsters. It's no wonder that Duan Ling Tian could last till now. However, his speed is nothing special before this Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage bandit." The silver-clad man who was one of the 36 Guardians continued shaking his head.

He was on guard, ready to save Duan Ling Tian at any time.

From Duan Ling Tian's current speed, he could see that Duan Ling Tian's strength was, at most, on the Peak Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage which was far from comparable to a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

"Purple boy, you're the only one left... I'll regain my freedom as long as you're eliminated." The Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit in gray looked towards Duan Ling Tian who was moving along with the arrow. His eyes were gleaming while his face was moody but laced with a tinge of excitement.

"Are you confident that you'll be able to regain your freedom?" Finally, Duan Ling Tian stopped his body and stood a distance away from the gray-clad man and confronted him from afar.

"I'll admit that you're faster than that built boy... However, your strength would, at most, be at the Peak Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage while I'm already almost at the Peak Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage. You're like an ant in front of me. I can do whatever I want with you," drawled the gray-clad man as he sized Duan Ling Tian up.

"Then, go ahead and try," Duan Ling Tian squinted and challenged faintly.

Now, he did not plan to continue exerting his movement technique because he knew that he still would not be able to catch up with the speed of the gray-clad man even after exerting it.

After all, his opponent was a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage being.

He had exerted the movement technique earlier because he did not want the man to aim for him too soon.

He was dragging time and let the man eliminate the others first.

Now that the others were eliminated, there was no need for him to continue exerting his movement technique.

'Where did Duan Ling Tian get such self-confidence?' The middle-aged man in silver who hid in the dark could not help but frown when he saw the sass in Duan Ling Tian's eyes.

"No matter what happens later, please don't intervene." At that time, a voice commanded in his ears.

He could hear that it was Duan Ling Tian communicating to him through True Energy Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian asked him not to intervene?

“Aren’t you afraid of dying?” The silver-clad middle-aged man frowned and asked through True Energy Voice Transmission.

“I won’t.” Duan Ling Tian sent a reply through True Energy Voice Transmission again, his tone filled with confidence — powerful self-confidence.

“Hmph!” At the same time, the gray-clad man, who was angered by Duan Ling Tian’s provocation, finally could not suppress it anymore and shot out like a bolt of lightning after a snort.

He was so fast that there was a short-lived sharp whistle in the air.

He headed straight for Duan Ling Tian.

Faced with the gray-clad man who was charging towards him at great momentum, Duan Ling Tian’s right eye could not capture the slightest twitch, but his opponent’s figure appeared clearly in his left eye.

In the blink of an eye, his left eye saw the man arrive in front of him.

Boom!

In that instance when the man arrived in front of him, the True Energy raging around the palm that he had long prepared suddenly pressed against Duan Ling Tian like the Five Fingers Mountain.

Seeing the gray-clad middle-aged man’s palm was only millimeters away from Duan Ling Tian, the face of the man in silver who was hiding in the dark sank. He had already missed the best opportunity to intervene.

‘Duan Ling Tian, you only have yourself to blame if you’re killed,’ he secretly thought.

Chapter 1403: Exposed

The gray-clad man’s palm seemed to have transformed into a Five Fingers Mountain to suppress Duan Ling Tian.

The strength of a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage being was completely revealed!

In order to regain his freedom, he had no reservations.

Seeing that the palm was about to fall on his body, the little whirlpool in Duan Ling Tian’s left pupil rapidly spun. It was getting faster and faster.

In an instant, the remaining spiritual energy Duan Ling Tian had was also exhausted by that little whirlpool.

Strange Pupil!

Spatial Manipulation!

In that split second, the gray-clad man’s palm which was almost on Duan Ling Tian swayed away strangely and grazed past Duan Ling Tian’s body.

Vast energy stirred the air and set off a series of thunderous air explosions.

“How’s that possible?!” Simultaneously, the gray-clad man’s expression changed dramatically.

However, at that second, he was dragged away by his full-forced attack and was completely exposed in front of Duan Ling Tian.

In a split second, the True Energy within Duan Ling Tian’s Qi Sea surged out unreservedly and instantly gathered on his right hand through the 32 Saint Veins.

At the same time, he fully drew the Sun Shooting Bow and then released the bowstring.

Qiang!

Weng!

A solid True Energy light blade flew out and slit across the gray-clad man’s throat and severed his head from his body before he even had time to recall his True Energy and utilize a defensive move.

Thump!

The man’s head fell to the ground while blood sprayed from his body and splattered on the ground.

Duan Ling Tian followed the momentum and shifted aside whilst the gray-clad man’s body was thrown forward by the inertia of his palm attack.

A Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit was slaughtered just like that.

Silence.

The scene was dead silent. One might even hear the sound of a needle being thrown to the ground.

“That... That...” The hidden man in silver, one of the 36 Guardians, stared at the scene before him woodenly. He took a while to recover from the shock.

When Duan Ling Tian had asked him not to intervene, he thought that he was being arrogant.

When he saw him almost being killed especially when he did not react in time because of Duan Ling Tian’s previous words, he thought that he would be killed by the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

Who would have thought that the bandit would suddenly turn his palm and hit Duan Ling Tian’s side as if he had been possessed at the very last minute?

At that moment, he also did not notice how did the bandit’s palm change its direction.

In his line of sight, the bandit’s hand seemed to disappear into thin air and materialize beside Duan Ling Tian simultaneously, seemingly avoiding his target.

He could not figure out what had gone wrong.

After that, he observed Duan Ling Tian decisively taking advantage of the split second to kill the bandit when the latter missed his shot and had not gotten the time to defend himself.

As a Peak Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage being, he clearly knew that the turning point of this battle was when the bandit missed his attack.

Accordingly, his palm would have been sufficient to kill Duan Ling Tian.

At that crucial moment, Duan Ling Tian strangely avoided it.

Duan Ling Tian only killed him because of that fluke.

“Unless... Duan Ling Tian knew that that would happen?” His heart skipped a beat when he thought of Duan Ling Tian’s Voice Transmission which asked him not to intervene. An unbelievable thought rose in his head. ‘That... Unless that was his plan all along!’

He did not dare to continue that trail of thoughts.

If it really was Duan Ling Tian’s plan, how terrifying was he?

In that instant, there was greed in the depths of the silver-clad man’s eyes.

‘If it really was Duan Ling Tian’s move... Does it mean that I’d be able to fight a Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse with my cultivation base of Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage if I obtain such powers?’

Thinking of that, he became very excited. ‘At that time, I, the Heavenly Dark Guardian wouldn’t be weaker than most of those who rank the top ten!’

The Heavenly Dark Guardian ranked No. 18 amongst the 36 Guardians of the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City. His cultivation base was at the Peak Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

“Hmm?” Duan Ling Tian, whose spiritual energy was almost exhausted, seemed pale. At the same time, he was more alert about his surroundings. He sensed a burning gaze on him.

Currently, he had completely depleted his spiritual energy and it had affected his strength to a certain extent. He might not even match an ordinary Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage martial cultivator now.

‘Is that one of the 36 Guardians?’ Duan Ling Tian started to be on guard.

Hu!

After the Heavenly Dark Guardian appeared, Duan Ling Tian became even warier when he saw the subtle glint of greed in the depths of his opponent’s eyes. ‘Greed? What does he want?’

‘Unless... Does he have an inkling of what went wrong earlier? Is he conspiring against me?’ Duan Ling Tian’s heart sank when he thought of that.

As the Heavenly Dark Guardian advanced quietly, Duan Ling Tian took a few steps backward.

“Eh?” At that moment, a soft noise sounded from the sky which caused the Heavenly Dark Guardian to slightly falter. It also stopped Duan Ling Tian from walking.

After looking upwards, Duan Ling Tian saw the Heavenly Leader Guardian who was standing in the air and he instantly sighed a breath of relief.

“Heavenly Leader Guardian!”

He knew that since the leader of the 36 Guardians, the Heavenly Leader Guardian was here, the silver-clad man in front of him certainly would not dare to act as he had before.

However, Duan Ling Tian knew that the Heavenly Leader Guardian only temporarily solved his crisis.

It was not so easily suppressed when the other party had greed on his mind.

“Eldest Brother!” The Heavenly Dark Guardian respectfully bowed to the Heavenly Leader Guardian.

“Heavenly Dark Guardian?” The Heavenly Leader Guardian stepped downward and instantly landed by the side of Duan Ling Tian and the Heavenly Dark Guardian. He looked towards the Heavenly Dark Guardian and asked with a frown, “Did you kill this Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit?”

“No.” The Heavenly Dark Guardian shook his head and then looked towards Duan Ling Tian and admitted, “He killed him.”

The Heavenly Dark Guardian!

Duan Ling Tian learned about the middle-aged man in silver’s name when the Heavenly Leader Guardian appeared and greeted him.

‘Heavenly Dark Guardian... They were named after the 36 Heavenly Stars. The Heavenly Dark Guardian seems to be ranked the eighteenth,’ Duan Ling Tian thought secretly.

“Duan Ling Tian?”

At the same time, through the heads-up from the Heavenly Dark Guardian, the Heavenly Leader Guardian looked towards Duan Ling Tian with a surprised expression. “You killed this Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Noticing the Heavenly Leader Guardian’s surprise, Duan Ling Tian added, “He had been battling with the others and used up a lot of his strength. I managed to kill him by sheer luck.”

Sheer luck?

After listening to Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Leader Guardian did not seem to believe him as he stared intently at Duan Ling Tian.

Moments later, the Heavenly Leader Guardian said, “The test has ended. You may leave now.”

“Ended? So quickly?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

“There was only one Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit hidden at the end of the valley. The rest of the bandits were all killed.”

The Heavenly Leader Guardian said, "Hence, there aren't any more bandits in the valley. There's no reason for you to stay here."

Duan Ling Tian understood now. When he left with the Heavenly Leader Guardian, he clearly felt the burning gaze of the Heavenly Dark Guardian, who was following behind them, landing on him from time to time.

