

Chapter 1621: Someone from King Qian's Estate

Since Feng Tian Wu was in the midst of closed-door cultivation, Duan Ling Tian did not get to see her this time.

Feng Wu Dao was invited by the Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect, Sect Leader Zi Yun, to stay. However, when he heard that Duan Ling Tian was leaving, he asked immediately, "Ling Tian boy, you're not staying here with me?"

"Uncle Feng, you haven't seen Tian Wu for so many years. If you stay in the sect, you'll be able to see her as soon as she comes out of closed-door cultivation. As for me, there are some matters I need to oversee. I'm afraid I can no longer accompany you," Duan Ling Tian said apologetically.

When Feng Wu Dao saw how determined Duan Ling Tian was, he did not try to persuade him. "Be careful on your journey back."

"Don't worry." Duan Ling Tian nodded. After bidding farewell to Zi Yun, he left the Drift Blaze Sect.

As soon as he left the Drift Blaze Sect, 10,000 solidified sword rays suddenly appeared in just a blink of an eye around Duan Ling Tian. The sword rays whizzed in the sky as they gathered to form a flying sword beneath his feet and carried him back to the capital of Windfall Nation at a terrifyingly fast speed.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian's figure flashed past like a ghost. It was ridiculously fast!

He immediately left the few Imminent Saint Stage Martial Cultivators who were sent out by Situ Hao behind.

They finally revealed themselves as they shared a look. All of them were looking at each other with their mouths wide open. "T-This..."

"Is he really just an Imminent Saint Stage like us?"

"Although his speed is not comparable to Saint Stage powerhouses, it still surpasses those of us at the Imminent Saint Stage... Even if we compare his speed to a Saint Stage powerhouse, I'm quite certain his speed is almost as fast as a Saint Stage powerhouse."

"This Interim Advisor Duan of our Situ Clan is really quite an extraordinary person. Everything else aside, just his speed alone is enough to defeat the strongest person in the Heaven Ranking!"

"Compared to all the Martial Tactics, speed is hard to defeat. Master Duan might not lose even if he fights the strongest person in the Heaven Ranking!"

A few of them discussed in their deep voices as they returned to the capital of Windfall Nation.

They had completely lost track of Duan Ling Tian.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian had his own reason for rushing back to the capital and the Situ Clan. This was because he knew news about the Dark Nether Sect would reach the capital of Windfall Nation in within a few days. At that time, Situ Ming's faction would be angered to the point of vomiting blood when they found out the Dark Nether Sect had ceased to exist except in name.

Under such circumstances, Situ Ming might resort to desperate measures after being driven to a corner. He needed to return to help Situ Hao and his son.

Although he was no match for Saint Stage powerhouses who were not Devil Cultivators, he did not fear anyone below the Saint Stage. No matter how many of them tried to attack him, he would be able to kill them all. This was how confident he was in his strength!

Just as Duan Ling Tian had predicted, a few days after he returned to the Situ Clan, news about the Dark Nether Sect finally reached the capital of Windfall Nation and the Situ Clan.

"Out of the two Saint Stage powerhouses of Dark Nether Sect, the Supreme Elder has been killed while the Sect Leader has disappeared."

"The Dark Nether Sect's estate is completely deserted. Not a single soul can be found there. The sect has ceased to exist except in name."

"It's very likely the Dark Nether Sect is going to disappear completely from the history of Windfall Nation!"

Remarks like these could be heard in the capital of Windfall Nation.

Although the news had spread out, the Situ Clan remained tranquil. However, Duan Ling Tian knew this was just the calm before the storm.

"Master Duan, thank you." Situ Hao, the Clan Leader of Situ Clan, visited Duan Ling Tian again to express his gratitude.

Although he had already known the Dark Nether Sect existed only in name since Duan Ling Tian's return previously, and he believed Duan Ling Tian's words, this news had undoubtedly given Situ Ming's faction a huge blow. Due to this reason, he was even more grateful to Duan Ling Tian.

"You don't have to be so polite, Clan Leader Situ. We're in the same boat after all," Duan Ling Tian said as he smiled indifferently.

Situ Hao, naturally, knew what Duan Ling Tian's words meant. Even before Duan Ling Tian helped his son get rid of the Devil Inscription, he had already decided to stand on their side against Situ Ming's faction.

The morale in Situ Hao's faction was given a great boost. It was the complete opposite for Situ Ming's faction.

At Situ Ming's residence, a loud crash could be heard in the air. Situ Ming had just thrown the cup he was holding on the floor. "Can someone tell me what's going on? Situ Hao and Situ Hou didn't leave Situ Clan at all. How could this happen to the Dark Nether Sect?"

Situ Zhuo stood at the side, his eyes gleamed coldly as he said through clenched teeth, "Father, could this incident be related to Duan Ling Tian?"

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had ruined his plan and saved Situ Hang. If it was not for him, he would have replaced Situ Hang and become the successor of the Clan Leader of Situ Clan.

"Duan Ling Tian?" When Situ Ming heard his words, he frowned immediately. "It's baffling to think he could even kill Zhou Shu. Do you really think he's capable of killing a Saint Stage powerhouse and causing the other to flee?"

"Father, what if he did not personally make a move?" Situ Zhuo felt certain about his theory. "His relationship with Lady Feng is not simple. Perhaps, he asked for help from the Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect to kill the Supreme Elder of Dark Nether Sect? In fact, the Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect doesn't even need to personally make a move. All she needs to do is send some powerhouses to do it."

"Impossible!" Situ Ming shook his head. Seeing the confusion in Situ Zhuo's eyes, he explained, "One of the two Vice Sect Leaders in Drift Blaze Sect is my best friend. He plays a decisive role in Drift Blaze Sect. Even the other Vice Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect thinks highly of him. If the Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect decided to make a move, it's impossible for him to not know about it. Moreover, he would even tell me about it the moment he finds out about it. This is why I said it's impossible." Situ Ming was very certain about this.

He had a life-and-death friendship with one of the Vice Sect Leaders of Drift Blaze Sect.

Situ Zhong, the Situ Clan's Supreme Elder, who was on Situ Ming's side chimed in, "If the Sect Leader of Drift Blaze Sect did not meddle in this matter, there are only two possibilities left. Either Duan Ling Tian is a Saint Stage powerhouse or the Dark Nether Sect must have offended somebody powerful and brought disaster upon themselves!"

"Perhaps our initial train of thoughts is wrong from the very start... The incident in the Dark Nether Sect's base in the capital might be a warning. All of us suspected it was done by Duan Ling Tian, but apart from his timely absence in the Situ Clan, there's no proof of him being the culprit at all." After Situ Ming took a deep breath, his mind became clearer. "Perhaps that incident has nothing to do with Duan Ling Tian at all! As for Duan Ling Tian being a Saint Stage powerhouse? That's even more unlikely. I've studied him from afar using my Divine Consciousness when he left for the Drift Blaze Sect with Lady Feng's father. I did not sense the aura of a Saint Stage powerhouse. I didn't alert him so I'm certain he's not a Saint Stage powerhouse!" Situ Ming said confidently.

"Does this mean Duan Ling Tian has nothing to do with the incidents in the Dark Nether Sect's base in the capital and the sect's estate?" Situ Zhuo frowned. It was obvious he was unhappy.

He had hoped these matters had something to do with Duan Ling Tian so his father would spare no effort in killing him.

"That should be the case." Situ Ming nodded as his gaze turned piercing. "The Dark Nether Sect is really worse than trash, especially Ye Feng. I've already told him a long time ago that he needed to control his

disciples and stop them from stirring up trouble, but he did not listen! Look at this, even he has disappeared. Nobody knows if he's alive or not!"

At this moment when Situ Ming was cursing the Dark Nether Sect for ending up this way after they had offended someone powerful, a voice sounded by the huge courtyard. "Second Master!"

Situ Ming raised an eyebrow and said indifferently, "Come in."

Soon after, Situ Ming saw a Situ Clan's elder under his command bringing a middle-aged man into the room.

"Second Master," the Situ Clan's elder greeted Situ Ming and bowed.

After the ordinary-looking middle-aged man entered the room, he immediately looked at Situ Ming and greeted him nonchalantly, "Good day to you, Second Master Ming." Haughtiness could be seen in this man's eyes. It was as though he found it beneath him to bow to Situ Ming.

Situ Ming's expression turned grave immediately when he saw this.

Situ Zhuo's eyes gleamed coldly as he shouted in his deep voice, "Who are you? How daring of you to not bow when you see my father!"

Whoosh!

As the middle-aged man raised his hand, a shining golden Order Token appeared in his hand in front of Situ Zhuo. Horror dawned on him immediately when he saw the three big words on the golden Order Token.

King Qian's estate!

This man was from King Qian's estate?

Colors drained from his face immediately.

Dear Lord!

Did he just shout at someone from King Qian's estate?

Naturally, he knew what it meant for this person to possess the Order Token from King Qian's estate. It meant this person handled King Qian's affairs on his behalf.

Upon seeing the Order Token from King Qian's estate, whether it was Situ Ming or Situ Zhong, both of them could not help but frown.

"So you're from King Qian's estate." Situ Ming nodded at the middle-aged man. "I wonder what brings you here, Lord?"

Although the middle-aged man in front of him was not a Saint Stage powerhouse, since he was from King Qian's estate, Situ Ming could not simply offend him. Moreover, this person had come looking for him with an Order Token from King Qian's estate. It was apparent he was here by King Qian's order.

"Second Master Ming, I came here by the Fourth Prince, King Qian's order to invite you to King Qian's estate," the middle-aged man said without beating around the bush.

The moment his words left his mouth, Situ Ming, Situ Zhong, Situ Zhuo, and the Situ Clan's elder was horrified. Colors immediately drained from their faces.

As members of Situ Clan, they knew very well the prince their clan supported was on the opposite side of the Fourth Prince, King Qian.

Chapter 1622: King Rong

However, the Fourth Prince, King Qian, had actually sent someone to invite Situ Ming to King Qian's estate.

It would undoubtedly be bad for Situ Ming if news of him going to King Qian's estate spread out.

It was the ancestor of Situ Clan who had decided the Situ Clan would support the Second Imperial Highness. If he disobeyed the ancestor's order, there was only one outcome for him. He would be expelled from the Situ Clan.

"Please pass my message to His Imperial Highness King Qian that I'm very grateful for his goodwill," Situ Ming told the middle-aged man from King Qian's estate.

