

SOVEREIGN 1671

## **Chapter 1671: The Sovereign Heart Sword's Second Stage**

The Jasper Celestial Sword had a simple appearance with no adornments.

There was a reason Duan Ling Tian was hugging the Jasper Celestial Sword at this moment... Just a moment ago, he unintentionally discovered that his comprehension of the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method Sovereign Heart Sword seemed to have deepened when he came in contact with the sword.

As long as he held the Jasper Celestial Sword in his hands, he had a feeling that he would be presented with an opportunity to break through to the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword.

Once he discovered this, he no longer stored the Jasper Celestial Sword in his Spatial Ring or the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda again.

“Up until now, my Sovereign Heart Sword still remains at the first stage, Heartfelt Sword... I wonder when I'll be able to break through to the second stage. According to the information regarding the Sovereign Heart Sword, even if I only comprehend it until the second stage, the power I'd possess could suppress 99% of the techniques in the Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactics! The reason it could not suppress 100% of the techniques in the Saint Grade Martial Tactic is due to the Variant in the Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic. For example, a Variant such as the top-grade Human Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic.”

There was always one technique in top-grade Human Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactics that was not inferior to the techniques in an ordinary Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

Among the Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactics, such Variants existed as well. There would also be a technique in a top-grade Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic that was not inferior to the techniques in ordinary Heaven Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactics.

Although Duan Ling Tian's Sovereign Heart Sword was still inferior to such a technique once it was cultivated to the second stage, it was not something to feel embarrassed about. After all, the Sovereign Heart Sword had five stages altogether. The stage that was inferior to such techniques was merely the Sovereign Heart Sword's second stage.

‘Although I've not found an opportunity to break through to the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword yet, with my current strength, it shouldn't be difficult for me to kill an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator without using any external help,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He felt quite confident about this.

He might only be at the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage, but due to the Sun True Origin in his body, in terms of True Origin, he was comparable to a Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivator.

With just his Sun True Origin alone, it might be difficult for him to fight with an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator. However, with the help of his 10,000 Swords Territory and his

brute strength, he was confident he could easily defeat an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouse.

Moreover, he had the Strange Pupil as well. Although the Strange Pupil he activated using the Divine Consciousness at the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage would not be too effective in front of an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouse, as the saying went, 'One must not look down on even the most insignificant thing.' It was still a little useful to him.

'If there are no unforeseen circumstances, Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, must have already broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage... However, even if he has broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage, he might not necessarily be a match for the Flowery Monk and Jing Xu Zi! Previously, the Flowery Monk and Jing Xu Zi were already at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage. Currently, they might have broken through to the Mastery Refined Saint Stage! Even if they've not made a breakthrough, I can't underestimate their strength either! Naturally, if they haven't made a breakthrough, I'm confident I'll be able to defeat them. However, if they've already made a breakthrough, it'll be difficult for me to defeat them. The strength of a Mastery Refined Saint Stage powerhouse is far superior to an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouse. However, all of these are not important! My objective of participating in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle is not to rank first but to kill Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion!" Duan Ling Tian did not forget his purpose of participating in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle.

The reason he changed his appearance and his name to Li Feng was to kill Xu Jing and save Han Xue Nai whom he regarded as his biological sister. Only if Xu Jing was dead would the marriage between him and Han Xue Nai be called off.

Duan Ling Tian regained his senses when he thought about this. At this moment, he discovered there were already two people fighting in the middle of the chess piece he was standing on. As for now, both participants seemed to be on equal footing.

'From the richness of the True Origin emanating out of their bodies, they must be at least at the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

"Looks like the Nimble Chess Set is not as simple as an Illusory Formation... Both of them are so powerful, but when their energies touched the sky, it seems to be devoured by the sky. It didn't affect the surroundings at all. Otherwise, I would've been awakened by them earlier!" Duan Ling Tian's attention quickly shifted to the Nimble Chess Set.

"Sixteen Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage powerhouses!" At this moment, somebody exclaimed by his ears, "How should I participate now... It's only the first round, and there are already sixteen Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage powerhouses on the ten chess pieces! Looks like there's no need for me, an Early Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse, to participate anymore! I'll only embarrass myself if I participate!" Words like that could be heard one after another.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian cast a glance at the surrounding. He discovered his chess piece and the other nine chess pieces had twenty people, and the people were equally split into ten groups who were fighting.

However, among these twenty people who were fighting, only four of them were slightly weaker. These four people had also entered the Pristine Saint Stage.

When Duan Ling Tian stretched out his Divine Consciousness, he quickly discovered the four people were all at the Early Pristine Saint Stage.

‘Compared to Mound Hill City, the first place I went to when I arrived at the Dao Martial Saint Land, this place is a completely different world!’ Duan Ling Tian sighed emotionally.

Initially, he had looked up to the Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses in Mound Hill City. However, in the Saint Refinement Master’s district, the weakest participants in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle were already at the Early Pristine Saint Stage. They were Saint Stage powerhouses.

Not too long ago, Saint Stage powerhouses were out of Duan Ling Tian’s league. However, at this moment, Saint Stage powerhouses were everywhere he looked.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew he felt this was because he had started from the bottom and climbed his way up, his perception gradually broadening with each step he took. He was different from people who had a great advantage as soon as they were born like the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, Xu Jing. That was the biggest difference between both of them.

Meanwhile, under the watchful eyes of the others, one of the two people on the huge chess piece who were fighting were gradually losing.

At this moment, Ring Masters were born one after another, waiting for other people to challenge them.

As time went by, the battles continued on as more and more people were defeated.

Naturally, there were also some who were killed before they could surrender, causing corpses to be strewn on the ground.

The world where the strong ruled was ruthless.

Evening had finally arrived.

Currently, the strength of those who went up on stage was already much more powerful than before.

## **Chapter 1672: Xu Gang**

“Alright! The Rising Sky Ranking Battle will end today and resume tomorrow..” As Ring Masters appeared again on each of the ten chess pieces, Ren Zhong announced in a timely manner, “Tomorrow, the ten of you will become Ring Masters and wait for your challengers. Dismiss.”

When his words left his mouth, the cane in his hand quivered slightly.

At the same time, Liu Hong Guang who was standing behind him took his gigantic hammer out and threw it into the sky.

Bang! Bang!

Two loud noises reverberated in the air. Before Duan Ling Tian and the others realized what was happening, the scenery before their eyes changed.

The ten huge chess pieces and the Nimble Chess Set had disappeared and returned to the Nimble Valley once again.

“What an amazing Illusory Formation!” Many people who saw this Nimble Chess Set for the first time could not help but exclaim.

“The ten Ring Masters today are three powerhouses at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage and seven Mastery Pristine Saint Stage powerhouses. I’m sure the Ring Masters at the Refined Saint Stage will show up tomorrow. In this case, the day after tomorrow, or three days later at the most, the people who will be ranked in the Rising Sky Ranking should already be determined,” someone said.

“Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, doesn’t seem to be here yet.” Some people noticed Xu Jing’s absence.

“Hurmph! If he still doesn’t show up before the final day, he’ll miss the Rising Sky Ranking Battle!”

“It seems like he doesn’t care about the Rising Sky Ranking at all!”

“That might not necessarily be the case... Perhaps, he’s just arrogant and is waiting until the final moment before he shows himself?”

“That’s possible.”

Many people were talking about Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion. It seemed that some people were dissatisfied with him.

There was no doubt the Rising Sky Ranking was extremely prestigious in the Rising Sky Mansion’s district. In their opinions, Xu Jing’s behavior was extremely disrespectful to the Rising Sky Ranking.

If they had the authority to speak, they would have disqualified Xu Jing from participating in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle.

“Xu Jing hasn’t arrived yet.” Duan Ling Tian who was hugging the Jasper Celestial Sword quietly went to look for a corner in the Nimble Valley. As he leaned against the wall of a mountain, he narrowed his eyes. His expression was calm.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian also saw the people from the three great fourth-rate forces had also returned to the picturesque peak of Nimble Valley to rest.

The three great fifth-rate forces in the Rising Sky Mansion’s district had also returned to rest.

“Some of the people who went on stage today came from the three great fifth-rate forces... Nobody from the Rising Sky Mansion has gone up yet.” Duan Ling Tian noticed this when he watched the battle.