'I think I should refrain from utilizing the Strange Pupil in front of the others if I can. Otherwise, it'll cause me trouble sooner or later.'" Duan Ling Tian's heart sank as he secretly vowed to himself.

He guessed that it was the last palm attack from the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit which was shifted that revealed the oddities and led to the Heavenly Dark Guardian's discovery.

The Heavenly Dark Guardian must have thought that he was using a special move and lusted for it.

'From now on, I've to be careful in the City Governor's Estate. The Heavenly Dark Guardian didn't get the opportunity to attack me today, but he'll surely find a chance in the future!' It was not hard for Duan Ling Tian to guess that.

Maybe the Heavenly Dark Guardian would not kill him at first, but he would surely ask him to hand over the Spatial Manipulation move.

Even though he knew that the Spatial Manipulation was an ability from the Strange Pupil which was inimitable, the Heavenly Dark Guardian did not know that!

'At that point, I'm afraid I'd have to worry for my life if I can't hand it over,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Under the guidance of the Heavenly Leader Guardian, Duan Ling Tian left the valley and rejoined the world outside the valley.

"Where's everyone?" When Duan Ling Tian rejoined the outside world, he realized that there was no one around. Everyone including the other 36 Guardians had left.

"The Master City Governor has brought them back to Mound Hill City," the Heavenly Leader Guardian said as if he saw through Duan Ling Tian's doubts.

"Now, you'll follow me back to Mound Hill City. I'll report the results of this test to the Master City Governor then." After he called out to Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Leader Guardian took the lead and stepped into the air as he headed back.

Duan Ling Tian followed him closely.

Behind Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Dark Guardian could control the air and he flew with them as well. Obviously, he was prepared to head back to the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City along with the Heavenly Leader Guardian and Duan Ling Tian.

At the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City, in the meeting chamber.

"Master City Governor!" Suddenly, a loud but respectful voice rang from outside and caught the attention of everyone who was in the meeting chamber.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City was seated on top of the meeting chamber in an imposing manner.

Beneath him, there were eleven young men and one young woman standing. It was the eleven of the Thirteen Gangsters who had just come back recently and an ordinary Latent Dragon Camp member, Zhu Lang.

“Come in!” The City Governor of Mound Hill City commanded faintly after hearing the voice from outside.

“Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian!” Many people greeted respectfully when they saw the figure who walked into the meeting chamber first.

Soon after that, they noticed a purple figure which was closely following behind the Heavenly Leader Guardian.

It was Duan Ling Tian who ranked No. 6 among the Latent Dragon Camp’s Thirteen Gangsters.

“Duan Ling Tian!” Smiles appeared on Guo Li and Zhu Lang’s faces when they saw him.

Naturally, some people were delighted about Duan Ling Tian’s appearance while some were upset. For instance, Zheng Jian, Hou Lin, and Zhang Ji Long were pissed off when they saw Duan Ling Tian since all three of them bore an indissoluble hatred against him.

“Master City Governor, the final results and placing of today’s test are out.” The Heavenly Leader Guardian walked into the meeting chamber and reported the results to the City Governor.

“Announce it.” In this rare instance, the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s eyes lit up.

Chapter 1404: 93 Points

“The person who ranks No.1 in the test today is Xiong Hu with 36 points while No. 2 is Jin Yuan Bao with 32 points,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian announced loudly in the assembly hall.

As soon as the Heavenly Leader Guardian was done speaking, everyone had their eyes trained on both Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao one after another.

“They live up to their name of being No. 2 and No. 3 in the Thirteen Gangsters when they scored first and second in the test today,” many of them exclaimed.

“The both of them will surely be Master City Governor’s disciples!” Envy rippled around the room.

Naturally, some of them were bitter and felt helpless.

Xiong Hu smiled joyfully.

Although Jin Yuan Bao did not show his pleasure as obviously as Xiong Hu did, a curve appeared at the edge of his lips. It showed how happy he was at the moment.

“From today onwards, Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao will be my disciples,” declared the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

However, he took a glance at Duan Ling Tian with disappointment in his eyes.

Since the City Governor of Mound Hill City had said since the beginning that he would only take the people who ranked first and second today as his disciples, the Heavenly Leader Guardian did not announce the ranking and results of the test.

As the City Governor of Mound Hill City spoke, people were looking at Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao with envy and jealousy.

“For the rest, I’ll send your point records to the Merit Pavilion. All of you can retrieve the Merit Points from the points that you’ve obtained today in three days,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian said while looking at Duan Ling Tian and the rest.

At that moment, everyone was exhilarated.

“One point would mean a hundred Merit Points... I have eight points, so I’ll be able to trade in 800 Merit Points! Hehe!” One of the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators among the Thirteen Gangsters snickered.

“I’ve slightly more points than you do. I’ll be able to trade in 900 Merit Points!” Another Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator tittered too.

“Heavenly Leader Guardian, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao will stay. The rest may return to the Latent Dragon Camp,” informed the City Governor of Mound Hill City calmly as his voice spread throughout the entire assembly hall.

Just when the people sighed while shaking their heads and were ready to leave, a person took a step forward and said to the Mound Hill City’s City Governor, “Master City Governor, Duan Ling Tian was the one who obtained all of the points that our team of three achieved.”

“Please give all of the points our team has achieved to Duan Ling Tian.” It was Guo Li who spoke to the City Governor of Mound Hill City while bowing.

To her, if Duan Ling Tian had not shared the points he obtained from killing the bandits with her and Zhu Lang, Xiong Hu would not rank the first in the test today.

“Guo Li.” Duan Ling Tian frowned, not expecting her to speak up for him.

“That’s right. Master City Governor, Duan Ling Tian was the one who obtained all of the points. I’m guilty of taking it.” Zhu Lang stepped forward while clenching his teeth.

Although he desired the Merit Points, he felt guilty seeing Duan Ling Tian being disqualified.

To him, Duan Ling Tian was the one who deserved to be the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s disciple in today’s test.

“Hmph! Master City Governor has set the rule since the beginning. Do all of you think we’re playing a game here? Do you think Master City Governor would believe that Duan Ling Tian was the one who obtained all of the points?” Zheng Jian mocked.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City who sat in front said nothing. Maybe he did not hear what Guo Li and Zhu Lang said, or maybe he did not want to be bothered with them at all.

“Let’s go.” Duan Ling Tian frowned and took the lead to leave the assembly hall after calling out to Guo Li and Zhu Lang.

He did not expect them to do that.

One must know that he had zero interest in being the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s disciple.

Seeing that the City Governor of Mound Hill City ignored them, Guo Li and Zhu Lang looked at each other and forced a smile. Subsequently, they left with Duan Ling Tian as that was the only thing they could do.

However, they were filled with regrets. They regretted participating in the test with Duan Ling Tian and being a burden to him.

Meanwhile, the rest left the assembly hall one after another.

“Guo Li thought she could make Duan Ling Tian the Master City Governor’s disciple just by saying that! Ridiculous!” Hou Lin smirked.

“It’s funny that they wanted to use the points they obtained to help Duan Ling Tian to win a spot,” Zhang Ji Long said disdainfully.

“Duan Ling Tian, I’m sorry... I’m sorry for burdening you,” Guo Li apologized to Duan Ling Tian on the way back to the Latent Dragon Camp.

“It’s me who should apologize. I can’t believe we didn’t manage to get second place with our points,” Duan Ling Tian sighed.

He had miscalculated something.

He did not expect the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit to be the last bandit.

He obtained a total of 93 points after they entered the valley and killed the bandits along the way, including the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit. After dividing the points into three, they obtained 31 points each.

On the other hand, Jin Yuan Bao who ranked No. 2 in Thirteen Gangsters obtained 32 points which was one point more than what they had each obtained.

“We’ve only obtained 73 points, so we get 24 points each when it’s divided into three. We’re quite a distance away from ranking second place.” Zhu Lang forced a smile.

Both he and Guo Li had no idea that Duan Ling Tian had killed the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not plan to explain that.

Zhu Lang and Guo Li would naturally find out about it when they traded their points for Merit Points in three days.

“I believe Master City Governor will find out that you obtained 73 points all by yourself sooner or later,” Guo Li said, “The two of the 36 Guardians who were protecting us secretly witnessed all of your moves along the way. They knew you were the one who obtained the 73 points all by yourself.”

“If Master City Governor knows about this, he’ll definitely make an exception to make you his disciple,” Guo Li thought at that moment.

She panicked when they were at the assembly hall, which was why she had spoken up to the City Governor of Mound Hill City hastily earlier.

Just like what Zheng Jian said, City Governor of Mound Hill City might not believe what she said.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City would only believe the 36 Guardians.

“That’s right.” Zhu Lang nodded, agreeing with what Guo Li said.

Duan Ling Tian shrugged and looked like he did not care.

If he felt sorry, he was not sorry that he did not manage to become the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s disciple. Instead, he was sorry that he could not return Guo Li the favor.

He had made up his mind.

If what Guo Li and Zhu Lang said came true whereby the City Governor of Mound Hill City could make an exception to make him his disciple, he would definitely grab the opportunity to return a favor to Guo Li.

Not long later, Duan Ling Tian and the other two of them returned to the Latent Dragon Camp and went back to their cottages respectively.

Soon after their return, Zheng Jian, Hou Lin, Zhang Ji Long and the rest returned one after another.

“Did Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao become Master City Governor’s disciples?” The other Latent Dragon Camp members were not surprised by the results.

Meanwhile in the assembly hall, Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao stood aside respectfully after going through the ceremony of knighting them as the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s disciples.

They did not dare to leave as long as their master did not ask them to.

“How many points did Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li’s team obtain?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City asked the Heavenly Leader Guardian while looking at him.

At that moment, Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao were looking at the Heavenly Leader Guardian too. There was curiosity deep in their eyes.

To them, Duan Ling Tian was undoubtedly a freak.

They were eager to know how many points the freak’s team had achieved.

“93 points,” Heavenly Leader Guardian said after his lips twitched a little as the three stared at him.

93 points?