"The Fourth Imperial Highness knew you would decline the invitation, Second Master Ming. Therefore, he had also asked me to inform you that Ye Feng is waiting for you in his estate," the middle-aged man said.

Ye Feng!

When Situ Ming heard the middle-aged man's words, his eyes narrowed immediately.

Even Situ Zhuo, Situ Zhong, and the Situ Clan's elder were shocked.

They were, naturally, familiar with the name Ye Feng! Ye Feng was the Sect Leader of Dark Nether Sect.

They had just received news today that the Supreme Elder of Dark Nether Sect had been killed, and Sect Leader Ye Feng had disappeared without a trace. The Dark Nether Sect existed only in name. However, someone from King Qian's estate came and told them Ye Feng was in King Qian's estate.

'Don't tell me the Dark Nether Sect had offended King Qian's estate?' The moment Situ Ming thought of this, his heart beat a little faster when he looked at the middle-aged man. "Lord, please pass a message to King Qian. Although I have some connection with the Dark Nether Sect, the Dark Nether Sect's actions have nothing to do with me!" Situ Ming intended to cut ties with the Dark Nether Sect.

"Second Master Ming, you'll have to explain this yourself to King Qian. I'm afraid I won't be able to pass on this message for you," the middle-aged man said indifferently, "Moreover, the Fourth Imperial Highness also wants me to tell you if you're unwilling to follow me to his estate, you'll have to bear the consequences of your action!"

Bear the consequences of his own action!

The moment these words left the middle-aged man's mouth, Situ Ming and the others' expressions turned grave immediately.

Situ Ming turned to look at Situ Zhong.

"You'll have to go." Situ Zhong nodded at Situ Ming as he transmitted his voice to him. "Since things have developed to this stage, you no longer have a choice. King Qian is not someone who would show mercy."

Situ Ming gasped.

He knew very well he no longer had any choice. If he offended King Qian, he would be doomed.

Although the prince that Situ Clan supported was in no way inferior to King Qian, he might be unwilling to directly confront King Qian just for the sake of protecting him.

In the end, Situ Ming gave in. "Lord, I'll follow you there then."

"Let's go." The middle-aged man motioned to him indifferently. Although he was only at the Imminent Saint Stage, he did not fear Saint Stage powerhouses like Situ Ming since he was responsible for handling King Qian's affairs. He acted arrogantly just like a dog that relied on its master's power.

Situ Ming left the Situ Clan and followed the middle-aged man to the Windfall Nation's Imperial Palace and entered King Qian's estate.

As soon as Situ Ming stepped into King Qian's estate, a figure lurking in the dark outside of the estate immediately left and went to another vast residence in the Windfall Nation's Imperial Palace. It was the residence of King Rong, the Second Imperial Highness of Windfall Nation's Imperial family.

"Situ Ming from the Situ Clan has gone to see Fourth Brother?" King Rong was a middle-aged man with a medium build. He was dressed like a scholar. Upon hearing the report from the spy he placed near King Qian's estate, he could not help but frown.

A young man dressed in black clothing standing behind King Rong looked at the spy before he asked indifferently, "Are you certain you're not mistaken?"

The young man had an ordinary appearance, but his gaze was extremely piercing. When he looked at the spy, it seemed as though two streaks of light had shot out of his eyes. The spy shuddered. He did not dare to meet that young man's eyes at all.

The spy took a deep breath and mustered up his courage before he replied, "I'm certain I'm not mistaken."

"Make a trip to the Situ Clan and ask Situ Hao what's going on. Tell him to give King Rong's estate a satisfactory explanation in three days time," the young man said again.

"Yes." The spy left and made his way to the Situ Clan.

When Situ Hao, the Clan Leader of Situ Clan, heard about this, his expression turned grave immediately. "Situ Ming actually went to King Qian's estate in broad daylight? What's he trying to do?"

“Clan Leader Situ, I’ve already passed on the message to you. Please give the Second Imperial Highness a satisfactory explanation in three days’ time.” The person who came from King Rong’s estate, who was also the spy who had reported what he had seen to King Rong, was extremely arrogant even though he was very timid and humble in King Rong’s estate.

He was only a small errand boy in King Rong’s estate, but he was the messenger of King Rong’s estate in the Situ Clan.

After the man from King Rong’s estate left, Situ Hao’s expression was still extremely grave, and his eyebrows were furrowed.

Meanwhile, in King Qian’s estate, Situ Ming finally met the Fourth Imperial Highness of Windfall Nation’s Imperial Family. “I, Situ Ming, am here to see you, Imperial Highness King Qian!” Situ bowed politely to express his respect.

“There’s no need to be so polite, Second Master Ming. Please have a seat.” King Qian smiled and motioned to Situ Ming to sit.

However, Situ Ming did not dare to sit.

The smile on King Qian’s face disappeared as he asked with a grave expression, “What? Are you disrespecting me, Master Ming?”

“No, no!” Situ Ming was shocked. He sat down immediately. He felt extremely uneasy as though he was on tenterhooks.

King Qian looked at Situ Ming and asked with a smile, “Second Master Ming, I heard you’re unhappy in the Situ Clan?”

“You’re really good at joking, Imperial Highness King Qian. I’m the Second Master of Situ Clan, how can I not be happy in the Situ Clan?” Situ Ming forced a smile on his face.

Even if he was really unhappy in the Situ Clan, he would not voice it out all at, let alone voicing it out in front of King Qian. This was because, to a certain extent, Situ Clan and King Qian were on opposing sides.

“It seems like you’re quite reserved in front of me, Second Master Ming.” King Qian shook his head as he clapped his hands.

A figure instantly entered the main palace. Situ Ming was extremely familiar with this figure.

When Situ Ming saw this figure, he instantly stood up. His eyes flashed coldly as he asked through Voice Transmission, “Ye Feng, what are you doing here? Don’t you know Situ Clan is on opposing side with King Qian’s estate?”

Ye Feng did not use Voice Transmission. Instead, he said loudly, “Second Master, naturally, I know Situ Clan is standing on the opposing side of King Qian’s estate.”

Situ Ming’s expression immediately turned grim. He asked angrily through Voice Transmission again, “Ye Feng, what are you trying to do?”

“Second Master, I’m not trying to do anything. I just want you to take a good look at the current situation... The Situ Clan no longer has any place for you! What you need to do now is to bring your men out of Situ Clan and join the Fourth Imperial Highness’ faction!” Ye Feng continued to say loudly and clearly.

Chapter 1623: Betrayal

Before Situ Ming came here, he had thought of many possibilities. He even thought King Qian’s estate had annihilated the Dark Nether Sect and captured, Ye Feng, the Sect Leader of Dark Nether Sect.

However, judging by the current situation, this was clearly not the case.

It did not cross his mind that Ye Feng would betray him and persuade him to defect to King Qian’s faction.

Situ Ming took a deep breath. He glared at Ye Feng before he looked at King Qian and bluntly said, “Imperial Highness King Qian, if this is the reason why you requested my presence, you’ll have to excuse me for not being able to stay for long.”

What a joke!

He had devoted his entire life to become the ruler of Situ Clan. Although he had lost to Situ Hao, he had not given up yet. He wanted to help his son to replace Situ Hao’s son in becoming the next Clan Leader of Situ Clan. Then, he would be able to rule the Situ Clan in the dark. His entire life had been devoted to working hard in order to become the ruler of Situ Clan.

If he betrayed the Situ Clan, he would become a traitor in the clan, and he would never be able to rule Situ Clan. Moreover, all his effort would have been in vain if he betrayed the clan. Naturally, he was unwilling to make this choice.

Situ Ming turned to leave as soon as he finished speaking. However, when he was about to leave, he was instantly stopped by the two old men standing behind King Qian.

“Imperial Highness King Qian, what do you mean by this?” Situ Ming’s expression turned grave. When he looked at King Qian, anger could be seen in his eyes.

“Second Master Ming, you should at least let Ye Feng finish speaking first even if you want to leave. I won’t stop you if you’re still determined to leave and stay in the Situ Clan after Ye Feng is done speaking,” King Qian said.

Upon hearing that, Situ Ming looked at Ye Feng indifferently. “Please just say what you have to say. You want me to betray the Situ Clan? Do you really think you alone is enough for me to do that?”

“Second Master Ming, sometimes it’s better not to come to a conclusion so quickly.” Ye Feng was not angered by Situ Ming’s contemptuous behavior. Instead, he said indifferently, “The reason I asked you to defect to King Qian’s faction is also to save your life. If you continue being stubborn and refuse to see reason, there’s nothing I can do about it as well.”

“Save my life? What do you mean?” Situ Ming’s expression turned grim.

“Second Master Ming, do you know why I came to King Qian’s estate?” Ye Feng asked.

When Ye Feng saw Situ Ming glaring at him without any intention of answering his question, he continued to say, “I came to King Qian’s estate because I don’t want to die! Do you know how hard it is for me to escape from the Dark Nether Sect? The force behind Duan Ling Tian is terrifyingly strong! Even our Dark Nether Sect’s Supreme Elder died because of him! I was so afraid of him I had to escape from the sect!”

Ye Feng saw the disbelief on Situ Ming’s face, and he immediately swore on the lightning penalty oath, “If the Supreme Elder of Dark Nether Sect did not die because of Duan Ling Tian or if I didn’t flee because I’m afraid of Duan Ling Tian, I’m willing to be killed by the bolts of lightning sent by the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation!” A drop of Ye Feng’s blood rose up into the sky as nine claps of thunder reverberated in the sky in accordance with his oath.

Ye Feng remained unharmed after he swore by the lightning penalty oath. This was enough to prove he did not lie.

At the moment when Ye Feng swore on the lightning penalty oath, Situ Ming could no longer maintain his composure. His expression was grim as he asked, “Is there really such a powerful force behind Duan Ling Tian? Is it the Drift Blaze Sect?”

“It has nothing to do with the Drift Blaze Sect,” Ye Feng answered, “I’m also completely clueless about the force behind him. However, its strength is definitely not inferior to the Situ Clan.”

“So it’s not the Drift Blaze Sect.” Situ Ming was not surprised at all when he heard the force behind Duan Ling Tian was not the Drift Blaze Sect. However, the fear in his heart increased.

The unknown was always the most terrifying!

The force behind Duan Ling Tian was so mysterious. Who knew if it would go against him in the future?

‘The force behind Duan Ling Tian is definitely not one Elder Zhong and I can fight against since they could kill the Supreme Elder of Dark Nether Sect and force Ye Feng to abandon the sect and run away.’ All kinds of emotion flitted across Situ Ming’s face. Discontentment could be seen in his eyes as well.