As for the Flowery Monk, Jing Xu Zi, and Zhong Gu, none of them went up as well. Otherwise, they would have been the Ring Masters.

“Huh?” Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian felt a gaze on him.

Initially, he thought it was the Flowery Monk since he had taken the initiative to speak to him earlier. However, he no longer bothered with Duan Ling Tian later on.

Duan Ling Tian realized he was wrong when he looked at the source of the gaze and discovered it Jing Xu Zi, not the Flowery Monk.

“What’s he trying to do?” Duan Ling Tian was puzzled. He knew he did not stand out. If one had to pick something about him that stood out, it was that he was unsociable and eccentric.

Apart from Zhong Gu, he was the only one who was alone among the people in Nimble Valley. Most people were at least in a group of three or four. It was precisely because of this that he and Zhong Gu appeared particularly eye-catching.

‘It seems like I only caught his eyes because I’m all alone,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself after Jing Xu Zi looked away.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian noticed that Zhong Gu’s gaze had also shifted to him as well. Since he had already experienced the same thing earlier, he was not too surprised anymore.

However, Zhong Gu’s eyes did not stop on him for long.

‘Perhaps, the reason the Flowery Monk came to talk to me earlier was due to me being alone... At that time, Zhong Gu hasn’t arrived, and I was the only one moving alone in the groups of people in Nimble Valley,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

However, he was unaware he had only guessed part of it correctly.

The Flowery Monk had spoken to him because of his intuition. However, he felt his intuition must be wrong. That was why he no longer bothered with Duan Ling Tian. In the Flowery Monk’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian must be a sectless cultivator who wanted to seek fame through the Rising Sky Ranking Battle.

To most people, the night was very short.

Everyone opened their eyes immediately when the sky turned bright.

When the early sun lit the ground, the two moderators from the Sky Hurdle Mansion and Raging Wave Mansion, Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang, once again activated the Nimble Chess Set together.

The group of people on the scene also entered the Nimble Chess Set without being prompted.

Ten huge chess pieces, five black and five white, were hovering in the air.

Duan Ling Tian randomly stood on a white chess piece and stayed at the edge. He quietly hugged the Jasper Celestial Sword as he stared at the vast space in the middle of the chess piece.

Soon after, the ten Ring Masters who were born yesterday evening revealed themselves.

One after another, people went up to challenge them. Some won, some were defeated, some were killed, and some successfully killed. It was a gory scene.

Soon after, the ten Ring Masters changed again. In the end, it was ten powerhouses who were at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage.

At this moment, silence descended on the scene.

“I’ll go!” A cry sounded in the air as a sturdy young man walked out of the group of Rising Sky Mansion’s people. He had a stocky and imposing build. He looked ostentation with the way he swaggered with every step he took. It made him look like a gorilla that was walking out of the jungle.

In front of this gorilla, the Ring Master whom he was going to challenge appeared particularly weak and small.

“The people from the Rising Sky Mansion is finally going to participate!”

“I know him! He’s the grandson of the Second Elder of Rising Sky Mansion. His name is Xu Gang, and he’s a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage! Rumor has it that after Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, had broken through to the Refined Saint Stage, he’s widely acknowledged as the strongest person below the Refined Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion!”

“Now that you mentioned it, I remember it as well! I’ve heard of him before!”

When Xu Gang made his appearance, most of the people’s attention shifted toward him. Many of them whispered among themselves, exposing his identity.

“The grandson of the Second Elder of Rising Sky Mansion?” Duan Ling Tian raised a brow and shifted his gaze to Xu Gang. He looked forward to seeing the strength of the grandson of the Second Elder of Rising Sky Mansion. “Being acknowledged as the strongest person below the Refined Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion means Xu Gang must be quite powerful!”

Meanwhile, the other Ring Masters in the other nine chess pieces appeared one by one, nobody came to challenge them.

Everyone, including the Ring Masters from the nine chess pieces, had their attention focused on Xu Gang. After all, he was the first person from the Rising Sky Mansion who stepped into the ring of the Rising Sky Ranking Battle this year.

### **Chapter 1673: Xu Can**

Xu Gang’s strength was truly not a disappointment since he was acknowledged as the strongest person under the Refined Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion.

Faced with his opponent who was at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage, he merely used three moves to kill his opponent. His opponent could not even react in time. Xu Gang immediately became the new Ring Master in a compelling manner.

“How powerful!” When Xu Gang killed his opponent, exclamations of shock could be heard in the surroundings.

Previously, although some of them had heard of Xu Gang before, due to Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, Xu Gang was overshadowed by him.

It was only when Xu Jing had broken through to the Refined Saint Stage that Xu Gang's fame began to spread. However, although he began to gain fame, it was all merely rumors. Today, the rumors were finally confirmed after Xu Gang displayed his prowess.

"Elder Xu Cen, it looks like apart from your Young Mansion Master, your Rising Sky Mansion has many outstanding talents as well!" Ren Zhong said with a smile as he looked at Xu Cen, the Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion.

Long before Xu Gang had easily killed his opponent, a smile had already appeared on Xu Cen's face. When he heard Ren Zhong's words, he nodded. "Although the most outstanding one is still our Young Mansion Master Xu Jing, the Rising Sky Mansion still has many outstanding talents apart from Xu Jing. Xu Gang is merely one of them."

His words implied that apart from Xu Jing and Xu Gang these two geniuses, the Rising Sky Mansion had many other geniuses as well.

"I've also heard your grandson is also a remarkable genius, Elder Xu Cen. Among the middle-aged generation in the Rising Sky Mansion, he's merely inferior to Xu Jing. I'm sure he's here today as well, right?" Liu Hong Guang asked as he looked at Xu Cen.

Xu Cen threw his head back laughing before he turned to look at the group of people from the Rising Sky Mansion. His gaze landed on an aloof young man who was dressed in a black robe.

Nobody knew what Xu Cen said through Voice Transmission, but the aloof black-clad young man came to stand beside him.

"Vice Mansion Master Ren, Elder Liu, this is my useless grandson, Xu Can," Xu Cen introduced his grandson.

Although he used the word 'useless' to describe Xu Can, one could see in his eyes that he was very proud of his grandson.

Ren Zhong, Liu Hong Guang, and Xu Cen had traveled together to Nimble Valley as soon they met up. They did not interact much with each other, let alone with the group of elders and disciples from the Rising Sky Mansion.

"Good day, Seniors," Xu Can greeted Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang with a nod.

"Please don't mind him too much. My grandson is born with an eccentric personality. Even when he meets with the Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, he's like this as well," Xu Cen explained even though Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang did not show any signs of displeasure.

In his opinion, both Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang were people he could not afford to offend.

"It's alright! He's just being true to himself!" Ren Zhong expressed his understanding.

"That's right!" Liu Hong Guang nodded, agreeing with Ren Zhong's words.

Naturally, the conversation between the three high-ranking officials from the fourth-rate forces was also heard by the people present on the scene.

The eyes that were trained on Xu Gang immediately shifted to the black-clad young man standing next to Xu Cen. The black-clad young man's name was Xu Can, and he was Xu Cen's biological grandson.

"So he's Xu Can!" Many people exclaimed.

"Xu Can? Who's Xu Can?" This was the first time many people heard of Xu Can. Their faces and eyes were filled with confusion.

"It's normal for you to not have heard of Xu Can. Compared to Xu Gang, Xu Can maintains a low profile in the Rising Sky Mansion. Among the middle-aged generation in the Rising Sky Mansion, Xu Can's innate ability is actually much higher than Xu Gang, and he's not inferior to Xu Jing as well," somebody said, "He's actually five years younger than Xu Jing! If he's Xu Jing's age, even if he can't surpass Xu Jing, he would at least be on par with Xu Jing!"

"Wow! To think there's such a talented disciple in the Rising Sky Mansion!" Many people exclaimed.

"My goodness! Looks like I'm really out of the loop! I didn't even know the Rising Sky Mansion has such a genius!" Somebody chimed in.

"It's normal to have not heard of him. I've only heard about him six months ago. Unlike how high profile the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, Xu Jing, is, Xu Can maintains a low profile. He usually stays in the Rising Sky Mansion to cultivate. Apparently, he's really obsessed with martial art. In his words, 'There's nothing apart from the Martial Dao.'"