As soon as the Heavenly Leader Guardian said that, Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao were dumbstruck. They only inhaled sharply in unison after a while, disbelief written on their faces.

“93 points? Are you sure you didn’t make a mistake?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City asked while frowning.

“No,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian said, “They initially obtained 73 points... However, since the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit died in Duan Ling Tian’s hands, they obtained 93 points eventually.”

“They obtained 31 points each on average.” The Heavenly Leader Guardian glanced at Jin Yuan Bao as he spoke. He seemed to be telling Jin Yuan Bao that he had been so close to losing his second place in the test today.

However, Jin Yuan Bao did not notice the Heavenly Leader Guardian’s glance because he was in shock.

“The Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit died in Duan Ling Tian’s hands?” At that very moment, no matter Jin Yuan Bao or Xiong Hu, the Heavenly Leader Guardian’s words echoed in their heads. They did not snap back to their senses for a long time.

“So, does that mean that what Guo Li said earlier was true?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City asked again.

At that moment, Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao who suppressed their stirred emotions temporarily glanced at the Heavenly Leader Guardian once again.

They remembered that Guo Li had said earlier that it was Duan Ling Tian alone who had obtained all of the points the team achieved.

It was nothing since they did not know the points the trio had achieved earlier. Now that they knew, their hearts jolted. ‘Duan Ling Tian obtained 93 points all by himself?’

They could only feel their hearts pumping faster as ever as if it would jump off their chests any second now.

“It’s true.” The Heavenly Leader Guardian nodded to confirm the fact.

He was shocked to find out about that in the beginning. However, he became numb when he found out that Duan Ling Tian had killed a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

Duan Ling Tian could not be predicted by logic.

That was how they perceived him.

“He obtained 93 points all by himself and killed a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit when his cultivation base’s on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City mumbled softly while his eyes were filled with burning desire.

Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao looked at each other. They saw the shock and disbelief in each other's eyes. Eventually, both of them had a bitter smile on their lips.

Soon, the City Governor of Mound Hill City said to Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao while looking at them, "The both of you may return... Get Duan Ling Tian to come to the assembly hall. Tell him I'm waiting for him."

"Yes," they replied respectfully and subsequently left the assembly hall. They hurried their way back to the Latent Dragon Camp.

Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao, who had become the limelight among most of the Latent Dragon Camp members, said to Duan Ling Tian when they returned to the camp, "Duan Ling Tian, Master's asking you to see him at the assembly hall." They spoke to him through True Energy Voice Transmission in cottage No. 6 that he was staying in.

Chapter 1405: Out of Debt, Out of Danger

There were voices coming from outside just when Duan Ling Tian was ready to enter the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

He could tell the voices belonged to Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao.

The 'master' they mentioned was undoubtedly the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

"So soon?" Duan Ling Tian was a little surprised.

He knew why the City Governor of Mound Hill City was looking for him without even having to guess.

Just like what Guo Li said, the City Governor of Mound Hill City would make an exception to for Duan Ling Tian to become his disciple as soon as he found out about the results he obtained in the valley. After all, he outperformed Xiong Hu.

Apart from that, there was something that Guo Li did not know: the fact that he had killed the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit.

Despite being on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage, he had killed a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator. His talent and abilities were valued by the City Governor of Mound Hill City like never before.

As he walked out of the cottage, Duan Ling Tian happened to see Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao returning to their cottages respectively.

"Duan Ling Tian, you're such a freak!" Jin Yuan Bao's voice rang in his ears just in time through True Energy Voice Transmission.

Although Xiong Hu did not say anything, the way he looked at Duan Ling Tian was gravely serious.

Duan Ling Tian flew down from the high platform as he was about to leave the Latent Dragon Camp.

Just when he was walking out of the entrance of the camp, a spectral silhouette appeared before him and blocked his way.

‘That was fast!’ Duan Ling Tian was shocked to see one of the 36 Guardians, the Heavenly Harm Guardian, appear before him. ‘This doesn’t look like the speed of a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator!’

Duan Ling Tian activated his Divine Eye out of curiosity.

He found out about the Heavenly Harm Guardian’s cultivation base in the blink of an eye.

‘Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage?’ Duan Ling Tian was surprised. He did not know that Heavenly Harm Guardian had broken through as well.

He had used the Divine Eye to check on the Heavenly Harm Guardian when they first met during his arrival at the Latent Dragon Camp.

Back then, the Heavenly Harm Guardian was merely on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

It was easy come, easy go for the Heavenly Harm Guardian.

He left when Duan Ling Tian snapped back to his senses.

The bunch of the Latent Dragon Camp members, who were excited to watch what was going to happen, was gravely disappointed.

“What happened?”

“Wasn’t Master Heavenly Harm Guardian just about to stop Duan Ling Tian from leaving? Why isn’t he stopping him now?”

...

Duan Ling Tian was the only one who figured that it must have been Xiong Hu or Jin Yuan Bao who had told the Heavenly Harm Guardian about his reason for leaving the camp. How else would the Heavenly Harm Guardian have dared to stop him from seeing the City Governor of Mound Hill City?

As he arrived at the assembly hall after leaving the Latent Dragon Camp, Duan Ling Tian knew that his speculation was right.

“Duan Ling Tian, I’d like to take you as my disciple. Are you willing to accept my request?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City squinted as he asked Duan Ling Tian directly.

“Master City Governor, what benefit is there for me if I agree to be your disciple?” Hearing the City Governor’s request, Duan Ling Tian asked straightforwardly too.

The Heavenly Leader Guardian’s expression changed upon hearing Duan Ling Tian and shouted, “Duan Ling Tian, don’t you dare abuse what you’re given! You must feel grateful that you’ve collected enough good karma for Master City Governor to take you as his disciple.”

He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be so daring. In fact, he was so bold that he was even bargaining with the City Governor.

Duan Ling Tian ignored the Heavenly Leader Guardian and proceeded to look at the City Governor of Mound Hill City calmly. He seemed to be waiting for him to respond.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City was stunned for a second before asking while feeling amused, "What kind of benefits do you have in mind?"

"Master City Governor's really outright straightforward!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up. "I don't want much... I only hope that Master City Governor will accept my one request."

"Do tell," the City Governor of Mound Hill City said.

"Master City Governor, I hope you could protect Guo Li so that she won't be sacrificed in the clans' feud back in Fuyu Town," Duan Ling Tian said in all seriousness.

Duan Ling Tian conveyed his one and only request to the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

"Fuyu Town?" The City Governor of Mound Hill City frowned. "Is Guo Li from Fuyu Town?"

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. "Guo Li's from the Guo Clan of Fuyu Town. She's also the No. 1 powerhouse among the younger generation in Fuyu Town! The two other clans who treat her clan as their enemy want her dead."

"What's your relationship with her that you're willing to do this for her?" The City Governor of Mound Hill City asked while his eyes mocked him.

"She's my friend... I'm helping her for nothing more than returning a favor," Duan Ling Tian said.

"Are the both of you just normal friends?" The City Governor of Mound Hill City proceeded to tease.

"Really." Duan Ling Tian nodded calmly. There was no change of emotion in his heart at all.

Whatever he said was the truth. He did not harbor any feelings for Guo Li.

"Heavenly Leader Guardian, send my orders to Fuyu Town right away. If anything were to happen to Guo Li, my City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City will destroy both the clans who go against the Guo Clan," dictated the City Governor of Mound Hill City while looking at the Heavenly Leader Guardian.

"Yes, Sir." The Heavenly Leader Guardian left the assembly hall right after hearing that. It was clear that he was on his way to send the City Governor of Mound Hill City's order out.

At that moment, Duan Ling Tian and the City Governor of Mound Hill City were the only two people left in the huge assembly hall.

"It's my pleasure being your disciple, teacher." Duan Ling Tian bowed to the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

"Teacher?" The City Governor of Mound Hill City frowned. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to call him "teacher".

Although “teacher” and “master” were similar, there was a vast difference between the two. Compared to being a master, being addressed as a teacher was undoubtedly much more casual.

Usually, there was only one master. A person would need to get the approval from their first master if they wanted to make another person their second master. Otherwise, it would be disrespectful.

However, it was a different case for a teacher.

It was not as strict for a teacher compared to a master.

A senior who could teach and lecture would be called a teacher.

“Do you already have a master?” The City Governor of Mound Hill City’s face relaxed from frowning as he asked a while later.

“No.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“Then, why don’t you call me ‘master’? Why did you call me ‘teacher’ instead?” The City Governor sounded strict and there was disdain in his tone as he spoke.

“An educator is one who passes on knowledge and solves the confusion of a student. To me, a master’s like the light at night guiding me forward while a teacher is someone who helps me as I grow,” Duan Ling Tian explained honestly.

Therefore, to him, even though he became the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s disciple, the City Governor was only his teacher but not his master.

Calling the City Governor of Mound Hill City was too serious to him.

“It seems like you’re saying I’m not worthy of teaching you, eh?” A cold gleam was sparkling in the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s eyes and his voice became dangerously deeper.

“If you become the light that guides my way, teacher, then, I’ll naturally call you my master. But for now, you’re just a teacher to me.” Duan Ling Tian remained calm as ever facing Mound Hill City’s City Governor who looked thunderous.

“Hmph! You may leave now!” The City Governor of Mound Hill City scoffed angrily.

“Sure.” Duan Ling Tian did not say much as he retreated and left the assembly hall.

Seeing Duan Ling Tian leave and eventually disappear before his eyes, the murkiness on the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s face was no longer there. It was replaced by an amused smile instead.

“What an interesting little fella.”

“He killed a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator when his cultivation base’s only on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage... It seems like this little fella is hiding a big secret,” mumbled the City Governor of Mound Hill City to himself.

“Guo Li’s matter is finally solved.” Duan Ling Tian was beaming on the way back to the Latent Dragon Camp. He could finally return the favor he owed Guo Li.

Out of debt, out of danger.

Duan Ling Tian felt as light as a swallow at the moment.

'I'll drop by the Merit Pavilion three days later,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself after returning to the Latent Dragon Camp.