‘Why?! How did Situ Hang manage to find such an outstanding person like Duan Ling Tian? Don’t tell me I’m destined to lose to him, and my son is destined to lose to his son? I’m not willing! I’m not willing!’ Situ Ming roared inwardly. His heart was in a frenzy.

However, he knew no matter how discontented he felt, the choice he had to make was obvious.

Just as Ye Feng had said, if he continued to stay in the Situ Clan, he might be killed. If the force behind Duan Ling Tian joined forces with Situ Hao’s faction, he would be powerless to fight back.

“Imperial Highness King Qian, I, Situ Ming, am willing to serve you.” Soon after, Situ Ming made his decision and bowed at King Qian. He no longer had any other choice.

“Second Master Ming, you need to show more sincerity if you want to serve King Qian.” Ye Feng smiled.

“What sincerity?” Situ Ming’s expression darkened.

In the past, Ye Feng did not dare to act so recklessly in front of him.

“Naturally, you’ll have to swear on the lightning penalty oath,” Ye Feng continued to say.

“You...” Situ Ming’s expression turned grave. When he saw King Qian looking at him, waiting for him to make up his mind, he could only swear on the lightning penalty oath that he would serve King Qian and would be killed by the lightning penalty if he betrayed him.

“Imperial Highness King Qian, I think it’s better for me and my men to stay in the Situ Clan as spies. Perhaps, I’ll be able to obtain the authority to rule Situ Clan,” Situ Ming suggested.

Up until now, he still could not let go of Situ Clan. He took the initiative to ask King Qian to let him stay in the Situ Clan. Naturally, he had an ulterior motive for suggesting this.

He did not wish to be labeled as a traitor to the Situ Clan. Once he betrayed the clan, he would no longer have anything to do with the clan. Moreover, not all of the men would be willing to follow him and leave the clan.

Perhaps, these people supported him in the Situ Clan. However, once he betrayed the clan, they might not follow him anymore.

“There’s no need for that!” However, King Qian rejected Situ Ming immediately. “With Duan Ling Tian there, you won’t be able to compete with Situ Hao at all!”

Situ Ming was rendered speechless by this sentence.

He wanted to refute by saying, “Don’t I have you now?” However, he did not say it in the end.

He could tell King Qian wanted him to leave the Situ Clan immediately.

He could guess King Qian’s thoughts as well. It was obvious King Qian wanted to use his betrayal to provoke his most powerful rival, the Second Prince, King Rong.

“I’ll give you a day! Leave the Situ Clan and bring your men to my estate,” King Qian said as he looked at the two old men obstructing Situ Ming’s path. “Two of you, follow Second Master Ming back. If he goes alone, I’m worried he might not come out again once he enters the Situ Clan!”

After Situ Ming left with the two old men, only King Qian and Ye Feng were left in the main palace.

“You’re smart! You did not tell him about the Devilseal Tablet.” King Qian glanced at Ye Feng with an appreciative expression. He was very satisfied with how quick-witted Ye Feng was earlier.

“It’s better if fewer people know about the Devilseal Tablet.” Ye Feng smiled with his eyes half-closed.

The next day, an earth-shattering incident took place in the Situ Clan. The Second Master of Situ Clan, Situ Ming, had left the clan. To be more precise, he had betrayed the clan.

Situ Ming, the Second Master of Situ Clan, left the clan ostentatiously as he brought his son, Situ Zhong, and a few other elders to King Qian’s estate along with the two powerhouses from King Qian’s estate.

When this news spread out, a turbulent storm descended on the Situ Clan.

Inside the main hall of Situ Clan's residence, a few Situ Clan's elders who used to be in Situ Ming's faction knelt on the ground in front of Situ Hao, the Clan Leader of Situ Clan.

One of the Situ Clan's elders took the lead and said, "Clan Leader, I was blind before. I can't believe Situ Ming actually betrayed the Situ Clan... I'm willing to swear on the lightning penalty oath that I'll devote the rest of my life to you and your faction."

The moment his words left his mouth, he instantly swore on the lightning penalty oath. Nine claps of thunder resonated in the sky. The other elders followed suit.

If it was before, Situ Hao would have been happy to see so many elders from Situ Ming's faction defecting to him. However, his expression was extremely grave at this moment. His expression had remained this way since he found out Situ Ming and Situ Zhong had betrayed the Situ Clan.

"Elders, the fact that all of you did not follow Situ Ming and leave is more than enough to prove your loyalty to the clan. I won't hold your past against you, and I only hope you'll serve the clan better from now on," Situ Hao said to the few elders before him.

"Thank you, Sect Leader." They quickly expressed their gratitude.

"Situ Ming has betrayed the Situ Clan?" Duan Ling Tian learned about this from Situ Hang, the Great Young Master of Situ Clan. He was shocked as well. "Where did he go after betraying the Situ Clan?"

"King Qian's estate!" Situ Hang's expression was gloomy. "Previously, I thought Situ Ming merely wants to fight with me and my father for authority in the Situ Clan. I did not expect him to betray the clan. Now that he has left, our clan has lost two Saint Stage powerhouses!"

"Does your Situ Clan's ancestor know about this?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"By now, my father should've already told the ancestor about this. Once he finds out about this, I'm sure he'll be enraged. However, there's nothing the ancestor can do even if he's furious since Situ Ming has already brought his men to King Qian's estate." When Situ Hang reached the end of his sentence, a feeling of helplessness swept over him.

This was not the first day Duan Ling Tian had arrived in the capital of Windfall Nation. Naturally, he knew what King Qian's estate meant.

At this moment, a polite voice spoke from outside the huge courtyard, "Master Duan, someone has left a message at the entrance and asked me to pass it to you."

Chapter 1624: The Order From The Mountainshade Black Market's Headquarter

A figure came in as soon as Duan Ling Tian responded. The person who had entered was a guard on duty at the Situ Clan's great entrance today.

"What message?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

“He said that a man called Ye Feng asked you to visit King Qian’s estate if you have time so that both of you can catch up on old times,” the Situ Clan’s guard said.

“Ye Feng?” Situ Hang frowned immediately when he heard the guard’s words. “Don’t tell me it’s the Sect Leader of Dark Nether Sect? I remember his name is Ye Feng!”

Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned grave immediately.

Ye Feng!

He finally revealed himself! Moreover, he was in King Qian’s estate.

‘Ye Feng was the Sect Leader of Dark Nether Sect, and he’s similar to Situ Ming. However, Situ Clan has always supported the Second Prince, King Rong. The Fourth Prince, King Qian, is King Rong’s most powerful rival in the battle for the crown.’ Duan Ling Tian’s heart sank.

‘The fact that Ye Feng is staying in King Qian’s estate means he must have offered him something in return. It’s very likely he told him about the Devilseal Tablet being in my possession!’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, his eyes gleamed with murderous intent.

If it was possible, he wanted to kill Ye Feng and everyone who knew he possessed the Devilseal Tablet. This was because this knowledge could bring disaster upon him.

“King Qian’s estate, King Qian... That King Qian must have known I have the Devilseal Tablet.” Duan Ling Tian frowned.

He did not fear King Qian. However, as a prince of Windfall Nation’s Imperial Family, he must have many Saint Stage powerhouses guarding him. Moreover, most of the Saint Stage powerhouses were not Devil Cultivators. It would not be easy for him to kill King Qian.

“However, even if King Qian knows I have the Devilseal Tablet, I’m sure he won’t let this news leak. If that happens, everyone would covet it. I’m sure he wants it for his own use!” Duan Ling Tian was certain of this.

When Ye Feng escaped from him at the Dark Nether Sect’s estate, he had thought about leaving Windfall Nation to lay low and let the dust settle since he would be in danger when news of him possessing the Devilseal Tablet spread out. However, he needed to deal with the matter regarding Bai Li Hong and the others.

He was no longer in a hurry to leave now that he knew Ye Feng was in King Qian’s estate. “If it’s only King Qian... There’s no need for me to leave Windfall Nation. When I break through to the Saint Stage, I won’t have to be afraid of those Saint Stage powerhouses by his side anymore!”

Duan Ling Tian was certain of this.

Put aside his powerful foundation, after he had broken through to the Saint Stage, he would be able to transform the True Energy in his body into the Sun True Origin. According to Elder Huo, the benefits he received from Elder Huo’s enlightenment would only be revealed once he had broken through to the Saint Stage.

Elder Huo also said it would not be difficult for him to defeat enemies with a greater cultivation base than his if he relied on the Sun True Origin.

Coupled with his powerful body, his 10,000 Swords Territory, and the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, Sovereign Heart Sword, that Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang left behind, he believed there would not be many Saint Stage powerhouses in Windfall Nation who would be able to defeat him once he had broken through to the Saint Stage.

At that time, there would be no need for him to worry about King Qian.

‘When that time arrives, I’ll eradicate the root of the problem!’ When Duan Ling Tian thought about this, he bade farewell to Situ Hang and hurried back to his room.

As soon as he returned to his room, he entered the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and began to cultivate earnestly to break through to the Saint Stage as soon as he possibly could.

Naturally, before he could break through to the Saint Stage, his cultivation base had to reach the peak of the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage and Imminent Saint Stage first.

Based on his current progress, Duan Ling Tian was certain he would be able to enter the peak of the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage in two weeks time.

Naturally, two weeks referred to two weeks in the outside world.

After Duan Ling Tian returned to his room, Situ Hang thought to himself, ‘Ye Feng’s actually at King Qian’s estate. This means Situ Ming’s betrayal has something to do with Ye Feng as well.’

Whether it was Ye Feng or Duan Ling Tian, both of them were still unaware that a huge disaster is brewing and heading in Duan Ling Tian’s direction.

That Devilseal Tablet alone was enough to cause people to search for it in a frenzy, leaving no stones unturned.

Meanwhile, at the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter far away from Windfall Nation, the highest order had been passed down from the Main Leader of Mountainshade Black Market.

Portraits of a young man had been passed down to the people in Mountainshade Black Market.

“The leader ordered that we spare no effort in searching for the young man in the portrait. This young man is called Duan Ling Tian!” This was the order given by the messengers of the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter to its low-ranking branches.

The order spread to the lower-ranking branches of Mountainshade Black Market located in some of the ordinary fourth-rate forces’ districts before it slowly spread to the branches in fifth-rate forces’ districts.

The Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion was a lower-rank branch. This branch had also received the order from the branch above it.