"I've also heard of this. In the last ten years, Xu Can rarely shows himself in front of others. Even at that time, his innate talent was not inferior to Xu Jing. During these ten years, Xu Jing has been wandering around, living a life of leisure while Xu Can has been in closed-door cultivation, diligently cultivating. Even if Xu Can's strength is not up to Xu Jing's level yet, the difference between their strength can't be that much."

"After a few dozen years, if Xu Jing still continues living leisurely, Xu Can will definitely surpass him."

The people buried their heads together in discussion. Those who had heard of Xu Can praised him.

"Xu Can..." At this moment, Duan Ling Tian also shifted his gaze to Xu Can.

Now that he looked at him, Xu Can was quite similar to him. His face quite resembled the disguise he had put on.

In a glance, one could see both Xu Can and Duan Ling Tian had an aloof countenance. Their body exuded a cold and unapproachable aura just like two icebergs.

'Since Xu Can is stronger than Xu Gang, and Xu Gang is acknowledged as the strongest person below the Refined Saint Stage, this means Xu Can must be at the Refined Saint Stage,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.



Xu Gang stood in the middle of a huge black chess piece. When he saw how everyone's attention had shifted to Xu Can, as though Xu Can had snatched away his limelight, a wry smile appeared on his face. However, he was not upset at all.

He knew very well how he measured up to Xu Can. In fact, Xu Can was younger than him. Ten years ago, he was no match for Xu Can. Currently, the gap between them had grown even bigger.

Moreover, from what he knew, not long after Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, broke through to the Refined Saint Stage, Xu Can had broken through to the Refined Saint Stage as well.

If one were to ask Xu Gang who he admired the most among his peers in the Rising Sky Mansion, his answer would undoubtedly be Xu Can.

As for Xu Jing, Xu Gang had never thought highly of that playboy and good-for-nothing rich kid.

Due to this reason, even if Xu Can had snatched the limelight from him, he did not feel anything at all. Instead, he felt it was justified, and he could only smile wryly.

After Xu Gang killed his opponent and became the Ring Master, the other Ring Masters on the nine chess pieces once again welcomed powerful opponents. They either defeated and killed their opponents or they were defeated and killed by their opponents.

The morning passed by very quickly, and the Ring Masters on the nine chess pieces had changed again.

As time continued to pass by, there were fewer and fewer challengers.

In the afternoon, 30 minutes went by without anyone stepping into the ring at all.

Naturally, this did not mean the current ten Ring Masters would be able to make it on the Rising Sky Ranking. This was because none of the Refined Saint Stage powerhouses had stepped into the arena yet.

Currently, all ten Ring Masters were from the middle-aged generation who was at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion's district.

In the Rising Sky Mansion's district, although there were not many Refined Saint Stage powerhouses below the age of fifty, the numbers were not small either.

Some of the people came from other forces while some of them were sectless cultivators in the Rising Sky Mansion's district. Relatively speaking, the latter was more than the former. However, the latter was not that famous.

"Now it's time for the Refined Saint Stage powerhouses to go up on the arena," Many people whispered to one another as they looked at the arena in anticipation.

Duan Ling Tian stood quietly at the edge of the white chess piece as he hugged the Jasper Celestial Sword. Currently, he had no intention of making his move yet.

This was because he did not feel it was necessary for him to make a move now. Apart from that, he would feel like a bully if he made his move now.

Although he was only at the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage, due to the extraordinary Sun True Origin, he was not inferior to a Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivator in terms of True Origin. Moreover, it was even more powerful than an Early Refined Saint Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator.

Along with his other abilities, he would really be a bully if he stepped into the ring now.

Moreover, his objective for participating in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle was to kill Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion. Due to this reason, he only planned to make his move once Xu Jing made his appearance.

He only needed to battle Xu Jing once to kill him, and he would already achieve what he came here to do.

“Xu Gang, I’ll fight you.” A voice filled with vigor reverberated in the air as a figure flew out from the group of people of a fifth-rate force called Pure Yang Shrine.

It was a young man dressed in a dupo. He had a sinister look in his eyes as they gleamed coldly. It made him look dangerous.

“This man is like a poisonous snake,” somebody whispered soon after.

Although he had intentionally lowered his voice, the people present on the scene heard his comment since all of them had sharp hearings. Many people began to whisper among themselves.

“The moment this Pure Yang Shrine’s disciple appeared, he emits a sinister feeling. Although he’s alone, I do feel the aura of poisonous snakes from him.”

“Those who possess this aura are usually not very kind people.”

“This man is dangerous.”

“Not only that, but he must be at the Refined Saint Stage as well. A Refined Saint Stage powerhouse who’s not even 50 years old, and he’s from the Pure Yang Shrine. Apart from Jing Xu Zi, there seem to be two other people in the Pure Yang Shrine who fits these criteria! They’re Yu Xu Zi and Yin Xu Zi.”

“Jing Xu Zi is the strongest powerhouse among the middle-aged generation in the Pure Yang Shrine. Although Yu Xu Zi and Yin Xu Zi’s innate talents are quite remarkable, they can’t compare to him at all. However, the gap between their strength is not too wide. This person must be either Yu Xu Zi or Yin Xu Zi.”

“Although I’ve never seen Yu Xu Zi and Yin Xu Zi before, I feel like he’s Yin Xu Zi. The name Yin Xu Zi seems to fit his temperament more.” The people whispered among themselves as they speculated the identity of this disciple from the Pure Yang Shrine.

## **Chapter 1674: Yin Xu Zi**

“It’s said that Yin Xu Zi is a Dao Cultivator who cultivates the Devil Dao, he can be considered as a Devil Cultivator.” Soon after, someone revealed significant information.

Devil Cultivator!

Everyone's eyes gleamed as they turned to look at the Pure Yang Shrine.

There were many Devil Cultivators in the Dao Martial Saint Land, but there were not many Dao Cultivators who were also Devil Cultivators.

Dao Cultivators were usually righteous, and they take pride in being righteous. Due to this reason, it was rare for Devil Cultivators to also be Dao Cultivators. However, just because it was rare, it did not mean there was none.

The Dao Martial Saint Land was vast, and it was rare to find someone who was both a Dao and Devil Cultivator, but it did not mean they did not exist.

However, in the Rising Sky Mansion's district, especially among the middle-aged generation, as far as the people knew, there was only one person who was both a Dao and Devil Cultivator. That person was none other than Pure Yang Shrine's Yin Xu Zi.

"You're Yin Xu Zi?" A hint of dread flashed past in Xu Gang's eyes when he saw the young Taoist priest who walked out from the group of Pure Yang Shrine's people.

The young Taoist priest stood close to Xu Gang in front of him. They stood opposite each other as Yin Xu Zi answered nonchalantly, "That's right. I'm Yin Xu Zi."

The moment the young Taoist priest admitted he was Yin Xu Zi, the place burst into an uproar. Majority of the people, including the nine Ring Masters who were standing on the other nine chess pieces, shifted their attention to him.

"He's really Yin Xu Zi!"

"The only Dao Cultivator who cultivates the Devil Dao among the middle-aged generation in our Rising Sky Mansion's district!"

"It's said that a Dao Cultivator who cultivates the Devil Dao is even more horrifying than a Martial Cultivator who cultivates Devil Dao!"

...

Most of the people present on the scene stared at Yin Xu Zi intently. They were eager to see him make his move.

'A Dao Cultivator who cultivates the Devil Dao? Interesting...' Duan Ling Tian was curious as well as he looked at Yin Xu Zi.

This was not his first day on the Dao Martial Saint Land. Naturally, he knew Dao Cultivators who cultivated the Devil Dao in the Dao Martial Saint Land were rare. It was so rare that Yin Xu Zi was the first Dao Cultivator who cultivated the Devil Dao that he had met.

Previously, although he had encountered many Devil Cultivators, all of the Devil Cultivators were Martial Cultivators. None of them was a Dao Cultivator.

“You’re the disciple of the Rising Sky Mansion so I won’t kill you... However, if you don’t want to get hurt, it’s better for you to surrender as soon as possible,” Yin Xu Zi said as he looked at Xu Gang indifferently. His tone was filled with disdain.

As a Devil Cultivator, Yin Xu Zi usually would not hold back unless he was faced with someone from his sect. However, since Xu Gang was from the fourth-rate force, the Rising Sky Mansion, he had no choice but to show mercy unless he was not afraid of dragging the Pure Yang Shrine down with him.