Three days later, he would be able to trade the points he had obtained from the test today into Merit Points. Then, he could use the Merit Points to exchange something that he wanted from the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.

He might even find something that he desired.

As Duan Ling Tian entered the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to continue his cultivation, an order was sent far away from the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.

It went all the way to Fuyu Town.

Fuyu Town was also called Fuyu Island. It was an island located not far away from Dao Martial Saint Land.

Fuyu Town was heaved in chaos today.

The chaos spiraled from a messenger sent by the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City to pass on the order from the City Governor.

"The Guo Clan's disciple, Guo Li, is a member of the Latent Dragon Camp in the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City. If anything were to happen to Guo Li, the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City will destroy both the clans who are against the Guo Clan."

Those were the exact words coming from the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

The entire Guo Clan was exhilarated when they heard the order. All of their emotions were stirred.

The most outstanding disciple of their Guo Clan was now protected by the City Governor of Mound Hill City!

As opposed to the emotional Guo Clan members, the other two clans were solemn as if they just had a funeral.

"The City Governor of Mound Hill City's protecting Guo Li?" They could not understand why would the City Governor do so.

"Find out why! Send someone to find out about it!"

"We must find out why the City Governor of Mound Hill City is protecting Guo Li... At the same time, stop all of the stakeouts in Mound Hill City. We can't do anything to Guo Li any longer."

...

Orders were issued from the two clans while the clan members headed towards Dao Martial Saint Land.

At the same time, the people from the Guo Clan left Fuyu Island as well. They wanted to know what exactly happened.

Guo Li only found out about it three days later.

“Master City Governor has ordered to protect me?” Guo Li was shocked to find out about it at the beginning.

However, she snapped back to her senses very soon. She knew it had to be related to Duan Ling Tian.

“Duan Ling Tian, it’s you... Am I right?” Seeing Duan Ling Tian stroll out of cottage No. 6 slowly, Guo Li could not help but ask for confirmation.

“Hmm?” Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel surprised to see Guo Li staring at him emotionally.

He had just gotten out of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. While still in a daze, he had no idea what Guo Li was talking about.

He only came to a realization when Guo Li proceeded to speak.

Chapter 1406: Merit Pavilion

“Hmm.” Duan Ling Tian nodded in respond to Guo Li’s question about the City Governor of Mound Hill City’s order to protect her.

“Thank you,” Guo Li thanked him sincerely. She felt touched.

“You’re leaving the cottage... Are you going to the Merit Pavilion too?” Duan Ling Tian asked, changing the subject.

“Hmm.” Guo Li nodded.

“I’ve already used up the days to leave the camp once every three months... I wonder if I can still leave the camp.” Duan Ling Tian suddenly remembered this matter.

“I heard it won’t be considered as leaving the camp if you’re just trading your points at the Merit Pavilion as long as you register with the Overseer first,” Guo Li said.

“Then it shouldn’t be a problem.” Duan Ling Tian smiled and subsequently walked into the pavilion at the side of the high platform with Guo Li.

After registering with the Heavenly Harm Guardian, the duo left the Latent Dragon Camp and headed to the Merit Pavilion.

The Merit Pavilion in the City Governor’s Estate was an individual four-level pavilion.

The pavilion had a plain but quaint appearance.

When they entered the first level of the pavilion, Duan Ling Tian saw a familiar silhouette who had just come out of the pavilion and walking in their direction. “Jin Yuan Bao?”

“Senior Brother Duan.” When Jin Yuan Bao saw Duan Ling Tian, a charming smile appeared on his face.

Senior Brother?

Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li were stunned when they heard the way Jin Yuan Bao addressed him.

"I'm two years younger than you, and I'm not as powerful as you. It only makes sense that I address you as Senior Brother," Jin Yuan Bao said with a smile.

Duan Ling Tian finally recalled Jin Yuan Bao, similarly, was also a disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

"Junior Brother Jin." Duan Ling Tian smiled as well.

"Senior Brother Duan, I've already exchanged for the thing I wanted from here... I'll make a move first." Jin Yuan Bao left the Merit Pavilion after informing Duan Ling Tian and nodding at Guo Li.

"Duan Ling Tian, did I hear it correctly? Did Jin Yuan Bao call you Senior Brother? And he said he's less powerful than you?" Guo Li was shocked as she looked at Duan Ling Tian. "Did you fight him?"

She knew Duan Ling Tian had become the disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City and had asked the City Governor to protect her as a favor. Although she knew Duan Ling Tian had become the disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City, she did not expect Jin Yuan Bao to address him as Senior Brother.

"No." Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

"No? Then..." Guo Li wanted to ask further, but Duan Ling Tian interrupted her, "You'll find out soon enough."

Guo Li was confused, but she did not continue questioning him.

"31 points? Is there a mistake?" Guo Li looked at the staff at the first level counter in Merit Pavilion in shock.

"No." The staff shook his head. "The three-man team you were in obtained a total of 93 points during the test three days ago... You're part of the team so naturally, you obtained 31 points."

"You can trade your 31 points for 3,100 Merit Points. Would you like to do that?" The staff asked.

"Wait..." Guo Li shook her head. She could not make sense of what was happening. "I remember the three of us obtained a total of 73 points... How come it's 93 points now? Where did the extra 20 points come from?"

Guo Li had an epiphany as she looked at Duan Ling Tian who was standing next to her. It was as though she had just seen a ghost. "Duan... Duan Ling Tian, did... did you kill that Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit?"

Killing a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage bandit would allow them to obtain 20 points.

Guo Li began to hyperventilate as she spoke. She stared at Duan Ling Tian unblinkingly. She did not want to miss the expression on Duan Ling Tian's face.

She confirmed her speculation when she saw Duan Ling Tian nodding.

“Duan Ling Tian, you...” Guo Li felt speechless and amazed as she forced a smile on her face.

She finally understood why Jin Yuan Bao had addressed Duan Ling Tian as Senior Brother.

“Let’s trade for some Merit Points,” Duan Ling Tian said with a small smile.

“Hmm.” Guo Li regained her senses when Duan Ling Tian spoke and traded her 31 points for 3,100 Merit Points.

It was Duan Ling Tian’s turn to trade after Guo Li was done with her turn.

“The Merit Points are in here?” Duan Ling Tian looked at the Crystal Card in his hand, surprised.

The number ‘3,100’ floated out whenever he exerted his True Energy into the Crystal Card. That was the number of Merit Points he had in the card.

“There’s a Saint Inscription inscribed on the Crystal Card,” Guo Li explained to Duan Ling Tian. She did not seem surprised.

“Saint Inscription? That means this is the work of a Saint Inscription Master?” Duan Ling Tian was even more surprised now.

Based on what he knew, there was no Saint Inscription Master in Mound Hill City.

Guo Li smiled as she responded, “Duan Ling Tian, this Crystal Card isn’t produced from the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City.”

“It isn’t produced from the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City? What do you mean?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

“This Crystal Card comes from the seventh-rate force above Mound Hill City. The Merit Points come from that seventh-rate force as well,” Guo Li explained, “That seventh-rate force is a powerful sect... Excluding the Mound Hill City, there are another 17 cities in the area that are ruled by the sect.”

“Similar to the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, the City Governor’s Estates of the 17 cities are eighth-rate forces as well, and they also own an eighth-grade Saint Stones reserve,” Guo Li said, “The 18 cities will have to present a large number of seventh-grade Saint Stones and recommend young geniuses to the seventh-rate sect every three years.”

“The seventh-rate sect will give out Merit Points to each city according to the number of seventh-grade Saint Stones they submitted and the quality of young geniuses they recommended.”

“I heard the City Governor’s Estate of each city can use the Merit Points to borrow Human Rank Primitive Saint Grade Martial Tactics or exchange for Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapons and high-grade Saint Grade Pills,” Guo Li said in one breath.

‘A seventh-rate sect controls 18 cities, including Mound Hill City?’

'A seventh-rate sect that owns Human Rank Primitive Saint Grade Martial Tactics, Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapons, and high-grade Saint Grade Pills?' Duan Ling Tian was shocked as he processed Guo Li's words.

"Duan Ling Tian. Based on your talent, the City Governor of Mound Hill City will definitely recommend you to the seventh-rate sect... I'm afraid I, on the other hand, will never have a chance like that," Guo Li said, mocking herself.

'Getting recommended to the seventh-rate sect?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up. He had an eager expression on his face.

Since he had arrived at the Dao Martial Saint Land, he had been rising up. The higher he was, the faster he would be able to find his parents.

Moreover, if he wanted to return to earth, Elder Huo had said he needed to level up and stand at the peak of this planet.

The City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City was just a stepping stone for him.

'Man struggles upward as water flows downward'. This was a theory that would never change.

"Let's go to the second level and see what we can exchange with our Merit Points," Duan Ling Tian said, changing the subject when he noticed Guo Li seemed to be a little upset.

The first level of the Merit Pavilion in the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City was where they received their Merit Points... Meanwhile, the second, third, and fourth levels were the place they exchanged for items with their Merit Points.

When they arrived at the second level, Duan Ling Tian discovered they could borrow Saint Grade Martial Tactics and Saint Grade Dao Tactics here.

"So many saint tokens?" Guo Li exclaimed after she walked around the second level.

There were at least a hundred saint tokens containing Saint Grade Martial Tactics and Saint Grade Dao Tactics on the second level of the Merit Pavilion... Although the Guo Clan where Guo Li came from was a ninth-rate force, they only possessed a few saint tokens.

Furthermore, those were just saint tokens with Human Rank Prominent Saint Grade Martial Tactics and Saint Grade Dao Tactics.

'90% of these saint tokens contain Human Rank Prominent Saint Grade Martial Tactics and Saint Grade Dao Tactics... The remaining 10% have Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactics and Saint Grade Dao Tactics.' Duan Ling Tian discovered this fact after walking around the second level with Guo Li.

An old man patrolled the second level of the Merit Pavilion. He did not say a word from the beginning until the end.