Along with the order, there was a clearly drawn portrait of a handsome young man with dashing eyebrows and bright eyes. His name was Duan Ling Tian.

“Pass down this order to the other branches.” In the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, there were additional lower ranking branches beneath it.

These branches included the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Windfall Nation.

After a few months, the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Windfall Nation finally received the order from the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. Similar to the other branches, the order came with a portrait of a young man.

The leader of Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Windfall Nation was an old man with white hair. He was dressed in a grey robe as he stood under a pergola that was built on the steep peak of a mountain. He held the portrait in his hand as he muttered to himself, “Duan Ling Tian? This name seems familiar.”

“Lord Leader, I’ve heard this name before.” When the grey-clad old man was muttering to himself, a voice sounded from behind him. It was a middle-aged man standing outside the pergola.

“Oh?” The grey-clad old man’s eyes lit up as he turned around instantly to look at his most capable subordinate.

“Lord Leader, you’ve heard of this name as well. It’s just that you didn’t pay much attention to it,” the middle-aged man continued to speak, “A few months ago, the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan, a young man, had defeated Lady Feng from Drift Blaze Sect. His name has spread far and wide in Windfall Nation. His name is Duan Ling Tian. Currently, he’s widely acknowledged as the strongest person among the younger generation in Windfall Nation!”

“Now that you mentioned it, I vaguely remember hearing about this.” The old man nodded as he looked at the portrait in his hand. “I wonder if it’s the same person or they just happen to share the same name... If it’s the same person...” The old man’s breathing quickened when he reached this part of the sentence.

Chapter 1625: The Strongest Person On The Heaven Rankings

The grey-clad old man was the leader of the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch in Windfall Nation. He knew what the portrait in his hand represented. Since the portrait was passed down from the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter, he knew whichever branch that found this person would be able to obtain a hefty reward.

If they managed to bring the man in the portrait back to the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter, the leader of the branch might even have chance to stay by the Main Leader of the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter side for ten years and receive pointers from him.

The latter was more than enough to make people go crazy!

The leader in the Mountainshade Black Market’s headquarter was also the leader with the most prominent position in Mountainshade Black Market. Moreover, he was also a top-rate powerhouse in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Being able to stay by the side of such a powerhouse for ten years and obtain pointers from him was like a dream come true.

Due to this reason, the old man's heart was in turmoil when he heard the young man who had caused a commotion a few months ago in Windfall Nation was also called Duan Ling Tian.

"Jing Yuan, make a trip to the capital of Windfall Nation and take a look at the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan. See if he's the person in the portrait." Hong Zhen, the leader of the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in Windfall Nation, raised his hand and passed the portrait in his hand to the middle-aged man. "You can leave after you've made a copy of this portrait."

"Yes, Lord Leader." Jing Yuan nodded his head solemnly and left after taking the portrait.

If Duan Ling Tian was here and saw the portrait in his hand, he would be shocked to see the portrait of the man resembled him. Moreover, the drawing was so life-like and similar to the real person.

In King Qian's Estate in Windfall Nation.

In the main palace of King Qian's estate, a white-clad young man glanced indifferently at the Fourth Prince of Windfall Nation's Imperial Family, King Qian, and said, "King Qian, if that Duan Ling Tian still refuses to come out after ten days, I can only return to the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion... I can only suppress my cultivation base for one more month at most."

His tone sounded impolite as though he did not regard the other party like a prince at all.

A hint of anger flashed in King Qian's eyes, but he did not show his anger at all. He forced a smile on his face as he said, "Don't worry, Master Lin. I guarantee Duan Ling Tian will come out in ten days' time even if he's unwilling! You're the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking, the fact that you came here all the way from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion to challenge him is an honor for him. He's really ungrateful to avoid you like this!"

"There's no reason for you to flatter me. The reason I came here is for the reward you promised. If he doesn't show himself in ten days, I'll have to leave. I'm afraid I won't be able to return you the deposit!" The young man said nonchalantly. It was obvious he was being disrespectful.

"Of course." However, King Qian did not show his anger even though the white-clad young man was being disrespectful.

In addition to being the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion's district, the white-clad young man was also a disciple from a powerful sixth-rate clan in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. The clan's power was not inferior to the Windfall Nation's Imperial Family at all.

The white-clad young man was also a lineal disciple of that clan.

Two months ago, King Qian had invited the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from the Lin Clan in Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion to Windfall Nation so that he could kill Duan Ling Tian and snatch his Spatial Ring away. To be more precise, he wanted to snatch the Devilseal Tablet away.

Naturally, he did not tell the white-clad young man about the Devilseal Tablet. He merely told him he wanted some items from Duan Ling Tian's Spatial ring and those items were extremely valuable to him.

He had made a deal with Lin Dong. Lin Dong would kill Duan Ling Tian and give him the Spatial Ring, and he would be given another reward in return.

In order to invite Lin Dong over, the reward he had to offer had cost him an arm and a leg. However, the moment he thought about obtaining the Devilseal Tablet, he felt it was worth it.

“Hurmph! Goodbye for now then.” Lin Dong, the white-clad young man, snorted coldly before he turned around and leave. He was so arrogant, it was apparent he did not think highly of King Qian at all.

King Qian’s expression turned solemn as he looked at Lin Dong’s retreating back.

Ye Feng who had been standing quietly at the side all this while said fawningly in a timely manner, “Fourth Imperial Highness, this Lin Dong really has no respect for anyone! You’re the Fourth Prince of our Windfall Nation’s Imperial family and will succeed the throne of Windfall Nation in the future, and yet, he dares to treat you like this.”

“Hurmph! Other people might be afraid of my identity as the Fourth Prince of Windfall Nation’s Imperial family, but he, Lin Dong, has no need to be afraid at all. The Lin Clan is not inferior to Windfall Nation at all.” King Qian snorted. His words made Ye Feng feel awkward.

Soon after, King Qian stared at Ye Feng coldly as he said, “Ye Feng, what’s going on with the matter you’re handling? It has already been two months, but there’s no movement from the Situ Clan at all!”

“Fourth Imperial Highness, I’ve really tried my best in these two months. The news of the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan, Duan Ling Tian, being afraid of Lin Dong, the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, has already spread everywhere, but he still refuses to show himself. There’s nothing else I can do.” Ye Feng smiled wryly.

“Since you can’t do anything about it, there’s no need for you to concern yourself with it anymore,” King Qian said nonchalantly.

Upon hearing that, Ye Feng heaved a sigh of relief. Since a while ago, he did not want to have anything to do with this.

It was obvious the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan, Duan Ling Tian, had no intention of accepting the challenge. Otherwise, he would have revealed himself a long time ago.

After a few days, the people of Windfall Nation realized that the words on the street had changed.

During the past two months, the hottest news was about Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, coming to challenge the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan, Duan Ling Tian. However, Duan Ling Tian was in closed-door cultivation and would not accept the challenge.

Naturally, it was Situ Clan who had spread the news of Duan Ling Tian being in the midst of closed-door cultivation.

The majority of the people did not believe this. They felt Duan Ling Tian was afraid of Lin Dong and did not dare to accept the challenge.

Although the topic in these few days did not deviate from Duan Ling Tian and Lin Dong, many people began to speak about Lin Dong being a guest of honor in King Qian's estate.

King Qian's estate!

These three words would not mean much if the Situ Clan was not involved.

However, because of the Situ Clan's involvement in this matter, many people's imagination began to run wild.

After all, everyone knew the Situ Clan had always been on King Rong's side.

The Interim Advisor of Situ Clan had avoided the challenge from a guest of honor from King Qian's estate. Did this not mean that King Rong's estate was inferior to King Qian's estate?

Soon after, this rumor began to spread viciously due to some instigators.

Even King Rong's estate could no longer stand it, and they immediately pressured the Situ Clan.

In the Situ Clan.

Situ Hao's eyebrows were furrowed after he sent out a man from King Rong's estate. After a while, he finally made his way to his son, Situ Hang's mansion.

"Hang'er, Master Duan still hasn't shown any signs of coming out of his closed-door cultivation?" Situ Hao asked Situ Hang.

"Why? Father, are you still worried about the rumors spreading outside? There's no need for you to worry at all. Master Duan doesn't care about those baseless rumors at all." Situ Hang smiled.

"The situation has changed." Situ Hao smiled wryly. Then he told Situ Hang about the purpose of the visit of the man from King Rong's estate. Apart from that, he also filled him in about the latest rumors that were spreading in Windfall Nation, and how everyone was saying King Rong's estate was inferior to King Qian's estate.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not have any contact with King Rong or the people from his estate up until now, he was still the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan. Situ Clan had always been on King Rong's side. To a certain extent, Duan Ling Tian had a connection with King Rong. He was even considered as someone from King Rong's estate.

Similarly, Lin Dong was also considered as someone from King Qian's estate since he was a guest of honor in his estate.

"What are the people from King Qian's estate trying to do?" Situ Hang's expression had turned extremely grave.

"I have a nagging feeling that something's not right. Initially, I thought Lin Dong has heard of Master Duan's name and came here to challenge him to find out who's stronger. However, it seems like things aren't as simple as it seems. I'm afraid King Qian's estate plays a role in this, and they must have added fuel to the flame." Situ Hao managed to uncover the truth with this one remark.

“Father, do you mean Lin Dong was invited by King Qian to strike at King Rong?” Situ Hang narrowed his eyes.

“It’s possible.” Situ Hao nodded. “It’s a pity Master Duan still hasn’t come out of his closed-door cultivation. More than three months have gone by since he entered closed-door cultivation, right?”

“That’s right. It’s been more than three months.” Situ Hang nodded.

“King Rong’s estate is feeling restless now. The man King Rong sent gave me two options according to the order that was given.” Situ Hao sighed.

“What options?” Situ Hang frowned.

“King Rong said if Master Duan is really in the midst of closed-door cultivation, we’ll have to think of a way to get him to come out of closed-door cultivation and ask him if he’s confident about fighting Lin Dong. If he is, then he is to accept the challenge. If he’s not, then he has to retreat!” Situ Hao replied.

“How to retreat?” Situ Hang’s frown deepened.

“Master Duan will have to publicly announce his departure from the Situ Clan and cut all ties with the clan.” Situ Hao sighed.

“How’s this possible!” Situ Hang’s expression turned grave. “Master Duan is my life savior. How can we let him do that? Father, I disagree with this. What’s the second option King Rong gave you?” Situ Hang seemed to be grasping at straws.