Perhaps, the Rising Sky Mansion might not do anything to him since death was allowed in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle. However, who knew if after the battle had ended, the Rising Sky Mansion might find ways to trouble the Pure Yang Shrine?

As a fifth-rate force, the Pure Yang Shrine was powerless to fight against a fourth-rate force like the Rising Sky Mansion.

“There’s no such thing as ‘surrender’ in my dictionary!” Xu Gang shouted furiously when he heard Yin Xu Zi’s tone that was filled with disdain.

“Oh?” The fact that a Pristine Saint Stage Martial Cultivator dared to shout so loudly in front of him brought out the ruthlessness of the Devil Cultivator in Yin Xu Zi. His eyes gleamed coldly before it began to turn red.

“Yin Xu Zi, make sure you show some mercy.” At this moment, Jing Xu Zi reminded him through Voice Transmission.

At the same time, other people from the Pure Yang Shrine reminded him through Voice Transmission as well.

They were very clear about Yin Xu Zi’s temper. If his temper flared up, he would no longer care about the consequences.

Let alone a fourth-rate force, even if it was a quasi third-rate force, he would still not care once his temper flared up.

However, now that the group of Pure Yang Shrine’s people reminded him through Voice Transmission, Yin Xu Zi regained his senses and the red in his eyes began to fade. However, his eyes still gleamed coldly when he looked at Xu Gang.

“You should count yourself lucky... If you’re not a disciple from the Rising Sky Mansion, you’ll turn into a corpse in just a short while!” Based on Yin Xu Zi’s words, it was obvious he meant it was easy for him if he wanted to kill Xu Gang.

“We’ll see if you have the capability to kill me or not!” Xu Gang snorted.

Although Xu Gang was only a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage, his strength was comparable to an ordinary Early Refined Saint Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator in the Rising Sky Mansion. It might be difficult for him to defeat Yin Xu Zi, but he could still hold his ground for a long time.

Due to this reason, when Yin Xu Zi just stepped into the ring, although he knew he would most likely be defeated, he did not intend to retreat or surrender.

He was the disciple of the Rising Sky Mansion. Even if he lost, he would lose in a righteous manner. He would fight with all his might until the very end. Only then would he not taint the good name of the Rising Sky Mansion!

“Tsk tsk... You’ll know soon enough!” Yin Xu Zi chuckled coldly. His chuckles raised goosebumps on the others.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

The moment his words left his mouth, a gust of cold wind began to blow in within a 100-meter radius around him. Bleak screams and cries could be heard in the wind, causing goosebumps to rise in the others again when they heard it.

Then, under the watchful eyes of others, in the Territory that Yin Xu Zi consolidated, a few skeletons began to appear. Black snakes with gleaming dark green eyes slithered out of the skeletons. It was a revolting sight, eliciting terror from the spectators.

Usually, they would not feel anything if they witnessed such a scene. However, the aura from Yin Xu Zi’s Territory seemed to bring out the fear in them.

Naturally, those who felt fear were the ones with a weaker cultivation base.

“You have Territory, and so do I! Dismiss!” When Xu Gang saw the Territory Yin Xu Zi consolidated using his True Origin, he did not stand by idly. In just an instant, he mobilized the True Origin in his body and the sky within a 100-meter radius of him began to quake.

However, before his Territory could fully take form, Yin Xu Zi chuckled coldly again. “You’re merely a Pristine Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, and you want to consolidate your Territory in front of me! How naive!”

As Yin Xu Zi spoke, his Territory in within a 100-meter radius shook suddenly.

Then, the snakes with gleaming dark green eyes slithering around the skeletons rushed out. They landed on Xu Gang whose Territory had yet to fully form before it finally shattered.

As Xu Gang’s Territory shattered, Yin Xu Zi raised his hand before it trembled.

At this moment, the sleeve of his dopo fluttered as though it was being blown by a gust of wind. Then, it moved and twirled, creating the sound of wind whistling. Soon after, a mini tornado could be seen charging at Xu Gang’s face. The tornado was laced with a black mist.

The black mist was similar to the black mist shrouding the snakes earlier. They were the symbol of a Devil Cultivator.

Bang!

A loud explosion reverberated in the air. Before Xu Gang could react, a gust of energy that made him feel despair hit his body and sent him flying.

Barf!

Xu Gang who was sent flying opened his mouth and threw up a mouthful of blood. His body was unsteady as he forced himself to hover in the air with great difficulty.

Judging by the way he was panting, it was obvious he could no longer continue the battle.

"I've lost." Xu Gang finally regained his senses after taking a deep breath. Hints of dread could be seen in his eyes when he looked at Yin Xu Zi.

At this moment, he finally realized the strength of an Early Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivator in the Rising Sky Mansion could not be compared to Yin Xu Zi at all.

He could still deal with the former even though it was difficult. However, he was instantly overpowered by Yin Xu Zi as soon as he made his move.

"He won so quickly?" This scene had taken the spectators by surprise.

Although they already knew the outcome of the battle since it was a duel between a Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse and Refined Saint Stage powerhouse, they did not expect the duel to end so quickly. No matter what, Xu Gang was the strongest person below the Refined Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion. Even if he could not defeat an ordinary Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, he could at least hold his ground for quite a while.

However, in front of Yin Xu Zi, he could not even form his Territory. He was heavily injured with just one blow.

### **Chapter 1675: Wine-Meat Monk**

When Pure Yang Shrine's Yin Xu Zi showed up, it only took him a blow to heavily injure and defeat Xu Gang, the Rising Sky Mansion's disciple.

Unlike an ordinary Pristine Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, Xu Gang was widely acknowledged as the strongest person under the Refined Saint Stage in the Rising Sky Mansion. In the Rising Sky Mansion's district, those below the Refined Saint Stage, even those famous Martial and Dao Cultivators at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage, did not dare to say they could defeat Xu Gang.

However, someone like that was defeated in just a second by Yin Xu Zi who seemed to be only at the Early Refined Saint Stage.

The other nine Ring Masters' expressions turned grave immediately as hints of helplessness appeared in their eyes.

They knew very well that in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle this time, there were more than twenty people who fit the requirements of being below 50 years of age and were at the Refined Saint Stage had come to participate.

Apart from the Rising Sky Mansion and the other outstanding disciples from the other three fifth-grade forces, there were also many talented sectless cultivators who came from all over the place.

These sectless cultivators did not care much about ordinary rankings since it would only gain them short-lived fame. They would be forgotten after a while. However, the Rising Sky Ranking was different. If one made it on the Rising Sky Ranking, one's name would be remembered for a long time in the Rising Sky Mansion's district.

In the Dao Martial Saint Land, very few people could reach the cultivation base that could break the shackles of mortality and live forever. Although their life span was longer, they would still die in the end.

Due to this reason, many people in the Dao Martial Saint Land wished to leave behind a legacy in this world before their lives ended. This way their lives would be worth living.

It was precisely because of this that many talented sectless genius cultivators who were unknown would participate in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle that was held in the Rising Sky Mansion's district every fifty years.

Although these sectless geniuses were outstanding, they were still slightly inferior when compared to the powerhouses from the big forces. Their innate talent might not be any worse than the latter, but they lacked cultivation resources.

Due to this reason, it was only natural for them to be inferior.

"Yin Xu Zi is really powerful!" Everyone's eyes shifted to Yin Xu Zi simultaneously. A baffled expression could be seen on their faces.

Although they knew the Pure Yang Shrine had three outstanding disciples, Jing Xu Zi's presence completely overshadowed the other two disciples. Due to this reason, not many people paid attention to the other two disciples.

Today, one of the two disciples, Yin Xu Zi, had proven his strength to everyone.

"Although I've heard about the Pure Yang Shrine's Three Geniuses, I thought the other two was only famous due to their association with Jing Xu Zi. However, it seems like they really live up to the title of Pure Yang Shrine's Three Geniuses," someone commented. Many people agreed with his words.

"Apart from Jing Xu Zi and Yin Xu Zi, there's still Yu Xu Zi. Jing Xu Zi's strength leaves no room for doubt, and Yin Xu Zi's strength has already been proven earlier. The fact that he shares the same fame as them means Yu Xu Zi is quite powerful as well," many people said.

Most people had their attention focused on the group of people from Pure Yang Shrine.