Duan Ling Tian was certain the old man was the powerhouse guarding the second level of the Merit Pavilion.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian discovered the old man's cultivation base was at the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage when he activated the Divine Eye!

Apart from the old man, there were young men in silver armors standing at the four corners of the second level of the Merit Pavilion. They looked imperturbable. Their eyes were focused and did not wander around.

'Four of them are at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage,' Duan Ling Tian figured out their identities when he saw their silver armors. They were members of City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City's 36 Guardians.

"Senior, how do I borrow Saint Grade Martial Tactics from the Merit Pavilion's second level with Merit Points?" Guo Li asked when the old man was near her and Duan Ling Tian.

"You'll be able to read a Human Rank Prominent Saint Grade Martial Tactic once with 100 Merit Points and Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic with 1,000 Merit Points. You're not allowed to bring the saint token out of the Merit Pavilion," the old man said calmly.

"1,000 Merit Points just to read it once?" Guo Li exclaimed in shock when she heard his words.

One had to read the saint tokens five times in order to memorize the Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

One would only be able to read the content of the technique's first stage of cultivation that was also the Fundamental Awareness Stage on their first read.

They would have to cultivate the technique to the Fundamental Awareness Stage before they could read the content for the second stage that was also the Elementary Stage...

Therefore, one would need to read it at least five times before one could completely master the Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

It was only natural that Guo Li was shocked since it would take 5,000 Merit points to master a Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

Duan Ling Tian, on the other hand, was smiling.

'1,000 Merit Points to read it once?'

One must know that he was different from the usual Martial Cultivators.

Ordinary Martial Cultivators would have to read the Saint Grade Martial Tactic five times at least to obtain all the contents in the saint token.

However, his extraordinary Spiritual Energy allowed him to completely memorize the Saint Grade Martial Tactic in the saint token after only reading it once.

Chapter 1407: Saint Grade Pill

'Silver Shirt!' Without any hesitation, Duan Ling Tian immediately walked toward the few saint tokens that contained Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactics.

His target was a Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic that contained the Silver Shirt.

Silver Shirt was a Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic defensive technique. It was also the upgraded version of the defensive technique, Copper Shirt, that he was cultivating.

Lin Qing Rong was the one who told him about this.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian found the Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic that contained the Silver Shirt.

"Senior." Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man who was nearby as he held the saint token in his hand.

Whoosh!

The old man disappeared from his spot and re-appeared before Duan Ling Tian with a Crystal Card in his hand. Duan Ling Tian took out his card as well.

When he was on the Merit Pavilion's first level, Duan Ling Tian had witnessed the staff transferring 3,100 Merit Points into his Crystal Card.

Therefore, he mimicked the staff and placed his Crystal Card on top of the old man's card.

However, he had no idea what he should do next. At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt a little embarrassed.

"Exert your Spiritual Energy and think of transferring 1,000 Merit Points to me," the old man reminded Duan Ling Tian when he noticed his embarrassment.

Hearing that, Duan Ling Tian immediately exerted his Spiritual Energy into the Crystal Card in his hand and focused his mind on transferring 1,000 Merit Points from his Crystal Card to the old man's card.

All of a sudden, his Crystal Card flashed and a streak of light shot into the old man's Crystal Card.

When Duan Ling Tian exerted his True Energy into the Crystal Card, he could clearly see that he was only left with 2,100 Merit Points.

'That simple?' Duan Ling Tian was surprised. He did not expect transferring Merit Points from one Crystal Card to another was so easy.

"You can read the saint token you have with you now," the old man said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded and subsequently exerted his Spiritual Energy into the saint token in his hand.

At this moment, the information in the saint token rushed into Duan Ling Tian's head. It was so deeply entrenched in his mind that it would be difficult for him to get rid of it.

However, among the sea of information, only the Silver Shirt's information was useful to Duan Ling Tian. The others were useless to him.

To avoid the old man's suspicion, Duan Ling Tian did not put down the saint token immediately when he was finished with it.

Ordinary Martial Cultivators would need at least fifteen minutes to memorize all the techniques at the Fundamental Awareness Stage in the Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

Guo Li was occupied with picking a saint token that contained a Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic and transferring 1,000 Merit Points to the old man while Duan Ling Tian pretended to be absorbed with the saint token he held in his hand.

Subsequently, she began to study the content of the Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic in the saint token.

After approximately 15 minutes had passed, Duan Ling Tian quietly put the saint token in his hand back to where it was.

Guo Li also woke up after a while.

She had memorized the technique up to the Fundamental Awareness Stage in the Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

She would not be able to look at the content after this so she returned the saint token.

After both of them returned the saint tokens, they made their way up to the third level of the Merit Pavilion.

They could exchange their Merit Points for Saint Weapons at the third level of the Merit Pavilion.

To their surprise, 90% of the Saint Weapons available on the third level of the Merit Pavilion were Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapons. They all sparkled dazzlingly.

"Senior, may I ask how many Merit Points do we need to exchange for a Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon?" Guo Li asked as she looked at the old man patrolling the third level of the Merit Pavilion.

"2,000 Merit Points," the old man said calmly.

"2,000 Merit Points?" Guo Li's eyes widened. "So expensive?"

However, the old man did not respond to her. He had assumed she could not afford the items.

Although Guo Li thought it was expensive, she eventually picked a Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon and exchanged for it with her Merit Points... Currently, the Crystal Card in her hands was only left with 100 Merit Points.

"Everything's back to square one." Duan Ling Tian shook his head as he looked at the number shown on Guo Li's Crystal Card.

Guo Li who was upset with the number of Merit Points she had left regained her senses when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. She asked, "Duan Ling Tian, what did you say? Everything's back to square one? What does that mean?"

It was a saying back in Hua, or earth, where Duan Ling Tian was from in his past life. It was only natural Guo Li did not know what it meant.

"It means starting over again," Duan Ling Tian said.

Guo Li finally understood him after he explained it.

Although she felt pain from losing her Merit Points, she was smiling when she looked at the Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon in her hands. The weapon she was holding was a whip. It was similar to the weapon she had.

She decided on this Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon because it was practical.

"Duan Ling Tian, you're not exchanging for any weapons?" Guo Li could not help but ask when she saw Duan Ling Tian did not look at or select any Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapons.

"Let's go to the fourth level," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"Duan Ling Tian, I saw a bow over there earlier. It's a Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon bow... You really don't want to get that?" Guo Li asked again to be certain.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

What a joke!

The Sun Shooting Bow he possessed was a lot more superior than the Human Rank Primitive Saint Weapon. It was unnecessary for him to waste his Merit Points to exchange for an inferior weapon.

Since he did not plan to exchange anything, Duan Ling Tian took the lead to leave the third level and head straight to the fourth level of the Merit Pavilion.

Guo Li followed close behind him.

The second level of the Merit Pavilion was where they borrowed Saint Grace Martial Tactics with their Merit Points.

The third level was where they exchanged for Saint Weapons with their Merit Points.

Meanwhile, the fourth level was where they exchanged for Saint Grade Pills with their Merit Points, just like Duan Ling Tian had speculated.

'One Star Saint Grade Pills? Two Star Saint Grade Pills?' Duan Ling Tian learned about Saint Grade Pills when he arrived at the fourth level of the Merit Pavilion. He learned that Saint Grade Pills had nine grades, starting from one star and ending at nine stars.

Naturally, one star was the lowest, and nine star was the highest.

They could exchange for One Star Saint Grade Pills and Two Star Saint Grade Pills on the fourth level of the Merit Pavilion.

"It's really more powerful than Royal Grade medicinal pills."

It was not difficult for him to see that the One Star Saint Grade Pill's medicinal efficacy was far better than the Royal Grade medicinal pills when he used his Spiritual Energy.

Naturally, they were not called Royal Grade medicinal pills at the Dao Martial Saint Land. The same medicinal pills were called Innate Medicinal Pill at the Dao Martial Saint Land.

'20 Merit Points for a One Star Saint Grade Pill, and 100 Merit Points for a Two Star Saint Grade Pill... Such an astronomical figure!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, his lips slightly twitching.

No matter if it were the One Star Saint Grade Pills or Two Star Saint Grade Pills, they had Healing Medicinal Pills and Sensory Pills that could elevate one's sensitivity toward Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy within a short period of time.

The former was for healing while the latter was to assist in one's cultivation.

"11 Two Star Healing Medicinal Pills and ten Two Star Sensory Pills," Duan Ling Tian said to the other old man patrolling the fourth level of the Merit Pavilion.

When he had just arrived on the fourth level, he had used Divine Eye to check on the old man. He discovered he was at the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage similar to the old men on the previous two levels.

Duan Ling Tian picked Two Star Saint Grade Pills that cost 100 Merit Points each.

21 pills amounted to 2,100 Merit Points.

Duan Ling Tian transferred all of the Merit Points he had left in his Crystal Card into the old man's card and successfully obtain the Saint Grade Pills he desired.

'Two Star Saint Grade Pills... That's two grades higher than Royal Grade medicinal pills... I wonder how's the medicinal efficacy like.' Duan Ling Tian put the 21 medicinal pills away, he could not wait to test them out.

The only thing he wanted to do now was to return so he could test the Two Star Saint Grade Pills' medicinal efficacy.

Guo Li's lips subtly twitched when she saw him spending so extravagantly.

Meanwhile, she had used her remaining 100 Merit Points to exchange for five One Star Saint Grade Pills.

She obtained three One Star Healing Medicinal Pills and two One Star Sensory Pills.

Since they had completed their objectives here, they prepared to leave.

They began to make their descent from the fourth level, but they stopped when they were on the stairs of the third level of the Merit Pavilion. This was because they encountered someone they knew.

"Sister Guo, congratulations... It's a surprise that you gained Master City Governor's protection." The person they bumped into was Zheng Jian who was ranked No.5 in the Thirteen Gangsters.

He congratulated Guo Li with a smile on his face. However, Guo Li ignored him.

Her behavior caused the smile on Zheng Jian's face to freeze.

As the smile on Zheng Jian's face faded completely, he shifted his eyes from Guo Li to Duan Ling Tian. His eyes were filled with killing intent. It seemed like he could not wait to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian, on the other hand, was fearless as he locked eyes with Zheng Jian.