“The second option only applies if Master Duan is not in closed-door cultivation. He has to retreat immediately if that’s the case!” Situ Hao let out a long sigh.

“Then, Clan Leader Situ, which option would you choose?” At this moment, accompanied by the sound of a door creaking, a purple figure walked out from one of the rooms in the courtyard as sunlight shone on him.

The purple figure was a young man with dashing brows and bright eyes. He was incredibly handsome.

Upon seeing the purple-clad young man, Situ Hang’s eyes lit up as he quickly walked toward him.

“Master Duan!”

“Master Duan.” Situ Hao smiled wryly. Naturally, he knew his words had been overheard by Duan Ling Tian. He felt a little guilty.

The purple-clad young man who had just walked out of the room was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had been in closed-door cultivation for more than three months.

Chapter 1626: The Situ Clan Was Unjustly Ridiculed

Naturally, the three months they mentioned were three months in the outside world. In the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, a whole fifteen months had gone by.

“Clan Leader Situ, make an announcement immediately that I, Duan Ling Tian, am officially leaving the Situ Clan and am no longer the Interim Advisor of the clan,” Duan Ling Tian said to Situ Hao.

“Master Duan, you don’t have to do this!” Situ Hang’s face turned pale immediately. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would make such a decision.

“Master Duan, from the point of view of the Clan Leader of Situ Clan, it would be better for you to leave the clan. However, as a father, there’s no way I can ask you to leave the Situ Clan. You’ve saved my son’s life after all,” Situ Hao said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian solemnly.

Situ Hang was his only son!

“Master Duan, there’s no reason for you to make such a decision rashly. Let’s think of another way. Perhaps, there’s a better way that would not require you to leave the clan.” In the end, even Situ Hao asked Duan Ling Tian not to leave.

Upon hearing his words, Duan Ling Tian who had a solemn expression on his face finally smiled.

“Master Duan, you...” When Situ Hao and his son saw the smile on his face, they were confused. They did not know what his smile meant.

“Clan Leader Situ, it’s rare for you to say such words,” Duan Ling Tian replied, “As for my decision, it still remains the same. Naturally, my decision has nothing to do with you and Young Master Hang. From the beginning, I don’t have any intention of staying long in Windfall Nation. It’s just a matter of time before I leave. Although I’ll leave the Situ Clan and no longer be its Interim Advisor, I still plan on staying in Windfall Nation. I’ll only leave after a while.”

Now that Feng Wu Dao and the others were settled in Windfall Nation, there was nothing he was worried about here.

What he needed to do was to find the force behind Xue Nai as soon as possible and find his fiancée, Li Fei.

It had been quite some time since he came to the capital of Windfall Nation, and he had gathered a lot of useful information. His first guess about the force behind Han Xue Nai was a force called the Greenwave Han Mansion.

He would make his way to the Greenwave Han Mansion next.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Situ Hao and Situ Hang agreed with him silently. They had long known Duan Ling Tian would leave eventually, but they did not think he would leave so soon.

“Master Duan, even if you want to leave, there’s no need for you to leave our Situ Clan.” Situ Hang insisted.

Looking at Situ Hao, Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, “Young Master Hang, I’ve already made up my mind. There’s no need for you to persuade me.” Based on his words, it seemed as though he was enlightened.

“However, when you make the announcement about my departure from the Situ Clan and vacating the position of Interim Advisor, I hope you’ll make another announcement on my behalf, Clan Leader Situ. I,

Duan Ling Tian, will accept the challenge from the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, Lin Dong, on my own. As for the date of the battle, he can decide as he likes." His words shocked Situ Hao and Situ Hang.

Master Duan wanted to accept the challenge from that powerhouse who came from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion? It was only natural that they were shocked.

Previously, they assumed Duan Ling Tian did not dare to accept the challenge when they heard his decision to leave the Situ Clan. However, this did not seem to be the case.

"Master Duan, are you confident?" Situ Hang asked, stunned.

"Would I accept the challenge if I'm not confident?" Duan Ling Tian smiled nonchalantly. Even the former him who had not cultivated for three months would not be afraid of the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking, let alone the current him.

"Master Duan, since you're confident, there's no need for you to leave the Situ Clan," Situ Hao said again.

"Sect Leader Situ, please just help me spread the news." Duan Ling Tian changed the topic. It was apparent he had no intention of changing his mind.

Seeing how determined Duan Ling Tian was, Situ Hao only sighed inwardly and no longer tried to persuade him. He knew it would be pointless even if he had continued persuading him. It was obvious Master Duan did not change his mind often.

In the capital of Windfall Nation, the hottest topic changed again. Another news spread out and caused the entire capital of Windfall Nation to seethe in excitement.

Situ Clan had announced the departure of their Interim Advisor Master Duan, and he was no longer a member of Situ Clan.

"Master Duan is leaving the Situ Clan?"

"It seems like he really wasn't in closed-door cultivation."

"Hurmph! I think he's afraid of the strongest person on the Heaving Ranking who came from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, right?"

"Isn't that obvious? If he's not afraid, why would he make such a decision? Because of him, people have been saying that King Rong's estate is inferior to King Qian's estate."

"Now that Duan Ling Tian has left the Situ Clan, he no longer has anything to do with King Rong's estate. Nobody will say King Rong's estate is inferior to King Qian's estate anymore."

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian really chose to hide for the past two months because he's afraid of the powerhouse from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion... Ptuuui! To think that I idolized him previously and really thought he was in the midst of closed-door cultivation."

"You're too naive!"

The entire capital of Windfall Nation bustled with this kind of talks.

All of this was caused by the news of Duan Ling Tian leaving the Situ Clan. Almost everybody felt that Duan Ling Tian made such a decision because he did not dare to accept the challenge from the powerhouse who came from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion.

Even the people in King Qian's estate felt the same way as well.

"He really announced he's leaving the Situ Clan?" After learning about this, even King Qian was stunned. At the same time, he looked at the middle-aged man sitting at a lower seat who was breaking out in cold sweat. "Situ Ming, is this part of your plan?"

The middle-aged man was none other than Situ Ming, the Second Master of Situ Clan.

Just a few days ago, after King Qian told Ye Feng to leave this matter alone, he had found Situ Ming and asked him if he had any way to force Duan Ling Tian to accept the challenge. At that time, Situ Ming had solemnly pledged that he would be able to get Duan Ling Tian to accept the challenge. He was also the one who had been pulling strings in the dark and caused the change of topic in the capital of Windfall Nation in recent days.

His only purpose of doing this was to pressure King Rong's estate.

King Rong's estate cared about their image. It was only natural for them to pressure the Situ Clan. At that time, it would be impossible for Duan Ling Tian to refuse the challenge.

However, it did not cross his mind that after waiting for a few days, they would receive news about Duan Ling Tian's departure from the Situ Clan.

The outcome was completely opposite to what he had imagined.

Based on his opinion, Duan Ling Tian was an arrogant young man. Under such circumstances, he would not have refused the challenge. It seemed like he had assumed wrongly.

Ye Feng who was standing at the side looked at Situ Ming mockingly.

When the topic in the capital of Windfall Nation had changed, he could instantly guess Situ Ming's intention. He became very angry when he thought Situ Ming's idea would yield the desired result. However, now that Situ Ming's plan had failed, he was inwardly pleased.

'Who asked you to try taking credit for this? You finally know you can't just simply spout some ideas, right?'

"Situ Ming, don't you have anything to say for yourself?" When King Qian saw Situ Ming standing rooted to the ground, stunned, his expression turned even grimmer.

"Your Imperial Highness, King Qian, I didn't think things would..." Situ Ming smiled wryly after he took a deep breath. However, before he could finish his sentence, he was interrupted by a voice resonating from outside. "Fourth Imperial Highness, good news! Good news!"

A middle-aged man rushed into the hall immediately without waiting for permission.

“Do you not know the rules?” King Qian’s originally grave expression turned even graver.

“Please forgive me, Fourth Imperial Highness! The news is really urgent! The Situ Clan has made another announcement. They announced that Duan Ling Tian would accept the challenge using his own name after he leaves the Situ Clan!” The middle-aged man answered quickly.

“What?!” The moment King Qian heard this, he was stunned. The glum expression on his face disappeared without a trace, and his eyes shone brightly like the stars in the sky.

“He has accepted the challenge?” After listening to the words of the middle-aged man who had rushed into the hall, Situ Ming’s eyes also brightened immediately even though he was breaking out in cold sweat earlier. He had a pleasantly surprised expression on his face.

The news had come at just the right moment. Both King Qian and Situ Ming were delighted.

If there was anyone who was unhappy, it was Ye Feng.

‘Damn it! Duan Ling Tian actually accepted the challenge. What has he been doing all this time?’ Ye Feng’s expression turned grave. However, nobody bothered to pay attention to the expression on his face at all.

“Hurry! Invite Master Lin here!” King Qian told the middle-aged man.

“Yes,” the middle-aged man replied before he left.

Meanwhile, this news had also spread in the capital of Windfall Nation.

This news shocked the people even more than the news before this did.

“After announcing his departure from the Situ Clan, he’s accepting the challenge by the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion using his own name?” Many people’s eyes lit up as their faces had an expression of eagerness.

“Look! It’s just as I expected, it’s impossible for my idol to be afraid of battles!”

“I remember you insulting Master Duan this morning. Why are you changing your opinion so fast?”

“Ptui! Don’t slander me! I’ve done no such thing!”

“I’m very certain of what you’ve done. Do you dare to swear on the lightning penalty oath?”

“...”

Such discussions took place all over the capital of Windfall Nation.

Duan Ling Tian’s name that had suffered a disastrous decline seemed to instantly rise to Heaven from Hell again. He was being praised everywhere in the capital of Windfall Nation.

On the other hand, Situ Clan was being cursed mercilessly.

“Ptui! It must have been Situ Clan that forced Master Duan to leave... I really want to see their expressions if Master Duan wins the battle!”

“Situ Clan? Pttui! How ungrateful! Did they forget how Master Duan saved their Great Young Master who was on the brink of death?”

Chapter 1627: Death Duel

The capital of Windfall Nation was bustling with excitement due to Duan Ling Tian accepting Lin Dong’s challenge.

Everyone was only talking about one thing. When news of this battle spread out, it was destined to garner everyone’s attention.

Although Lin Dong was not from Windfall Nation, the people from Windfall Nation had long heard of his name. They knew he was the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. He was also the lineal disciple of a powerful sixth-rate force in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. This honor caused him to be widely acknowledged as the strongest person below the Saint Stage, the Saint Rudiment Stage, in Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion!