A few people had their eyes on a young Taoist priest, leading the others to follow their gazes as well. "He's Yu Xu Zi?"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's attention was focused on Yu Xu Zi as well. He was a Taoist priest with an ordinary appearance and a medium build. He did not stand out at all among the group of Pure Yang Shrine's people.

If one did not know who he was, it would be easy to mistake him as one of the people who tagged along to watch the show. Nobody would think he was one of the Pure Yang Shrine's Three Geniuses.

“This Yu Xu Zi is not a simple person.” Although Duan Ling Tian had his own way of judging people, all he could see of Yu Xu Zi was how reserved and unassuming he was. Due to this reason, his instincts told him there was more to Yu Xu Zi than meets the eye.

“Good!” At this moment, Ren Zhong said, “Even I have heard of the Pure Yang Shrine’s Three Geniuses before. Now that I finally witnessed it today, you indeed live up to the name. Currently, there’s finally a Refined Saint Stage powerhouse among the ten great Ring Masters. This means the Rising Sky Ranking Battle will soon enter the climax and reach its end. Everyone, I’m looking forward to your performance.”

It was apparent Ren Zhong’s words were meant for the Refined Saint Stage powerhouses who came to join the Rising Sky Ranking Battle but had not made their moves yet.

Perhaps, it was Ren Zhong’s words or it could be Yin Xu Zi’s domineering attitude, after a short while, another person rose up to the stage and landed in front of a Ring Master who was at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage.

As soon as he stabilized his footing, rich True Origin began to surge out of his body.

As the True Origin spread in the air, it caused colors to drain from the face of the Ring Master who was at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage. “R-Refined Saint Stage!”

The biggest difference between a Refined Saint Stage powerhouse and a Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse was their True Origins.

The True Origins of the two stages were at a completely different level. The auras were completely different as well.

Due to this reason, when the Ring Master who was at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage sensed the aura of the True Origin of his opponent, he instantly knew his challenger was at the Refined Saint Stage.

“Who’s he?”

“I’ve never seen him before.”

“It should be a sectless cultivator... It’s said that the Rising Sky Ranking Battle will bring out a group of outstanding sectless cultivators... Looks like it’s true.”

“Refined Saint Stage... This battle’s outcome is obvious!”

The people had their attention fixed on the Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator. They were certain of the outcome, and as it turned out, they were right.

Although the Ring Master at the peak of Pristine Saint Stage was quite strong, he was still a lot weaker than Xu Gang. Faced with an Early Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator, he was also defeated in a blow.

Although one was allowed to kill in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle, if the gap of strength was too wide, the more powerful one would usually spare the weaker one’s life unless both of them had enmity or the stronger one was a violent and tyrannical person.



The former Ring Master at the peak of the Pristine Saint Stage who managed to live looked at the current Ring Master who was at the Early Refined Saint Stage with gratitude and thanked him, "Thank you for showing me mercy."

The latter nodded his head nonchalantly. The former was not angry since, with the latter's strength, he could have just ignored him.

After that, another eight Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivators made their appearances and became the new eight Ring Masters.

The ten Ring Master had instantly changed to Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivators. Naturally, they were all Early Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao cultivators.

Among the ten Ring Masters, some of them were outstanding disciples who came from fifth-rate forces like Yin Xu Zi. However, there were many sectless cultivators as well.

"Half of the ten Early Refined Saint Stage Ring Masters are sectless cultivators... I can't believe there are so many outstanding sectless cultivators hiding in our Rising Sky Mansion's district. If they were nurtured by a powerful sect before this, they'll definitely be even more powerful," many people lamented.

"Hurmph! That's easy for you to say... Do you think that everyone dislikes being a sectless cultivator? Powerful sects are good, but if you don't have a patron, you won't get anything either. Tell me, are there any sects that don't have corrupt high-ranking officials?" Some sectless cultivators said in disdain.

The words of these sectless cultivators made many people fall silent.

Indeed. Although it was said that as long as one possessed a high innate talent, one would be able to join forces like the Rising Sky Mansion, Pure Yang Shrine, and Brahma Temple, one would still need a patron to obtain cultivation resources. Otherwise, one would be left out in the cold or be used and sacrificed in both open and hidden vendettas.

If this was not the case, how could there be so many sectless cultivators in the Dao Martial Saint Land?

Naturally, there were some people who chose to become sectless cultivators because of the freedom it granted them. However, most of them were more afraid of the schemes in powerful sects. Due to this reason, they chose to become sectless cultivators.

"I can't believe there are so many Refined Saint Stage powerhouses below the age of fifty in the Rising Sky Mansion's district," Duan Ling Tian said emotionally as he stood at the side hugging the Jasper Celestial Sword.

"Oh?" At this moment, Duan Ling Tian noticed a pair of eyes staring at him. The owner of the eyes was the Flowery Monk.

Although Duan Ling Tian was aware of his gaze, he did not turn to look at him.

'From the beginning until now, he has maintained his composure... Don't tell me he's really one of those powerful sectless cultivators? Or could it be he's just here to watch the show, that's why he's so calm?' The Flowery Monk thought to himself as he studied Duan Ling Tian.

Initially, when he saw Duan Ling Tian was alone, and he could not see through him, he instinctively felt like Duan Ling Tian was not a simple person. However, after a while, he felt he was thinking too much.

However, when he saw how calm Duan Ling Tian was when the ten Refined Saint Stage powerhouses suppressed the original ten Ring Masters, he realized Duan Ling Tian really might not be a simple person. Naturally, there was also a chance he was just putting on an act.

All in all, he felt that he could not understand Duan Ling Tian at all.

Now that the ten Refined Saint Stage powerhouses became the Ring Masters, they each stood on a huge chess piece. They were fired up with enthusiasm, and they looked like statues of invincible battle gods as they overlooked all directions.

Whoosh!

Without any warning, the rapid sound of wind whistling reverberated in the air. Somebody had flown out from the group of people from Brahma Temple.

It was a young monk whose face was covered with stubbles. His thick eyebrows made him look majestic but not fierce. Although he had a medium build, it looked strong.

When the young monk whose face was covered with stubbles came out, somebody exclaimed, "In the Brahma Temple, there are only two people below the age of fifty who are at the Refined Saint Stage. One of them is the famous Flowery Monk... Don't tell me this is the Wine-Meat Monk from Brahma Temple, the Flowery Monk's Senior Brother?"

Wine-Meat Monk!

Upon hearing his words, many people's eyes lit up immediately.

"Wine-Meat Monk... I've heard of him before. He's Flowery Monk's Senior Brother! Before Flowery Monk rose to the top, he was the strongest Martial Cultivator among the middle-aged generation in Brahma Temple. It was only until Flowery Monk appeared that he became the second strongest," somebody added.

### **Chapter 1676: Another Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Powerhouse!**

"Although he's the second strongest, he's only slightly weaker than the Flowery Monk. The Wine-Meat Monk is not a simple person as well." Many people agreed with this remark.

'Flowery Monk, Wine-Meat Monk... This Brahma Temple is quite interesting. I think the Wine-Meat Monk must have obtained this name because he doesn't abstain from wine and meat,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian had guessed correctly. In the Brahma Temple, the Flowery Monk did not abide by the rules and did not abstain from sex while the Wine-Meat Monk did not abstain from partaking in the consumption of wine and meat. It was an open secret.

The Wine-Meat Monk chose to enter an arena with an Early Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator.

When both of them consolidated their Territories, the Wine-Meat Monk only used three moves to defeat his opponent.

“Intermediate Refined Saint Stage!” Just as the last technique the Wine-Meat Monk unleashed erupted, Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang who were hovering high up in the sky was taken aback. They did not expect that apart from the famous Flowery Monk in the Brahma Temple, there would be another genius cultivator.

Based on the True Origin from the Wine-Meat Monk’s final technique, one could tell his cultivation base was at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage.

Although they could see the Wine-Meat Monk’s cultivation base was still unstable, and it was obvious he had just broken through to Intermediate Refined Saint Stage not too long ago, they were still shocked.

Just a mere Brahma Temple, a fifth-rate force, actually had such outstanding disciples like the Flowery Monk and the Wine-Meat Monk.

In terms of nurturing the younger generation of disciples, the Brahma Temple was in no way inferior to the two great fourth-rate forces. This pressured them since the birth of powerhouses in a force also meant the rise of the force.