"Duan Ling Tian, if you're a man... Challenge me when you return to the Latent Dragon Camp and take cottage no.5!" Zheng Jian glared coldly at Duan Ling Tian. His voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears through True Energy Voice Transmission, provoking him.

Judging by Zheng Jian's words, it was obvious he was unaware that the City Governor of Mound Hill City had made an exception and accepted Duan Ling Tian as his pupil.

Zheng Jian did not step out of his cottage since he returned to the Latent Dragon Camp three days ago. He only left the Latent Dragon Camp today with the purpose of coming to the Merit Pavilion.

During his journey here, he heard about the City Governor of Mound Hill City's order to protect Guo Li.

However, the news of Duan Ling Tian becoming the disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City had yet to spread out. This was why he was unaware of it. Otherwise, he definitely would not have the guts to provoke Duan Ling Tian.

"I'll be waiting for you at the Latent Dragon Camp." Duan Ling Tian's expression remained the same, but there was a raging fire in the depth of his eyes that revealed his current emotion.

'Even the nicest person has his or her limits!'

This Zheng Jian had been provoking him over and over again. Did Zheng Jian really think he could treat him like a rotten persimmon that he could do whatever he wanted to?

"I hope you remember your words... Don't you hide in your cottage when I return." Zheng Jian smiled slyly when he thought of his plan coming to fruition.

Chapter 1408: Hu Jie's Death

Duan Ling Tian stared at Zheng Jian before he left the Merit Pavilion.

Meanwhile, Guo Li turned back to look at Zheng Jian's back. There was a hint of sympathy in her eyes.

Even Jin Yuan Bao who was ranked no.3 in the Thirteen Gangsters addressed Duan Ling Tian as Senior Brother. However, Zheng Jian dared to provoke him?

She admired Zheng Jian's courage. Naturally, she did not advise Zheng Jian since she did not like him at all.

After leaving the Merit Pavilion, Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li returned to the Latent Dragon Camp. However, they were not in a rush to return to their cottage. Instead, they stood in front of the cottages. It seemed like they were waiting for something. Naturally, their actions caught many people's attention.

"What are Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li doing?"

"I've no idea."

“They should’ve just returned from the Merit Pavilion... I’m sure they exchanged many items. Shouldn’t they be studying the items obtained?”

...

The Latent Dragon Camp’s members staying in the dilapidated cottage were confused.

They only regained their senses when they heard a voice coming from the camp’s entrance fifteen minutes later.

“Duan Ling Tian, you kept your promise!” Zheng Jian smirked as he walked into the Latent Dragon Camp. Subsequently, he hopped onto the high platform and stood across Duan Ling Tian as they locked eyes.

Battle intent rose slowly from his body. Intention to fight was rising on his body.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not intend to respond to him. He only looked at him calmly.

Meanwhile, Guo Li stood at the side as she calmly watched both of them staring at each other.

“I was wondering who Duan Ling Tian was waiting for. As it turns out, he was waiting for Zheng Jian... When did both of them get into a conflict?”

A lot of people were surprised. However, there were more people who were excited. They were waiting to watch a good show.

“Duan Ling Tian, soon you’ll see that your insignificant ability is nothing in my, Zheng Jian, eyes! Don’t you dare think that you can look down on everyone at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage just because you defeated a few fellows who had just broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.” Zheng Jian’s face turned completely solemn when he saw Duan Ling Tian ignoring him.

“I’m not sure about other people at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage but you, Zheng Jian, is someone I really look down on,” Duan Ling Tian finally said. His tone was calm as though he was talking about something trivial.

An uproar broke out among the crowd as soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking.

Apart from Guo Li who knew Duan Ling Tian was stating the truth, everyone else thought he had gone insane.

“Has Duan Ling Tian gone insane?”

“Zheng Jian has broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage quite a while ago. Hou Lin and Zhang Ji Long who have just broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage can’t compare to him at all... He’s making the biggest mistake in his life if he thinks Zheng Jian’s as easy to defeat as Hou Lin and Zhang Ji Long!”

“I would love to see him embarrass himself.”

The Latent Dragon Camp’s members at the dilapidated cottages discussed among themselves. More than 90% of them bet Duan Ling Tian would lose.

“Zhu Lang, I know you’re quite close with Duan Ling Tian... However, he’ll definitely have bad luck for picking a fight with my cousin, Zheng Jian. I suggest you return to your cottage so that you won’t be upset when he gets hurt,” Hu Jie mocked as he arrived at Zhu Lang’s dilapidated cottage.

“The victory isn’t certain yet.” Zhu Lang smirked.

He knew Duan Ling Tian’s strength very well.

Other factors aside, if he and Guo Li were not a burden to Duan Ling Tian in the test the City Governor had prepared for them three days ago, Duan Ling Tian would have definitely ranked no.1. This was why he was so confident. He believed Zheng Jian was no match for Duan Ling Tian.

“What? Don’t tell me you think Duan Ling Tian can defeat my cousin Zheng Jian?” Hu Jie smiled mockingly.

...

“I’m not sure about other people at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage... But you, Zheng Jian, is someone I really look down on.” On the high platform, Duan Ling Tian’s words echoed in Zheng Jian’s ears. His body was trembling in fury.

His eyes turned blood-red as his stomach was filled with a raging fire. He was on the edge of snapping. Eventually, he managed to calm down his overwhelming anger.

“Duan Ling Tian, I’ll show everyone how someone you look down on is going to toss you into the manure pit!” Zheng Jian shouted angrily. He pounced at Duan Ling Tian as though he had turned into an agile cheetah.

The air seemed to compress in his wake.

Some of the spectators held their breaths as they watch the scene before them unblinkingly.

However, what happened next made their jaws dropped.

Oh, God!

What did they just witness?!

Bang!

A loud thud came from the high platform followed by a groan of pain.

Subsequently, everyone saw Zheng Jian shot out of the high platform like an arrow leaving its bow from just one blow and a collision.

At this moment, Zheng Jian lost control of his body as he arrived above the manure pit.

Just as he was about to fall into the manure pit next to the dilapidated cottages, a purple silhouette suddenly appeared next to him.

Bang!

Another loud explosion sounded in the air. Apart from Guo Li, nobody in the crowd saw what had happened clearly as Zheng Jian fell.

As the purple silhouette disappeared, Zheng Jian's body fell into the manure pit as disgusting matter covered him.

The Latent Dragon Camp's members stepped back one after another at this moment.

"What..." Everyone was shocked. They were shocked as they looked at the scene before their eyes. They did not regain their sense for a long time.

"Zheng Jian passed out just like Hou Lin did previously?" Many of them were puzzled when they saw Zheng Jian lay unmoving in the manure pit.

Meanwhile, some of them looked at the purple silhouette above the high platform in shock.

"Duan Ling Tian's so powerful now?"

"Could he have broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage? Could his ability be on par with a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse?"

...

The news of Duan Ling Tian defeating Hou Lin and Zhang Ji Long, despite only being at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage, had spread to the Latent Dragon Camp. Every Latent Dragon Camp's member knew Duan Ling Tian was capable of defeating people at a higher level.

When they saw Zheng Jian was thrown out in one blow and passed out from the second blow, they thought Duan Ling Tian had broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage and possessed strength on par with a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse.

After all, Zheng Jian was different from Hou Lin and Zhang Ji Long. He had broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage much earlier.

There were only three people who were not surprised by this in the crowd. They were Guo Li, Zhu Lang, and the Heavenly Harm Guardian who stood at the pavilion at some point.

"This Duan Ling Tian is really merciless." The Heavenly Harm Guardian shook his head. "However, Zheng Jian brought this upon himself for offending this terrifying person."

"Cousin Zheng Jian!" Hu Jie exclaimed loudly when he regained his senses. His expression was terrible. He quickly charged forward and carried Zheng Jian out of the manure pit.

"Pu!!" At the moment when Hu Jie laid Zheng Jian down on the ground, he began to regain consciousness and spat out a mouthful of disgusting matter that landed on Hu Jie's face.

Blergh!

At this moment, Hu Jie vomited out of disgust on Zheng Jian's face.

Zheng Jian who had just regained his consciousness did not know where to vent his anger when he realized he had fallen into the manure pit.

When Hu Jie vomited on his face, he instinctively slapped Hu Jie as his expression changed drastically. Hu Jie was thrown back from his slap.

Bang!

Hu Jie was thrown quite far back before he landed on the ground. He lost his breath as blood continued to stream down from his mouth. shot out far away and landed hard on the ground

'Whoosh!'

Everyone was still thinking about how Hu Jie was wrongfully slapped, a silhouette appeared next to him suddenly. The person's expression changed drastically after he checked Hu Jie's pulse and breath.

"Heavenly Harm Guardian..." Many people's hearts were pumping quickly as they watched the scene unfolding before them.

"Zheng Jian, you killed Hu Jie," the Heavenly Harm Guardian said coldly as he looked at Zheng Jian solemnly.

"Hu Jie's dead?" Zheng Jian regained his senses, and his expression changed drastically when he heard the Heavenly Harm Guardian's words.

This was not because he killed his cousin, Hu Jie. It was because he had violated the Latent Dragon Camp's rules.

There was a rule in the Latent Dragon Camp that stated members were not allowed to kill or cripple one another, failure to comply would result in punishment.

Murderers would be given a heavy penalty and expelled from the Latent Dragon Camp and the City Governor's Estate!

Before everyone had time to react, the Heavenly Harm Guardian picked Hu Jie's body up and flew to Zheng Jian. He extended his arm and picked up Zheng Jian like he was an eagle carrying its chick.

"Zheng Jian, you're guilty of killing Hu Jie, a Latent Dragon Camp's member. You'll be going to the Punishment Camp!" The Heavenly Harm Guardian left with Hu Jie's body and Zheng Jian.

The people in the Latent Dragon Camp only regained their senses after a while.

"Hu Jie... is dead?"