Although Duan Ling Tian’s name had only begun to spread in Windfall Nation in the past couple of months, his strength was widely acknowledged by the people of Windfall Nation as well. This was because he had defeated Lady Feng of Drift Blaze Sect.

Before Duan Ling Tian had appeared, Lady Feng was widely acknowledged as the strongest powerhouse among the younger generation in Windfall Nation. When she was defeated by Duan Ling Tian, the people of Windfall Nation was already certain she possessed the strength to enter the top ten of the Heaven Ranking, and yet, Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat her.

Based on the opinion of the people of Windfall Nation, it would not be difficult for him if he wanted to enter the top ten of the Heaven Ranking.

When they heard that Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking had come to Windfall Nation to challenge Duan Ling Tian, they began to realize Duan Ling Tian was not a simple person.

Who was Lin Dong?

The strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking!

Duan Ling Tian might possess the strength to enter the top ten of the Heaven Ranking, but his current rank was only at the 23rd place.

It was the first time in the history of Southern Ridge Yuan for the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking to issue a challenge to someone ranked at the 23rd place.

“I wonder when will the battle between Master Duan and that powerhouse from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion take place? I can’t wait!”

“I hope the battle will be open to the public so that I’ll be able to personally watch it!”

“That’s right! If it’s held in the palace, we won’t be able to watch at all.”

Soon after, the people in the capital of Windfall Nation began to worry about the venue of the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Lin Dong. After all, it had to do with whether they would be able to personally watch it or not.

In the main palace of King Qian's estate.

King Qian looked Lin Dong as he asked, "Master Lin, that Duan Ling Tian is very arrogant. He said it's up to you to decide the date and the venue. Do you wish for the battle to be held inside or outside the palace? If it's held inside, there won't be many people watching the fight. If it's held outside, I'm afraid it won't just be people from the capital who would come to watch, even people from outside the capital would come as well."

"Naturally, it should be held outside." Lin Dong snorted. "Since he dares to accept my challenge, I'll humiliate him in front of everybody!"

"Master Lin, our deal is for you to kill him!" King Qian frowned.

"Relax! After I humiliate him, I'll kill him immediately and give you his Spatial Ring!" Lin Dong said nonchalantly.

Upon hearing Lin Dong's words, King Qian breathed a sigh of relief before asking again, "Master Lin, when do you want the battle to take place?"

"Tomorrow. After this matter is dealt with, I'll have to return to the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion," Lin Dong answered.

"Alright," King Qian responded before turning to look at Situ Ming who was sitting on the seat on his right. "Second Master Ming, as for the venue of the battle, I'll let you arrange it. Let me know by this afternoon."

"Yes, Imperial Highness, King Qian." Situ Ming quickly responded. He was delighted.

Initially, after he had defected to King Qian's faction, he was not highly regarded by King Qian. It made him feel frustrated for his talent to be wasted.

However, due to the method he had thought of that successfully made Duan Ling Tian accept Lin Dong's challenge, King Qian finally regarded him highly. He felt delighted, and he thought it was a very good start.

As for Ye Feng who was standing at the side, his expression was extremely grave.

However, when he saw King Qian had shifted his attention to him, Ye Feng quickly changed his expression to a respectful one.

"Ye Feng, spread the news that Master Lin has decided to battle Duan Ling Tian tomorrow. As for the venue, spread it out after Second Master Ming has decided on a place. However, when you spread the news, let the people know that the battle will take place outside of the palace, and everyone is allowed to come and watch!" King Qian told Ye Feng.

“Yes, Fourth Imperial Highness.” Ye Feng was inwardly annoyed. This was a task that could be carried out by an errand boy, but King Qian had asked him to do it. Moreover, he had given Situ Ming such an important task.

Ye Feng knew his position in King Qian’s heart was no longer as high as Situ Ming. ‘I can’t continue on like this... I must think of a way to increase my position in King Qian’s heart. Damn it! If it wasn’t for the fact that King Qian has forced me to swear by the lightning penalty oath that I can’t spread the news about the Devilseal Tablet, there’s no need for me to stay here and endure this treatment.’”

At this moment, Ye Feng felt a little regretful. He regretted telling King Qian about the Devilseal Tablet.

“If I had known about this, I would’ve given this information to the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. It would’ve been easy for them to destroy Duan Ling Tian. There’s no need for us to go to such lengths. Moreover, King Qian had promised me to let me kill Duan Ling Tian with my own hands, but he had broken his promise because of the Devilseal Tablet.’ Ye Feng found the last part of his thoughts the most annoying.

Duan Ling Tian had used the Devilseal Tablet to kill the Supreme Elder of the Dark Nether Sect and forced him to run away. On top of that, he had caused the sect to only exist in name. It was undoubtedly a great humiliation to him.

In his opinion, it would not be counted as revenge if he did not get to kill Duan Ling Tian with his own hands.

However, he had completely lost the power to negotiate. Due to this reason, he regretted telling King Qian about the Devilseal Tablet.

However, since things had already escalated to this extent, Ye Feng knew it was useless even if he felt regretful. There was no cure for regret in this world.

When Ye Feng spread the news of the battle, the people in the capital of Windfall Nation broke out in an uproar again. “It’ll be held outside the palace tomorrow? Everyone’s allowed to watch the battle?”

“Haha... Good! Good! To think I was worried it’ll be held in the palace. It seems like I was thinking too much!”

“The battle between Master Duan and the strongest powerhouse of the Heaven Ranking must be very interesting! Unfortunately, the venue will only be announced this afternoon. Otherwise, I’ll go there now to secure a place for myself!”

When the capital of Windfall Nation was still in an uproar, another exciting news was spread by King Qian’s estate.

“The battle between Lin Dong and Duan Ling Tian will be a Death Duel! It’s not over until one of them dies!” When the news spread in the capital of Windfall Nation, the entire place fell silent.

Death Duel?

Everybody was shocked by these two words.

It did not cross their minds that the powerhouse from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion would want to have a Death Duel with Duan Ling Tian.

Chapter 1628: How Coincidental

A Death Duel meant they would not get to rest until one of them died!

“My goodness! What kind of enmity that Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion’s Lin Clan, has with Master Duan? To think that he wants a Death Duel with Master Duan!”

“Previously, when he issued the challenge to Master Duan, he did not state it would be a Death Duel. Now that he stated it, I think Master Duan would change his mind if he’s not confident, right?”

“It’s ridiculous that he wants this to be a Death Duel!”

When the people in the capital of Windfall Nation regained their senses, they all began to discuss among themselves.

Many people began to worry if Duan Ling Tian would still accept the challenge after learning the battle tomorrow would be a Death Duel.

A Death Duel was a battle between life and death! It was not something to be taken lightly!

One only had one life. It would be the end once one died!

One would not issue a Death Duel if there was no enmity.

Soon after, the discussion in the capital of Windfall Nation began to change again.

“Death Duel... I wonder if Master Duan will still participate in the battle tomorrow with Lin Dong when he learns about this...”

“I definitely won’t participate if I’m Master Duan. Since that person dares to issue a Death Duel, it’s obvious he’s confident, and he’s harboring ill-intention. Isn’t this just jumping into the hole that person has dug?”

“Although Master Duan is powerful, I’m afraid he’s slightly lacking compared to Lin Dong... After all, Lin Dong is the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking. He’s even known as the strongest person among all the powerhouses below the Saint Stage in Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion’s district! In the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, nobody below the Saint Stage is a match for him at all!”

More and more people felt that Duan Ling Tian would get cold feet and run away after learning his opponent wanted a Death Duel.

“Death Duel?” The first person who learned about this in the Situ Clan was Situ Hao.

“What enmity does Lin Dong have with Master Duan to the extent that he wants a Death Duel? It’s obvious he just wants to kill Master Duan!” Situ Hao’s expression turned a little grave.

He had felt deeply remorseful when he saw how willing Duan Ling Tian was to leave the Situ Clan. Now that he learned the battle between Lin Dong and Duan Ling Tian was going to be a Death Duel, he began to feel worried for Duan Ling Tian's safety. A Death Duel was not a joke after all!

Situ Hao's eyes flashed as he made his way to the great courtyard where his son, Situ Hang, lived.

Although Duan Ling Tian had already announced his departure from the Situ Clan and vacated the position of Interim Advisor, he had no plans of physically leaving the clan before he left Windfall Nation.

Situ Hao came here to look for Duan Ling Tian. When he saw him, he asked without beating around the bush, "Master Duan, do you know Lin Dong from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion before this?"

"No, I don't." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "I've only heard about him after I came to Windfall Nation. I know he's the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking, and he's a lineal disciple of the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion's Lin Clan. Moreover, he's also widely acknowledged as the strongest powerhouse below the Saint Stage by the people of Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. Clan Leader Situ, why do you ask?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled.

"T-This is weird." Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words and seeing the confused expression on his face, Situ Hao was baffled.

"Father, what's going on?" Situ Hang asked.

Situ Hao looked at Duan Ling Tian as he said, "King Qian's estate just released news that the battle tomorrow between Master Duan and Lin Dong will be a Death Duel!"

Death Duel!

Situ Hang's expression turned grave immediately. "Lin Dong wants to kill Master Duan?!"

The Death Duel was a battle between life and death!

Once both of them start the battle, none of them was allowed to stop until one of them died.

"Death Duel?" Upon hearing Situ Hao's words, Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed immediately as his eyes shone coldly.

This news shocked him as well.

"Since you don't know Lin Dong, there's only one possibility left — Someone from King Qian's estate wants to kill you or King Qian himself wants to kill you!" As the Clan Leader of Situ Clan, Situ Hao was, naturally, quick-witted. He quickly discovered this point.

"But why does King Qian wants you dead?" However, Situ Hao was baffled by this.

Situ Hang had a perplexed expression on his face as well.

Duan Ling Tian remained calm as though he was not baffled by this matter at all.

Naturally, it was not difficult for him to guess King Qian's motive. King Qian had to be aiming for the Devilseal Tablet in his possession. 'He didn't spare any effort and actually invited the strongest person

on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion to kill me just for the sake of the Devilseal Tablet... It seems like King Qian is really determined.'

"I know why." At this moment, a familiar voice resonated from outside. Along with the voice, Situ Hou, the Supreme Elder of Situ Clan, appeared and walked into the courtyard.