Similarly, their forces were not fourth-rate forces previously. They managed to become a fourth-rate force as a result of their efforts as they climbed up step by step. Naturally, there were some that crashed as they tried to climb up.

There were many fourth-rate and even quasi third-rate forces many years ago, but they had fallen and become fifth-rate and even sixth-rate forces now.

This was because of the lack of talent in the younger generation. This was due to the sectarian bias inherent in some of the older generation. They were unwilling to impart all their knowledge and cultivation resources to the younger generation.

This was also one of the reasons why there were so many talented sectless cultivators.

Perhaps, the Brahma Temple was still inferior to the Sky Hurdle Mansion and Raging Wave Mansion. However, would this still be the case after 100 years? At that time, the Flowery Monk and Wine-Meat Monk would be in their prime, they might be able to lead and help the Brahma Temple advance to become a fourth-rate force.

In fact, Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang were not the only ones who felt the pressure, Xu Cen, the Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion, was under even more pressure.

Xu Cen's eyes were filled with killing intent when he looked at the Wine-Meat Monk. Although it was not obvious, one could still see it. After he had witnessed the Wine-Meat Monk's strength, killing intent began to surge up in his heart.

He was not too bothered about the Sky Hurdle Mansion and the Raging Wave Mansion since they were all fourth-rate forces that stood shoulder to shoulder. However, the Brahma Temple was different, it was a fifth-rate force in the Rising Sky Mansion's district. If they managed to rise, this meant their Rising Sky Mansion would be in a precarious situation. Just like the saying went, 'When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war.'

'It looks like when I return, I'll have to suggest to the Lord Mansion Master to send someone to kill the Flowery Monk and Wine-Meat Monk from the Brahma Temple,' Xu Cen thought to himself.

This was not the first time in the history of Rising Sky Mansion where they had done something like this. Many talented Martial and Dao Cultivators who rose up to the top in the Rising Sky Mansion's district died an untimely death just because they were not from the Rising Sky Mansion. Until now, nobody had figured out their cause of death.

Although many suspected it was done by the Rising Sky Mansion, nobody had the evidence to prove it. Moreover, the Rising Sky Mansion was a fourth-rate force. They could only close the case just like that.

However, Xu Cen was unaware the Abbott of Brahma Temple was looking at him when killing intent flashed in his eyes.

"Seems like my earlier decision was right. After the Rising Sky Ranking Battle is over, I'll send the Flowery Monk and the Wine-Meat Monk away from the Brahma Temple and Rising Sky Mansion's district to cultivate. Once they've grown strong in the future, they can return and lead the Brahma Temple to glory and to the peak." The Abbott of Brahma Temple had long made up his mind about this.

This was to protect the Flowery Monk and Wine-Meat Monk and the future of Brahma Temple. There were cases where others talented Brahma Temple's disciples who had died before they reached their full potential.

Previously, the Abbott of Brahma Temple had a senior brother whose innate talent was higher than him. In fact, he was in no way inferior to the strongest powerhouse of the younger generation in the Rising Sky Mansion of that era. The strongest powerhouse of the younger generation in the Rising Sky Mansion during that era was currently the Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion. He was also someone that was widely acknowledged as the strongest person in the Rising Sky Mansion's district.

The Abbott believed if his senior brother did not die an untimely death, his current strength would not be inferior to the Mansion Master of the Rising Sky Mansion. Moreover, if his senior brother was still alive, he believed the Brahma Temple would not be a mere fifth-rate force today.

Since he had already experienced that, he had learned his lesson. How could he let his two most outstanding disciples in the Brahma Temple suffer the same fate as their predecessor? He had long thought of a way to avoid this calamity and spoil the Rising Sky Mansion's plan.

“Intermediate Refined Saint Stage!” At this moment, the spectators finally found out about the Wine-Meat Monk’s cultivation base from the many powerful sectless cultivators who came to watch the show. All of them were shocked. “The Wine-Meat Monk has already broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage?”

“Since the Wine-Meat Monk has broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage... Don’t tell me the Flowery Monk has already broken through to the Mastery Refined Saint Stage?” Many people were stunned.

The limelight was instantly on the Flowery Monk and the Brahma Temple.

Whoosh!

At this moment, another ear-piercing sound of wind whistling reverberated in the air, causing everyone to shift their attention away from the Flowery Monk.

The person who had caused the noise was none other than Yu Xu Zi from Pure Yang Shrine. He had finally gone up to the stage.

Everyone’s eyes, including Duan Ling Tian, lit up immediately. They all looked forward to Yu Xu Zi’s performance. “One of the Three Geniuses of Pure Yang Shrine... This is indeed something worth looking forward to!”

“Jing Xu Zi of the Three Geniuses from Pure Yang Shrine is undoubtedly powerful. Yin Xu Zi’s strength has just been proven. Among all those at the Early Refined Saint Stage, he’s indeed a top-rate powerhouse! Coupled with the fact that he’s a Devil and Dao Cultivator, it might give him an advantage when faced with ordinary Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouses,” somebody said with an anticipatory expression, “I wonder what Yu Xu Zi’s strength is like since he’s also one of the Three Geniuses in the Pure Yang Shrine.”

Yu Xu Zi who was at the center of attention chose an Early Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator as his opponent in neither a humble nor arrogant manner.

Under the watchful eyes of the others, he managed to defeat his opponent in just one move!

Boom!

The strength he displayed also shocked everyone present on the scene.

“Another Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouse!” As the moderators, Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang narrowed their eyes in unison before they exchanged a look. Both of them could see the hints of bafflement in each other’s eyes.

The fact that the Brahma Temple had two talented Martial Cultivators at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage who was below fifty years old had already given them quite a shock. However, now they found out the Pure Yang Shrine also had two Martial Cultivators at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage and above.

Moreover, the Pure Yang Shrine also had Yin Xu Zi. Although Yin Xu Zi was only at the Early Refined Saint Stage, his combat ability that he displayed earlier proved that he was invincible among Early Refined Saint Stage powerhouses.

It seemed as though Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang were hit by a pang of realization, they quickly turned to look at Xu Cen who was sitting nearby.

They knew Xu Cen was even more shocked and even more unwilling to see this compared to them.

Whether it was the Brahma Temple or the Pure Yang Shrine, they were both forces in the Rising Sky Mansion's district.

The land in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land was only this vast. If the Brahma Temple or the Pure Yang Shrine wanted to become a fourth-rate force and occupy a large district, the best way was to use the closest fourth-rate force, the Rising Sky Mansion, as a stepping stone to rise to the top.

As for the other fourth-rate forces, they were not the best options. Just like the saying went, 'The mighty dragon is no match for the native serpent.'

"Die! All of them must die!" If somebody was standing close to Xu Cen, they would have noticed the muscles on his face twitching. He was furious.

To the Rising Sky Mansion, it was not a good thing for the Brahma Temple and Pure Yang Shrine to have such outstanding disciples.

"Hurmph!" In the distance, the Shrine Master of Pure Yang Shrine had also noticed Xu Cen's piercing gaze toward Yu Xu Zi. He snorted coldly. "Rising Sky Mansion, I won't give you a chance in destroying the future of my Pure Yang Shrine!"

It was apparent the Shrine Master of Pure Yang Shrine had also thought of a way to protect his own disciples.

'Brahma Temple, Pure Yang Shrine... How surprising! As a fifth-rate force, the Greenwave Han Mansion is far lacking in regards to the quality of the disciples,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

As far as he knew, the most outstanding disciple in Greenwave Han Mansion was Han Xue Nai.

There seemed to be no Refined Saint Stage powerhouses below the age of fifty in the Greenwave Han Mansion at all.

Naturally, he believed with Xue Nai's innate talent, she would definitely be able to surpass Yu Xu Zi and the Wine-Meat Monk before the age of fifty. It was even possible for her to surpass Jing Xu Zi and the Flowery Monk as well.

As time went by, Refined Saint Stage powerhouses entered the arena one after another.

During this time, a few Refined Saint Stage powerhouses had fallen as well.

All of the Refined Saint Stage powerhouses who had fallen were sectless cultivators.

This happened because many of them knew the sectless cultivators did not have any backing, therefore, they did not have to worry about any retaliation.