"I think Hu Jie is Zheng Jian's distant cousin... This Zheng Jian is really cruel. He actually killed his distant cousin."

"I supposed he had yet to come to his senses when he did that."

"Hu Jie's strength is far lacking compared to him. It's only natural that Hu Jie could not withstand his attack."

The Latent Dragon Camp's members discussed among themselves.

All of them knew Zheng Jian was in trouble now.

“There’s a rule in the Latent Dragon Camp that prohibits members from killing each other. One would be heavily punished if one were to violate the rule. One would also be expelled from the Latent Dragon Camp and the City Governor’s Estate... Do you think Zheng Jian will really be expelled from the Latent Dragon Camp and the City Governor’s Estate?”

“I think so.”

“Maybe not... Zheng Jian’s one of the Thirteen Gangsters after all. He’s extraordinarily talented and strong, I don’t think he’ll be expelled from the Latent Dragon Camp and the City Governor’s Estate.”

“What’s the point of having rules in the Latent Dragon Camp if Zheng Jian’s not expelled? Who will obey the rules in the future?”

The Latent Dragon Camp’s members were divided into two sides as they argued.

At this moment, nobody cared about Duan Ling Tian.

Even Duan Ling Tian did not expect that to happen.

“He deserves this for his wrongdoing!” Guo Li said with a scoff.

Duan Ling Tian’s lips twitched subtly when he heard Guo Li’s words.

Many people said that women liked to hold grudges. He discovered that to be true today.

Chapter 1409: Target, Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage!

Zheng Jian was brought away by the Heavenly Harm Guardian to the Punishment Camp of the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, and he never came back.

The situation kept changing in the Latent Dragon Camp.

Li Han, the first person Duan Ling Tian had defeated among the Thirteen Gangsters when he had just arrived at the Latent Dragon Camp, had successfully broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

He had intended to look for Duan Ling Tian to seek revenge the minute he came out of his closed-door cultivation. However, he completely dispelled that notion once he heard Zheng Jian had been defeated by Duan Ling Tian.

Nevertheless, he became one of the Thirteen Gangsters again with his strength, and the Thirteen Gangsters’ rankings changed again.

Apart from the top four that remained unchanged, Duan Ling Tian had replaced Zheng Jian and moved into cottage no.5.

Zhang Ji Long moved into cottage no.6 while Guo Li moved into cottage no.7.

The owner of cottage no.8 wooden was Hou Lin, and cottage no.9 belonged to Li Han.

As for the owner of cottage no.10, it had changed ownership a few times within the month. It was only confirmed after another Latent Dragon Camp's member broke through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

At the same time, news of Duan Ling Tian becoming the disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City began to spread.

"As it turns out, Duan Ling Tian had already become a disciple of Lord City Governor."

"Since Duan Ling Tian has become the disciple of Lord City Governor after Xiong Hu and Jin Yuan Bao, this indicates his strength has surpassed Sun Ge who's ranked no.4 among the Thirteen Gangsters."

"If Zheng Jian knew Duan Ling Tian has become Lord City Governor's disciple, he wouldn't have dared to provoke Duan Ling Tian even if he was more courageous."

"Things change... Perhaps even Zheng Jian did not expect that he would be expelled from the Latent Dragon Camp and evicted from the City Governor's Estate for killing his distant cousin."

"I heard that Zheng Jian was only half alive when he was evicted from the City Governor's Estate. The Punishment Camp's way of doing things is so vicious."

"In my opinion, he's lucky to be alive."

The area of the dilapidated cottages in the Latent Dragon Camp was as lively as ever.

Since Duan Ling Tian had defeated Zheng Jian in one move, Hou Lin and Zhang Ji Long became much warier of Duan Ling Tian.

When they heard that Duan Ling Tian had become Lord City Governor's disciple, they had completely dispelled the notion of making an enemy out of Duan Ling Tian. Especially Hou Lin.

Although Duan Ling Tian had thrown him into the manure pit once and humiliated him, he did not harbor the slightest intention of avenging himself when faced with the current Duan Ling Tian.

After Zheng Jian was chased out of the Latent Dragon Camp and the City Governor's Estate, one month passed by quickly.

On this day, the person ranked no.1 among the Thirteen Gangsters, Ling Yun, left cottage no.1.

Everyone knew what he was going to do.

Ling Yun returned an hour later. Although his face remained cold, there was a hint of excitement in the depth of his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian walked out of the pavilion at the side of the high platform just in time to see the joy in Ling Yun's eyes. He thought to himself, 'It seems like Ling Yun passed teacher's test.'

He went to the pavilion to collect Saint Stones.

Now that he was ranked no.5 among the Thirteen Gangsters, he would be able to collect 900 grade-eight Saint Stones every month.

When Duan Ling Tian was looking at Ling Yun, Ling Yun was also looking at him. He sent him a message through True Energy Voice Transmission. "Duan Ling Tian... Although you're older than I am and became Master's disciple before I did, you'll have to defeat me first if you want me to address you as my Senior Brother."

Duan Ling Tian just smiled faintly before he returned to cottage no.5.

After returning to the cottage, he retrieved the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and entered it with just a thought and headed straight to the second level. He continued cultivating after arriving there.

A layer of silver luster shrouded his body as though he was wearing a silver coat.

"My cultivation progress for the upgraded version of the Copper Shirt, the Silver Shirt, has been smooth sailing... I'm currently at the Competent Stage." A satisfied smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face.

A month had passed in the outside world even though three months had passed inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda... In within three months, Duan Ling Tian had successfully cultivated the Silver Shirt to the Competent Stage.

The Competent Stage was the third stage of a Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

The Silver Shirt that was cultivated to the Competent Stage was as strong as the Copper Shirt that had already been cultivated to the fifth stage, which is also the Impeccable Stage.

'I feel that once I exert the Silver Shirt, the strength of my physical body will be strengthened as well,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

'In another month's time, it'll be half a year since I came to the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.' Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel sentimental when he thought of this.

Naturally, the 'half a year' he meant was the time that had passed in the outside world. According to the time in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, it would be even longer.

"Right!" Duan Ling Tian seemed to have recalled something. He withdrew the Silver Shirt and descended from the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to the first level.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Elder Huo who was seated cross-legged and called out, "Elder Huo."

"Yes?" Elder Huo said as he opened his eyes.

"Elder Huo, I'd like to ask... Will my growth rings grow according to the flow of time in the outside world or the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda?" This was what Duan Ling Tian had thought of earlier.

If his growth rings grew according to the flow of time inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he would be thirty-six years old now.

If it grew according to the flow of time in the outside world, he would still be thirty-five years old.

When he first met Lin Qin Rong and Guo Li, he had just turned thirty-five.

"Your growth rings grow according to the flow of time in the outside world..."

“The time outside is the default time. You can think of it this way, the extra time in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is equivalent to the time you’ve stolen. It won’t affect your growth rings,” Elder Huo said.

“Stolen? Elder Huo, you mean that my growth rings stay stagnant when I’m in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda?” Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath, trying to suppress his emotion.

“Yes.” Elder Huo nodded. “Ever since you’ve arrived at the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, your growth rings have merely grown for half a month... That’s the time you spent in the outside world for the past six months.”

“I’ve been in the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City for half a year now... During this time, apart from the ten days when I went out, I’ve only gone out for five days. Indeed, I only spent half a month in the outside world.”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes narrowed as he muttered, “If that’s the case, does this mean my growth rings will be growing very slowly?”

“That’s right.” Elder Huo nodded. “Your growth rings grow according to the flow of time in the outside world... When you’re in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, your growth rings will be stagnant.”

“Based on the fact that you’ve only spent 15 days in the outside world during the past six months, at this rate, it’ll take twelve years outside for your growth ring to grow a complete ring and grow a year older,” Elder Huo continued saying.

Boom!

Elder Huo’s word struck Duan Ling Tian like a bolt of lightning. It took him a while before he regained his senses.

Based on the time he spent in the outside world during the past six months, his growth ring would take twelve years to grow another ring?

“That... That’s outrageous!” Duan Ling Tian muttered woodenly, “If we calculate it that way, my growth rings will only grow five rings after sixty years have passed in the outside world. At that time, I’ll only be forty years old?”

The corner of Duan Ling Tian’s mouth twitched when he thought of that.

It should be noted that people below the age of forty were considered young at the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Based on the time he had spent in the outside world during the past six months, he would need another 60 years to shed his youth?

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian deeply felt how extraordinary the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was.

No wonder the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was a top Celestial Supreme Treasure. It really had the good fortune of the heaven and earth, so much so that it could steal time.

“In the past six months, I’ve consumed ten Two Star Sensory Pills to enhance my sense toward the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy to help with my cultivation... The egg-sized Qi Sea is almost full now.”

“Although I don’t have any more Two Star Sensory Pills, I should still be able to fill my Qi Sea and break through within a month with the help of the 32 Saint Veins in my body to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy for cultivation,” Duan Ling Tian continued muttering to himself.

The next step was to break through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage!

Once he broke through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, his Qi Sea would undergo another transformation and increase in size... At that time, the transformed and enlarged Qi Sea would be able to accumulate even more True Energy.

Apart from that, after his Qi Sea had transformed and increased in size, he would be able to open up more Saint Veins.

The increment of Saint Veins would affect the speed of transportation of True Energy in his body, and in turn, it would affect his strength as well.

‘With the True Energy in my Qi Sea now, if I fully unleash my strength with the 32 Saint Veins, I’m confident I can defeat any Martial or Dao Cultivators at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage without utilizing the Silver Shirt!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Currently, he was merely a Martial Cultivator at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

“Once I break through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, even if I’ve just broken through, I’m still confident in defeating most of the Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage with the Silver Shirt!” Duan Ling Tian was filled with confidence.

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged in the air and began to cultivate.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, Nine Dragons Form!

As he circulated it along his body per the cultivation method, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the air and Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Saint Stones were constantly absorbed into his body.

After the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy entered his body, it was transported by the nine dragons before it transformed into True Energy and integrated with his Qi Sea after circulating a great Qi circuit.