"Grandpa Hou, you know why King Qian wants to kill Master Duan?" Situ Hang's eyes lit up immediately.

Situ Hao and Duan Ling Tian instantly shifted their attention to Situ Hou.

Situ Hao had a curious expression on his face.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian frowned. He was stunned. 'Don't tell me the news about the Devilseal Tablet being in my possession has been leaked that even the Supreme Elder of the clan knows about it?'

However, the moment Situ Hou opened his mouth, Duan Ling Tian discovered he had been thinking too much.

However, he did not expect there would be something so coincidental in this world.

According to Situ Hou, the reason King Qian wanted to kill him was to repay the debt he had owed a servant who had saved his life many years ago.

That servant had long left King Qian's estate and formed a group of bandit by the southern frontier of Windfall Nation. As the leader, he led a life of leisure.

However, just half a year ago, his third brother was killed by a mysterious powerhouse.

He had brought the mysterious powerhouse's portrait from thousands and thousands of miles away to the capital of Windfall Nation to claim the promise King Qian had given him many years ago. King Qian had promised him a favor as long as it was within his power to do so.

The servant had asked King Qian to kill the mysterious powerhouse in the portrait, and the man in the portrait happened to be Duan Ling Tian.

"It's him." When Situ Hou finished recounting what he knew, Duan Ling Tian finally recalled the encounter when he first arrived in Windfall Nation.

At that time, the third chief of the bandits wanted to kill him after he blackmailed a village. However, he was killed by Duan Ling Tian in the end.

At that time, he did not bother destroying the evidence. The group of bandit's strength was equivalent to the strength of an eighth-rate force, they would not pose a threat to him at all even if they attacked him with all of their might.

'I can't believe the great chief of the bandits has some connection to the Fourth Prince of Windfall Nation's Imperial Family,' Duan Ling Tian mused to himself, 'Looks like I shouldn't look down on people in the future.'

"I see." Upon hearing Situ Hou's words, Situ Hao and Situ Hang finally understood.

Chapter 1629: The Battle In Northern Mang Mountain

In fact, it was only natural for Duan Ling Tian to think that way.

After all, the group of bandit only had the strength of an eighth-rate force, it would not pose a threat to him even if there were 100 groups of bandits like them.

However, as it turned out, Duan Ling Tian happened to meet a group of bandit that had connections with King Qian.

This matter rendered him speechless. However, he did not regret his action at all.

He was certain this was not the main reason King Qian was targeting him. It was mainly because of the Devilseal Tablet.

‘You want my Devilseal Tablet? Well then, we’ll have to see whether you or that person whom you’ve invited here have that kind of ability to take it from me.’ A hint of disdain flashed in the depth of Duan Ling Tian’s eyes.

Naturally, Situ Hao, his son, and Situ Hou did not notice the hint of disdain in his eyes.

“Master Duan, it seems like King Qian really wants to kill you. Why don’t you leave the capital of Windfall Nation for now?” Situ Hang said with a grave expression as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was his life savior. Naturally, he did not wish for something to happen to Duan Ling Tian. Even if Duan Ling Tian was confident about his battle with Lin Dong tomorrow, he did not really think Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat Lin Dong.

Lin Dong was the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion’s district after all!

The Heaven Ranking had existed for countless years in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion and was greatly valued.

“That’s right, Master Duan!” Situ Hao said in assent, “It’s obvious that King Qian is harboring ill-intention. At this moment, it’s better if you decline the challenge. Six months ago, I heard that Lin Dong was just a step away from entering the Saint Stage. Although he might not be in the Saint Stage yet, he’s definitely close to entering it.”

“Master Duan, please leave,” Situ Hou chimed in.

“There’s no need for the three of you to persuade me.” Although Duan Ling Tian was moved by their gestures, he still shook his head and rejected them. “Since they want a Death Duel, then we’ll have a Death Duel! If I pull out of this battle, it’ll undoubtedly leave an irremovable mark on my path of Martial Dao. It’ll greatly impact my future in regards to Martial Dao. Due to this reason, I will not pull out of the battle. Since he wants to fight, I’ll fight him! And if he wants a Death Duel, we’ll have a Death Duel!”

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian’s body exuded a strong battle intent. As his battle intent rose, it seemed as though it was capable of destroying any fortress!

Upon seeing this, Situ Hao, Situ Hang, and Situ Hou only exchanged glances. They could only smile wryly.

Although they were unwilling to see Duan Ling Tian seek death, the determination he had shown made them feel as though it would be difficult for them to change his mind. At this moment, they could only hope Duan Ling Tian would come out from the battle unharmed.

Time continued to pass.

In the afternoon, another news was released by King Qian's estate, confirming the venue and the time of the Death Duel between Lin Dong and Duan Ling Tian.

"Tomorrow noon at Northern Mang Mountain at the north of the capital!"

"Northern Mang Mountain!" Soon after, everyone in the capital of Windfall Nation received the news.

Many Martial Cultivators began to leave the capital to make their way to Northern Mang Mountain!

"Quick! Quick! Let's go and grab a good spot! We can't miss the battle tomorrow afternoon!"

"I've made up my mind to sleep at Northern Mang Mountain tonight! Otherwise, I'm afraid I won't be able to find a spot tomorrow."

The crowd that looked like a dark mass from afar made their way to Northern Mang Mountain. Northern Mang Mountain was destined to be filled with people tonight.

At King Qian's estate.

"He has been found?" The eyes of Ye Mu Bai, the servant who used to be under King Qian's command and the main chief of a group of bandit in the frontier of Windfall Nation, lit up immediately the moment he was informed that King Qian had already found the mysterious powerhouse who had killed his third brother.

"Duan Ling Tian? The former Interim Advisor of Situ Clan is going to have a Death Duel with Master Lin Dong?" His eyes narrowed immediately when he learned about the mysterious powerhouse's identity.

Naturally, he did not remain oblivious while he stayed in King Qian's estate.

Duan Ling Tian was a young powerhouse whose fame had risen to the top of Windfall Nation a few months ago. This was because he had defeated Lady Feng from Drift Blaze Sect and replaced her on the Heaven Ranking. He became famous immediately.

Recently, he had also heard that Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking, had come from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion to issue a challenge to Duan Ling Tian.

He had already planned to join in on the fun tomorrow. However, he did not think he would receive such news today. As it turned out, the mysterious powerhouse who had killed his third brother in the southern frontier of Windfall Nation was Duan Ling Tian.

'It's a good thing I came to look for the Fourth Imperial Highness. If I'm on my own, I'm definitely no match for Duan Ling Tian.' Ye Mu Bai counted himself lucky when he thought about this.

Although Duan Ling Tian had already announced his departure from the Situ Clan and had vacated his position as Interim Advisor, his strength alone was more than enough to crush Ye Mu Bai to death. He was not a match for Duan Ling Tian at all.

‘And I was wondering why Master Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking, would come from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion to Windfall Nation just to challenge Duan Ling Tian who’s ranked 23rd on the Heaven Ranking. It seems like the Fourth Imperial Highness had intentionally invited him here. Duan Ling Tian had saved the life of the Great Young Master of Situ Clan previously, it’s not easy for the Fourth Imperial Highness to personally make a move,’ Ye Mu Bai thought to himself, ‘Due to this reason, the Fourth Imperial Highness must have invited Master Lin Dong over so he’ll have a good reason to kill Duan Ling Tian!’ He had also heard the news about the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Lin Dong being a Death Duel.

“I can’t believe that even though I’ve left for so many years, the Fourth Imperial Highness still thinks so highly of me... For the sake of the favor he owes me, he even invited a powerhouse like Master Lin Dong from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. I’m sure he had to offer a great reward just to invite him over.” Ye Mu Bai was touched.

Naturally, he only felt this way because he was unaware of the truth.

The reason King Qian had spent so much to invite Lin Dong, the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking, over was for the sake of the Devilseal Tablet. King Qian did not care about his matter at all.

However, since everything had fallen neatly into place, and the person Ye Mu Bai wanted dead happened to be Duan Ling Tian, King Qian planned to use this opportunity to fulfill his promise as well.

Although King Qian could not be bothered to return the favor to a person like Ye Mu Bai, he still sent someone to inform Ye Mu Bai to head to Northern Mang Mountain to watch Lin Dong kill Duan Ling Tian to show his subordinates that he was a grateful person.

“Third Brother, the person who killed you will die tomorrow. I’m useless for not being able to kill him with my own hands. However, it’s the same since the Fourth Imperial Highness will seek revenge for you,” Ye Mu Bai muttered to himself as his eyes shone with excitement.

In the main palace of King Rong’s estate.

“Who is this Duan Ling Tian? Initially, I thought he’s leaving the Situ Clan and giving up the position of Interim Advisor because of the pressure from Situ Clan. However, he accepted Lin Dong’s challenge. Doesn’t this mean he’s not avoiding Lin Dong’s challenge before this?” King Rong, the scholar-like middle-aged man, frowned.

Although he had never met the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan, Duan Ling Tian, he had heard of him before. However, he only just realized how mysterious Duan Ling Tian was.

An old man standing behind King Rong said, “Second Imperial Highness, King Qian’s estate has stated the battle tomorrow will be a Death Duel. It still remains to be seen if Duan Ling Tian will show up tomorrow. Perhaps, he might have been able to force himself to show up before this. However, since it has turned into a Death Duel, we don’t know if he’ll show up.”

“You have a point. Even if he has a high innate talent and is powerful, he’s still quite weak compared to Lin Dong... I really don’t understand why Fourth Brother spared no efforts in inviting Lin Dong from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion over just to deal with Duan Ling Tian.” King Rong shook his head. He felt that King Qian had overestimated Duan Ling Tian.

“Second Imperial Highness, apart from being powerful and having a high innate talent, Duan Ling Tian also has a connection with the Drift Blaze Sect. Rumor has it that Lady Feng from Drift Blaze Sect has her heart set on him. Perhaps, King Qian is wary of Lady Feng from the Drift Blaze Sect that’s why he didn’t dare to be openly defiant,” the old man continued to say, “Moreover, previously, Duan Ling Tian was still a member of Situ Clan. The clan is on King Rong’s side. King Qian has to act cautiously no matter what.”

“You’re right.” King Rong nodded. “Although Fourth Brother is dumb, there’s no lack of capable people around him! Hurmph! I really can’t believe that Situ Ming and his people from the Situ Clan would defect to his side. It’s like a slap to my face!” When he reached the end of his sentence, his face darkened.