The Refined Saint Stage powerhouses who went on stage later possessed strength that was almost equal to each other so they had spent a long time battling. Due to this reason, many people still did not get an opportunity to enter the ring even though night had fallen.

The Flowery Monk, Jing Xu Zi, Zhong Gu, Xu Can, and Duan Ling Tian had yet to step into the ring.

Naturally, nobody noticed Duan Ling Tian at all. Almost everyone thought he was just a sectless cultivator here to watch the show and had no intention of participating in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle.

However, when the day ended, there were still two Rising Sky Mansion's disciples among the ten Ring Masters. Both of them were Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivators.

Although that might be the case, put Yu Xu Zi and the Wine-Meat Monk aside, both of them were even weaker than Yin Xu Zi.

### **Chapter 1677: Xu Can's Strength**

It was silent the entire night.

The second day, when the day turned bright, everyone in Nimble Valley opened their eyes.

They knew the climax of this year's Rising Sky Ranking Battle had finally arrived.

Today, the top ten rankings of the Rising Sky Ranking would be finalized.

"Today, the top ten of the Rising Sky Ranking will be decided. If Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, still doesn't show up, he'll be disqualified from being ranked in the Rising Sky Ranking!" Up until now, people were still talking about Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion.

Perhaps, Xu Jing might not be the most outstanding powerhouse among the middle-aged generation in the Rising Sky Mansion, but he was certainly the one with the highest position among the middle-aged generation due to his father's position as the Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion. He was also the strongest person in the Rising Sky Mansion District.

"He'll definitely come unless he doesn't want to be the next Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion," someone said.

"We'll see if he comes today." Everyone was looking forward to seeing if he would show up.

"Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion... You must show up. Otherwise, my trip here would be in vain," Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he hugged the Jasper Celestial Sword. His voice was so soft that nobody heard his words at all.

As Ren Zhong, the Vice Mansion Master of Sky Hurdle Mansion, and Liu Hong Guang, the Second Elder of Raging Wave Mansion, made their moves, the majestic and boundless Nimble Chess Set appeared again. Just like yesterday and the day before, they appeared in the Mysterious Illusory Formation as ten huge chess pieces hovered in the air.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The sound of wind whistling reverberated in the air as people landed on the chess pieces and stood at the edge of the chess pieces, creating an empty space in the middle.

Meanwhile, the ten Ring Masters who had lasted until the end of yesterday stood in the middle of the chess pieces, waiting for other challengers to come forth.

To them, today was the most critical day. It would determine whether they would be able to rank in the Rising Sky Ranking or not. Only those who managed to endure until the end of today were qualified to be ranked in the Rising Sky Ranking.

Among the ten people, three of them remained calm.

These three were the Wine-Meat Monk, Yu Xu Zi, and Yin Xu Zi. Among the three of them, the first two were at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage and were likely to be ranked in the Rising Sky Ranking. Yin Xu Zi, on the other hand, was only an Early Refined Saint Stage powerhouse. However, with his strength, there was a high chance he would also be able to enter the Sky Rising Ranking.

As for the other seven people, the people with the gravest expressions were none other than the two Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivators from the Rising Sky Mansion.

Currently, among the ten Ring Masters, they were the weakest.

If somebody was going to issue a challenge, they would definitely pick them first.

“If there are no unforeseen circumstances, we’ll be able to pick the ten people that’ll enter the Rising Sky Ranking today... Tomorrow will be the day the real Rising Sky Ranking Battle takes place. The specific ranking will then be decided based on the participants’ strength,” Ren Zhong said in a timely manner. “Now that everyone knows the rules, let’s not waste any more time and begin!” He announced indifferently.

As soon as Ren Zhong finished speaking, a figure flew out as fast as a flash of lightning.

This person flew out from behind Xu Cen, the Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion. He was dressed entirely in black, and he had an aloof expression on his face. This person was none other than Xu Can, Xu Cen’s grandson.

“Xu Can!” The moment he appeared, he attracted many people’s attention.

In the Rising Sky Mansion, if there was someone worthy enough to be mentioned in the same sentence as Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, it would be Xu Can.

Apart from that, it had been a long time since Xu Can appeared in public so nobody knew how powerful he was currently. However, the fact remained that Xu Can was younger than Xu Jing, and his strength was almost on par with Xu Jing many years back. Currently, even if he was weaker than Xu Jing, it would not be by much.

Moreover, it was apparent the two Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivators from the Rising Sky Mansion had entered the arena yesterday to test the water for him. He had to be more powerful than the other two.



When Xu Can appeared, naturally, he did not pick the two Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivators from the Rising Sky Mansion. Instead, he picked an Early Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator.

It was obvious this sectless cultivator was much more powerful than the two other disciples. However, it took only one blow for Xu Can to kill him. With a raise of his hand, he mobilized his True Origin and killed his opponent in just one strike. It was simple and neat.

This was Xu Can!

“Intermediate Refined Saint Stage!” Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang were slightly shocked when they saw Xu Can’s strength. They could see his cultivation base was at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage.

Unlike Xu Can, the Wine-Meat Monk’s cultivation base at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage was the most unstable since he had just broken through not too long ago. Yu Xu Zi was better but it was not by much.

However, Xu Can’s cultivation base at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage had long stabilized. This meant he had broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage a long time ago. Otherwise, he would not have been able to wield the True Origin so effortlessly.

“Elder Xu Cen, although I’ve heard about your grandson’s innate talent, I still can’t believe how outstanding he is. Look at his innate talent, I believe even your Young Mansion Master can’t compare to him, right? Your grandson has really hidden his strength quite well,” Ren Zhong mused as he looked at Xu Cen with a complicated gaze.

“That’s right. Although I’ve heard about your grandson, Elder Xu Cen, in the rumors, it’s said that he’s still inferior to your Young Mansion Master. However, after witnessing this, I feel the Young Mansion Master is far inferior compared to your grandson in terms of innate talent,” Liu Hong Guang remarked.

Xu Cen felt as though he was on top of the world when he saw the envy in Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang’s eyes.

Everyone loved to hear praises. Moreover, the one Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guan praised was his grandson.

“I can’t believe Xu Can has already broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage!” At the same time, the group of Rising Sky Mansion’s elders and disciples were shocked as well as they whispered among themselves. It was obvious they did not know Xu Can was already an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator.

Some of the Rising Sky Mansion’s elders who were more perceptive commented, “Based on the True Origin Xu Can displayed earlier, it seems like he has broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage quite a while ago.”

The group of disciples from the Rising Sky Mansion was instantly baffled. “Then, does this mean Xu Can broke through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage earlier than the Young Mansion Master did?”

Although the disciples of Rising Sky Mansion had no confirmation their Young Mansion Master had broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage, they knew it was unlikely for their Young

Mansion Master to have not broken through since they knew about the huge amount of cultivation resources in their Rising Sky Mansion.

“Even if Young Mansion Master has made a breakthrough, he might not necessarily be a match for Xu Can.”

“That’s right! Xu Can has broken through quite a while ago after all.”

### **Chapter 1678: The Death of the Rising Sky Mansion’s Disciple**

Based on the Rising Sky Mansion’s members’ discussion, it was obvious they felt Xu Can was stronger than Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion.

The strength Xu Can had displayed had greatly shocked everyone.

“The Rising Sky Mansion is truly worthy of its name... The innate talent and strength of this Xu Can is actually more powerful than Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of the Rising Sky Mansion! Most importantly, he’s still so young. Even the Flowery Monk and Jing Xu Zi might not be a match for him in terms of innate talent,” someone lamented.

“The Rising Sky Mansion is a fourth-rate force after all. It’s normal for them to have such an outstanding young genius,” many people chimed in.

The moment Xu Can made his move, it was domineering. To a certain extent, it could be considered that he had raised the name of Rising Sky Mansion.

The people from Rising Sky Mansion, including Xu Cen the Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion, had an air of pride and satisfaction around them. Xu Cen, in particular, was looking at Xu Can with pride-filled eyes.

This was his grandson!

His biological grandson!

It was only natural he was proud of him.

Xu Can took the initiative and made the first move today. It could be considered as a good start to today’s Rising Sky Ranking Battle.

After killing the Early Refined Saint Stage sectless cultivator in a domineering manner with just one blow, Xu Can stood quietly in the middle and shut his eyes to attain mental composure. He ignored the eyes trained on him as though they did not exist at all.