The amount of True Energy in his Qi Sea kept increasing as he kept circulating it.

One month inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda passed quickly... At this time, True Energy finally filled the Qi Sea deep between Duan Ling Tian’s brows.

“It’s filled with True Energy now... I can finally try to expand my Qi Sea!” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes glinted when he opened them.

After that, he closed his eyes again and continued cultivating.

At the same time, the Qi Sea deep between his eyebrows was held up by the continuous influx of True Energy, and it continued expanding like a balloon.

Chapter 1410: Duan Ling Tian's Self-confidence

Boom!

When the Qi Sea expanded like a balloon to its capacity and exploded, Duan Ling Tian felt a wave of dizziness. However, joy was apparent on his face when he regained his senses.

"The Qi Sea became so big?" Duan Ling Tian realized the Qi Sea had completely changed. It was outrageous.

Previously the Qi Sea was merely the size of an egg, but now, it was as big as a basketball court on earth in his past life.

The True Energy that expanded the egg-sized Qi Sea seemed insignificant now. It only occupied a corner of the basketball court-sized Qi Sea.

However, Duan Ling Tian knew that he had taken another step forward. He had broken through half of the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. The other half was to open up more Saint Veins!

'At the Early Mortal Shedding Stage, I managed to open up 15 Saint Veins. At the Intermediate Stage, I opened up another 17 Saint Veins... Now that I've broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, I should be able to open up at least 18 Saint Veins.' Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath when he thought of that. 'I hope a miracle occurs.'

The miracle he meant was to open up more than 18 Saint Veins! Similar to when he opened up more than 16 Saint Veins when he was at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

Since Duan Ling Tian had experienced this twice, the process of opening up Saint Veins progressed smoothly. However, it still required some time even though everything was smooth sailing.

Half a month later, Duan Ling Tian who had been opening up one Saint Veins after another finally stopped when he felt that he could no longer open up another one.

"How many Saint Veins did I open?" Duan Ling Tian was suddenly reminded of this matter and began to check the number of Saint Veins he had opened.

"This..." After counting it, Duan Ling Tian began to tremble in excitement.

"I... I didn't count wrongly, did I?" Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath and began to excitedly study the Saint Veins he had opened after he broke through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

After counting several times, Duan Ling Tian was finally certain. He was not mistaken!

"Twenty... I actually opened twenty more Saint Veins!" Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel excited.

He had expected he would be able to open up 19 Saint Veins at the most even if a miracle did occur... Who knew he would actually open 20 Saint Veins. This was beyond his expectation!

“In addition to the original 32 Saint Veins I had... My body has a total of 52 Saint Veins now!”

It should be noted that ordinary people at the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage that could open up more than 50 Saint Veins were considered as having a high potential to break through to the Saint Stage and become a Saint Stage powerhouse.

Duan Ling Tian was only at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, but he had opened up 52 Saint Veins.

‘In the future, even if there are no more miracles... I’ll still be able to open up at least 21 Saint Veins when I reach the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage. At the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage, I’ll be able to open up 22 Saint Veins at the very least.’

When Duan Ling Tian thought about that, his emotions that had just calmed down began to stir again.

‘This also means that I’ll be able to open 94 Saint Veins at least even if there are no more miracles?’

‘I still remember, Elder Huo said even Sun Wu Kong, the Great Sage and Heaven’s Equal, in the ancient myths and legends from earth, had only opened up 93 Saint Veins.’

‘I’ll be able to open up more Saint Veins than him?’ Duan Ling Tian gasped in surprise.

Although it did not mean that people who could open up more Saint Veins would definitely defeat those who opened up less, Duan Ling Tian still felt good he could win Sun Wu Kong in that aspect.

At this point, Duan Ling Tian became more and more excited. It was only natural!

Currently, he was merely at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, but the number of Saint Veins in his body was more than a lot of the other Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage... Currently, it would only take him a moment to transport the True Energy from his Qi Sea to the surface of his body.

With just a thought, True Energy appeared instantly.

Silver Shirt!

With just a thought, the True Energy in Duan Ling Tian’s Qi Sea instantly passed through all 52 Saint Veins in his body as though he was wearing a silver coat.

In the next moment, he casually threw out a punch, and True Energy shot out like a dragon. It smashed onto the wall in the distant, setting off a series of explosion.

Throughout the entire process, the air seemed to compress in the wake of the great dragon.

“So powerful!”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up. “With my current strength, not many Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage are my match even if I don’t utilize Strange Pupil.”

‘I’m not afraid even if I have to battle Su Qi!’

The disciple of the City Governor of Mound Hill City, Su Qi's cultivation base was at the peak of the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage... More than a month ago, he had defeated the person who was ranked No.1 among the Latent Dragon Camp's Thirteen Gangsters, Ling Yun, in just three moves.

His strength was obvious.

After the breakthrough, Duan Ling Tian cultivated for another half a month. In addition to stabilizing his cultivation base at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, he had also stored more True Energy in his basketball court-sized Qi Sea.

"There are ten more days in the outside world until the day I can collect Saint Stones... Ten more days in the outside world are equivalent to a month in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. It's just enough for me to cultivate my Martial Tactics and moves."

In that subsequent month, Duan Ling Tian began cultivating the move in the Saint Grade Martial Tactic, Colossal Aerolite Arrow. He mainly cultivated the offensive move, Aerolite Strike, and the movement technique, Body and Arrow Synchronization.

Aerolite Strike was almost the strongest offensive move Duan Ling Tian had in his arsenal right now. On the other hand, the Body and Arrow Synchronization was the foundation to maximizing his speed.

'Finally broke through!' One month later, Duan Ling Tian stopped cultivating. Joy was apparent on his face.

His hard work had paid off. Due to his continuous effort, the offensive move from the Colossal Aerolite Arrow, the Aerolite Strike, had finally reached the Competent Stage.

The Competent Stage was the third stage of a Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

'The Colossal Aerolite Arrow is a Human Rank Primitive Saint Grade Martial Tactic. The strength of the offensive move, the Aerolite Strike, is far superior compared to the offensive move of a Human Rank Mediocre or Prominent Saint Grade Martial Tactic!'

"Accordingly, the Aerolite Strike at its' third stage, the Competent Stage, is comparable to the offensive move of a Human Rank Mediocre Saint Grade Martial Tactic at its' fifth stage, which is also the Impeccable Stage."

'In Mound Hill City, I'm afraid that no one, apart from Teacher, would be able to encounter a Human Rank Primitive Saint Grade Martial Tactic... It's highly likely that even Su Qi didn't cultivate a Human Rank Primitive Saint Grade Martial Tactic,' Duan Ling Tian's eyes were gleaming as he thought to himself, "I'm confident I can defeat Su Qi unless he breaks through to the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!"

The breakthrough of the offensive move in the Colossal Aerolite Arrow, the Aerolite Strike, had given Duan Ling Tian a tremendous amount of confidence.

"Unless it's those Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Saint Beasts or Wild Beasts with insanely strong physical bodies, there shouldn't be any humans at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who are a match for me," Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself as his confidence grew.

‘Unfortunately, the Body and Arrow Synchronization did not have any breakthrough... Otherwise, my strength will improve to another level,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

The saying, ‘One’s eyes are bigger than one’s stomach’, described Duan Ling Tian perfectly at this moment.

“I’ll go collect my Saint Stones now.” With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and walked out of the cottage, feeling refreshed, as he headed to the pavilion beside the high platform to collect his Saint Stones.

After receiving the Saint Stones from the Heavenly Harm Guardian, Duan Ling Tian thanked him before he turned to leave.

‘This Duan Ling Tian seems a little different compared to last month... However, I can’t tell what the difference is.’ The Heavenly Harm Guardian shook his head as he looked at Duan Ling Tian’s back.

“Oh, right! I almost forgot.” The Heavenly Harm Guardian seemed to have recalled something. His eyes glinted as he sent a True Energy Voice Transmission out of the pavilion into Duan Ling Tian’s ears. “Duan Ling Tian, Lord City Governor has given an order for you to cultivate at his side after you come out of your closed-door cultivation.”

“Currently, Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao are cultivating at the Lord City Governor’s side,” the Heavenly Harm Guardian reminded him.

‘Cultivating beside Teacher?’ Duan Ling Tian was stunned. He turned around to look at the Heavenly Harm Guardian in the pavilion as he asked through True Energy Voice Transmission, “You mean, I can go in and out of the Latent Dragon Camp as I wish?”

“Yes.”

The Heavenly Harm Guardian nodded. “Half a month ago, Lord City Governor passed down an order so that you, Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao can enter and leave the Latent Dragon Camp at will to go to the City Governor’s Estate.”

‘I didn’t expect that accepting this teacher will grant me this benefit.’ Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly before he left the Latent Dragon Camp to look for his Teacher, the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

As the City Governor of Mound Hill City, he had a large independent mansion with a front yard and a backyard that were as large as a standard-sized football field in the City Governor’s Estate.

Duan Ling Tian bowed and greeted the City Governor of Mound Hill City when he saw him again, “Teacher.”

The three people standing behind the City Governor of Mound Hill City changed their expression slightly when they heard the way Duan Ling Tian addressed the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

It should be noted that all of them addressed the City Governor of Mound Hill City as Master.

Master and Teacher generally had the same meaning. However, they could be very different if one were to look into it.

Generally, only disciples in name would use the term 'Teacher.' However, as far as they knew, Duan Ling Tian's treatment in the City Governor's Estate was no different from theirs. He did not seem like a disciple in name.

"Mm." When the City Governor of Mound Hill City responded with a smile, Duan Ling Tian finally noticed the three people standing behind him. They were the top three people in the Thirteen Gangsters, Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao.

"I'm just telling them about martial tactics and moves. You came just in time." the City Governor of Mound Hill City said.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian and the other three listened to the City Governor of Mound Hill City as he explained the types of Saint Grade Martial Tactics' moves... It must be said that as a Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse, the City Governor of Mound Hill City had a unique insight in that regard.