“Second Imperial Highness, I’m sure King Qian will be there at Northern Mang Mountain tomorrow. Will you go as well?” the old man asked as he looked at King Rong.

“Of course, I’ll go.” King Rong nodded. “It doesn’t matter if Duan Ling Tian shows up or not, I’ll still join in the fun. Fourth Brother has humiliated me a lot recently. If I don’t show up tomorrow, who knows if he’ll create rumors about me being afraid of him that’s why I didn’t show up at Northern Mang Mountain.”

“I truly hope that Duan Ling Tian shows up at Northern Mang Mountain. Up until now, I’ve not met this young talent whose fame has spread far and wide in Windfall Nation,” the old man said.

“I also hope that he’ll show up. However, if he does, he’ll most likely be killed by Lin Dong. It’s fortunate he has already left the Situ Clan. Otherwise, our King Rong’s estate’s name will be affected as well if he dies,” King Rong said.

In the Situ Clan.

Bai Li Hong and the others became restless and came over to advise Duan Ling Tian when they found out he was going to have a Death Duel with Lin Dong, the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion.

They had been in Windfall Nation for some time now. Naturally, they knew what the Heaven Ranking was and what the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking meant.

The strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking was someone widely acknowledged as the strongest person below the Saint Stage in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion’s district.

Chapter 1630: Dark Clouds Hanging Over The Mountain

In Bai Li Hong’s eyes, Duan Ling Tian was no longer an outsider. Due to this reason, he bluntly said, “Junior Brother, since you’ve already announced your departure from the Situ Clan, there’s no need for you to show up at the battle tomorrow. As the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking, Lin Dong

is very powerful and is acknowledged by the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. Not only that, it's apparent he's filled with confidence since he dares to issue a challenge even after he knows about your strength. You'll only be placed in a disadvantageous position if you have the Death Duel with him." Bai Li Hong's expression was grave.

"That's right, Duan Ling Tian. Although prestige is important, it's nothing compared to your life. Moreover, you can find him for a battle after you've broken through to the Saint Stage and defeat him to wash away the humiliation. Even if there are people who said you're afraid of Lin Dong now, in the future, they'll know you're stronger when you defeat him," Chen Shao Shuai chimed in.

"Young Master, although I don't know how strong Lin Dong is compared to you, I still think you shouldn't show up tomorrow," Xiong Quan said.

Soon after, Sima, Gold Thug, and the Nangong Twins chimed in as well. The words they said were similar to the ones the others had spoken earlier. All of them were trying to dissuade him from showing up at the battle tomorrow.

"Don't worry. I wouldn't have accepted Lin Dong's challenge if I don't have any confidence! I'm not afraid of anyone below the Saint Stage." Duan Ling Tian merely smiled. He had a confident expression on his face.

When Duan Ling Tian saw a few of them still looked worried, he added, "All of you have seen me grow to this stage... Don't tell me all of you think I'm someone one who pointlessly seeks death? If I'm really that kind of person, would I even still be alive now?" He shook his head when he reached the end of his sentence

When Bai Li Hong and the others heard his words, they were rendered speechless immediately.

Now that they had thought about it carefully, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian really was not the kind to overestimate himself and seek death.

There were many instances where they had doubted Duan Ling Tian, but every time, he would surprise them.

When they thought of this, coupled with Duan Ling Tian's confidence, they immediately felt at ease.

"Then we'll go and watch you defeat Lin Dong tomorrow." Nangong Yi smiled.

"That's right! We want to see how the strongest person on the Heaven Ranking is defeated by you," Chen Shao Shuai chimed in.

Now that Duan Ling Tian had reminded them, their mentalities had undergone 180 degrees change in mere seconds. They were all filled with confidence in Duan Ling Tian.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded his head and smiled. Although he no longer said anything, the confident smile on his face was enough to explain everything.

Bai Li Hong and the others no longer disturbed him and bade him farewell before they returned to their respective rooms.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian had also returned to his room. However, he did not enter the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate. Instead, he sat cross-legged on the bed.

“How do I enter the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword?” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. Hints of confusion could be seen in his eyes.

Although he had memorized all the contents of the Sovereign Heart Sword, and he had long entered the first stage, he felt he still had quite a long way to go in regards to entering the second stage.

He knew the general principle of the second stage, but it was extremely difficult to enter it.

After spending more than one year in the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he had spent a lot of thoughts on this. In the end, he came to the conclusion that he would only make it to the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword when he found the opening. Once he found the opening, he would be able to enter the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword.

While Duan Ling Tian thought about this, night had already fallen, but he still could not come to a proper conclusion.

Duan Ling Tian finally moved to stretch his limbs when dawn arrived. He smiled wryly as he came to his senses. “I still can’t find a way... Looks like I’ll need some luck to find the opening. I really hope the chance would come soon so my strength will increase another level again.”

Actually, Duan Ling Tian was quite pleased with the progress he had made in the last three months or more.

‘The strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking? I’m not afraid of you even before I went into closed-door cultivation, let alone now! Since you’re seeking death, I’ll fulfill your wish then! There’s no need for you to return to the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion anymore.’ When Duan Ling Tian thought of the Death Duel in the afternoon, his eyes flashed coldly as he narrowed them.

“Lin Dong seems to be a lineal disciple of a sixth-rate clan in the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. I wonder how King Qian would face the wrath of the sixth-rate clan when Lin Dong dies in Windfall Nation! It may seem like a sixth-rate clan is inferior to the Windfall Nation’s Imperial Family, but they’re actually on even ground.” A sneer appeared on the corner of Duan Ling Tian’s mouth.

Since King Qian wanted to kill him, he would let him have a taste of his own medicine!

Early in the morning, Duan Ling Tian walked out of the room just in time to see Situ Hang eating breakfast in the huge courtyard.

“Master Duan, you’re up early. You didn’t cultivate?” When Situ Hang saw Duan Ling Tian, he was a little astonished. He thought Master Duan would stay in the room to cultivate until it was time to leave for the Death Duel. However, Duan Ling Tian’s appearance made him realize how wrong he was.

Faced with Lin Dong, the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion, this Master Duan was extremely calm. It made him feel that Duan Ling Tian was really confident in defeating Lin Dong from the Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion.

However, he dismissed his thoughts as soon as they appeared.

Lin Dong was the strongest powerhouse on the Heaven Ranking from Southern Ridge Yuan Mansion. He was originally not a simple person. Since he dared to issue a Death Duel, this meant he felt confident. Otherwise, he would not seek death on his own accord.

When Situ Hang saw Duan Ling Tian taking a seat, he ordered his servant to prepare another set of breakfast.

When he saw how Duan Ling Tian was eating breakfast with a full appetite and a calm expression, he could not help but smile wryly. "Master Duan, you're going to have a Death Duel with Lin Dong this afternoon. Are you really not worried at all?"

"What's there to be worried about?" Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

Duan Ling Tian's words stunned Situ Hang, rendering him speechless.

Duan Ling Tian's confidence caused him to be unable to continue the discussion.

Naturally, he wished that Duan Ling Tian would be able to survive the Death Duel and emerge as the winner. However, when he thought about Lin Dong, his wish seemed very farfetched.

In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian was confident because he had yet to realize how terrifying Lin Dong was.

'It's alright... At most, I'll ask Grandpa Hou to make a move when Master Duan is in danger. I'm willing to be scolded as long as Master Duan is safe,' Situ Hang thought to himself.

He had a wild and crazy plan. As soon as Lin Dong was about to kill Duan Ling Tian, he would ask Situ Hou to save Duan Ling Tian.

Naturally, his name would be tarnished if he had done that. However, he had already made up his mind. He would say that he had done it on his own accord, and it had nothing to do with the Situ Clan at all.

However, Situ Hang seemed to have completely forgotten if he had Situ Hou to help him, King Qian, naturally, had Saint Stage powerhouses at his side who were also prepared for something like this.

As the saying went, 'Being worried would only bring about chaos.' This could be said about Situ Hang's current situation.

Time continued to pass by quietly, and soon after, noon finally arrived.

With Situ Hao at the lead, the people from Situ Clan left their estate and the capital in an ostentatious manner. They left through the northern gate and made their way north.

After leaving the capital, all of them rose up into the air and flew.

Bai Li Hong and the others were also among the people from Situ Clan.

Currently, Bai Li Hong was the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan. He was acknowledged by everyone in the clan since he was a Three Star Saint Inscription Master.

Due to this reason, although Duan Ling Tian no longer had any connection to the clan, Sima and the others still lived quite a comfortable life due to Bai Li Hong's presence.

Actually, even without Bai Li Hong's identity as a Three Star Saint Inscription Master, they could also live a carefree life in Situ Clan since Feng Wu Dao was the father of Lady Feng from Drift Blaze Sect. It was impossible the Situ Clan had not thought about this.

"Where's Duan Ling Tian?" Chen Shao Shuai glanced right and left, but he did not see Duan Ling Tian at all.

"I didn't see him since early this morning. I don't know where he has gone." Nangong Yi looked right and left as well before he shook his head.

"After Duan Ling Tian had breakfast with me, he left by himself first. According to him, he's no longer the Interim Advisor of Situ Clan so it's better for him to go to Northern Mang Mountain on his own." Situ Hang approached them at this moment and smiled wryly.

"If that's the case, he must have already arrived at Northern Mang Mountain." Chen Shao Shuai and Nangong Yi finally understood what was going on.

Northern Mang Mountain was situated 10,000 miles away to the north of Windfall Nation's capital.

To a normal person, 10,000 miles was a long journey. However, to the people in Situ Clan, including Chen Shao Shuai and the others whose cultivation base were the weakest, 10,000 miles was not that far.

Soon after, they arrived at Northern Mang Mountain even though they had to take the speed of Chen Shao Shuai and the others into consideration.

"There are so many people!" When they arrived at Northern Mang Mountain and saw the dark mass of people in the sky, they were all taken aback.

The sky above the Northern Mang Mountain was filled with people. From afar, it seemed as though black clouds were gathered at the top of Northern Mang Mountain. It was as though it was pressuring it.

"The people from the capital came to the mountain yesterday in order to secure a good spot to watch the show," Situ Hang explained, "Apart from people from the capital, even people from around the capital had rushed here the moment they received the news. However, now that they're crowding the top of Northern Mang Mountain, where's Master Duan and Lin Dong going to fight? Don't tell me they didn't think about this at all?"

When Situ Hang looked at the crowd of people in the sky above Northern Mang Mountain, he shook his head.