He was the only person to shut his eyes to attain mental composure among the ten Ring Masters. It was as though he was not bothered if anyone came to challenge him or not.

“Look at how composed he is! How rare!” Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang exchanged glances with each other. Both could see the same thoughts in each other’s eyes.

They had seen many geniuses before. However, the geniuses they had seen were mostly arrogant and considered everyone and everything beneath their notice. They would be filled with pride as though they were invincible.

However, Xu Can gave them a different feeling. He was neither haughty nor impetuous as he ignored all praises from the surrounding.

Although many people said his innate talent and strength were even more powerful than Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, he remained unmoved as though he was an emotionless wooden doll.

“This Xu Can... What a tenacious heart he has toward the Martial Dao!” The shock was clearly written in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He could see how determined his heart was toward the Martial Dao. “If he’s given enough time, he’ll definitely rise up to the top. It’s very likely the Rising Sky Mansion wouldn’t be able to contain him.” Although Duan Ling Tian did not know Xu Can prior to this, it did not dampen his admiration for him.

He could see the purity a Martial Cultivator should have in Xu Can. He only had the Martial Dao in his heart and eyes. No matter how the wind blew, his heart remained steadfast. His focus was solely on the Martial Dao. That was the purity of having only Martial Dao in one’s heart and eyes.

“Elder Xu Cen, you have a good grandson,” Ren Zhong said enviously as he looked at Xu Cen.

“Vice Mansion Master Ren, I heard your grandson has quite a remarkable innate talent too. He’s also one of the top-rate powerhouses among the younger generation in the Sky Hurdle Mansion.” Xu Cen smiled humbly.

“Well, you can say so. However, he’s far from being comparable to your grandson.” Ren Zhong smiled wryly.

The attention on Xu Can also began to lessen. It was quite boring to stare at Xu Can who was like a wooden doll.

“I wonder who’ll be the next to enter the ring.” The people began to look around their surroundings.

Naturally, most of their attention was on three people. They were none other than the Flowery Monk, Jing Xu Zi, and Zhong Gu.

Time continued to pass, and half an hour had gone by just like this. Still, nobody made any move. This caused people to become anxious. “Why aren’t they going up?”

Finally, just as many people began to feel anxious, someone finally made a move.

An ordinary-looking young man dressed in plain clothes rose into the air as he carried a broadsword behind him. The broadsword did not have a sheath and was merely wrapped with a plain cloth. His entire appearance was very inconspicuous.

Although the plainly dressed young man looked inconspicuous, he garnered the attention of the crowd as soon as he walked out.

This plainly dressed young man was none other than Zhong Gu. He had finally decided to make his move.

“Zhong Gu! I wonder who he’ll choose as his opponent.” Many people were staring at Zhong Gu.

“Naturally, he won’t choose the few sectless cultivators. After all, he’s also a sectless cultivator. All these sectless cultivators are quite united,” somebody remarked.

“I think he’ll challenge one of the two Rising Sky Mansion’s members.” As it turned out, this turned out to be true.

When Zhong Gu went up, he indeed chose one of the Rising Sky Mansion’s Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivators as his opponent. The Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator’s face turned pale when he was chosen.

Who was Zhong Gu?

He was someone who could suppress their Young Mansion Master when they were at the same level.

He knew he would be defeated if he was faced with his Young Mansion Master, let alone someone like Zhong Gu!

Although he dreaded this, he knew he had to pull himself together. He was not only representing himself, but he was representing the Rising Sky Mansion as well.

It would only bring shame to the Rising Sky Mansion if he had surrendered so easily.

Moreover, he was not worried Zhong Gu would kill him since he was a disciple of Rising Sky Mansion.

Perhaps, if Zhong Gu killed him, the Rising Sky Mansion would not be able to retaliate due to the presence of the powerhouses from the Sky Hurdle Mansion and Raging Wave Mansion. However, they had a thousand ways to look for trouble with him after the Rising Sky Ranking Battle ended.

When he thought about this, he gradually calmed down.

However, it did not cross his mind, not even in his wildest dream, that Zhong Gu did not have any intention of sparing his life at all.

As a sectless cultivator, Zhong Gu felt a sense of solidarity with the other sectless cultivators even though he did not know them because they were the same.

When he saw how the sectless cultivators were killed one after another by the people from the powerful forces, rage began to surge up in his heart. He tried with much difficulty to suppress it. However, when he was faced with the disciple from the Rising Sky Mansion, he could no longer suppress his rage.

Whoosh!

Without consolidating his Territory, he immediately formed a saber with his hands before he slashed at the disciple of Rising Sky Mansion.

His True Origin instantly surged up and turned into a gigantic saber ray that swept toward the disciple of the Rising Sky Mansion. Judging by the True Origin from the saber ray, one could tell he was above the Early Refined Saint Stage!

In other words, Zhong Gu was an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator!

“Stop!” When Xu Cen sensed Zhong Gu’s cultivation base at the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage, his expression turned grave immediately. When he realized Zhong Gu intended to kill the disciple from the Rising Sky Mansion, he could not help but shout. He instinctively wanted to reach out and save him.

However, before he could even make his move, he was blocked by Liu Hong Guang.

Meanwhile, before disciple from the Rising Sky Mansion could even react, he had already been sliced into two by Zhong Gu’s palm saber. From the beginning until the end, he did not even use any technique or his Territory.

This was an absolute defeat!

The entire fell silent immediately.

After some time, the sound of heavy breathing could be heard from the group of people from Rising Sky Mansion. Many of them had a grave expression on their faces.

Although killing was allowed in the Rising Sky Ranking Battle, none of them were worried about their safety since they had the most powerful fourth-rate force in the Rising Sky Mansion’s district supporting them.

Would an ordinary person dare to publicly offend the Rising Sky Mansion?

However, someone had just killed a member of their Rising Sky Mansion. It was equivalent to giving their Rising Sky Mansion a loud slap!

All of them were enraged! Even then, they knew there was nothing they could do. At least not now.

If they wanted to seek revenge, they would have to wait until the Rising Sky Ranking Battle ended.

“Amazing!” Soon after, the spectating Martial Cultivators regained their senses and began to cheer in unison. They were proud of Zhong Gu.

Previously, they had felt upset as well when they saw the sectless cultivators being killed one after another. As a sectless cultivator, they did not dare to kill anyone from a powerful sect. However, those people from the powerful sects treated their lives like weeds.

Now that Zhong Gu had made his move and killed the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple, it washed away the gloominess in their hearts. It was now replaced with delight.

“Zhong Gu!”

“Zhong Gu!”

Some of the sectless cultivators were so excited they began cheering Zhong Gu's name to express the joy in their hearts.

At this moment, they no longer cared if they offended the people from the Rising Sky Mansion.

Zhong Gu had killed a Rising Sky Mansion's member to avenge the sectless cultivators, and it would not be right if they continued to act like a coward.

The people from the other sects were shocked as well when they saw how bold and daring Zhong Gu was to kill someone from the Rising Sky Mansion. They only regained their senses when they heard the cheers from the group of sectless cultivators.

"This Zhong Gu is quite a man." Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhong Gu in admiration. He respected this man who dared to seek justice for those sectless cultivators who were killed before this.

At this moment, Zhong Gu's face was emotionless. It was obvious he did not care that he had just killed a disciple of the Rising Sky Mansion.

"The way Zhong Gu had killed the Rising Sky Mansion's disciple is similar to how the Rising Sky Mansion's disciple had killed the sectless cultivator. They did not even blink their eyes." Duan Ling Tian had originally planned to go up after Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, had shown himself. However, he was now influenced by Zhong Gu, and he could feel his blood boiling righteously in his body.

'Right now, I'm also a sectless cultivator...' The moment he thought of this, he flew out immediately.

Many people immediately shifted their attention to him.

"Who's this person?"

"I've never seen him before!"

"He has been standing alone at the edge. He's as eccentric as Zhong Gu... He must be a sectless cultivator as well!"

"Such an eccentric and cold person must be a sectless cultivator."

...

Since Duan Ling Tian was wearing a disguise, his appearance now was extremely aloof.

"Li Feng?" The moment Duan Ling Tian appeared, he instantly grabbed the Flowery Monk's attention.

### **Chapter 1679: The First Battle**

In truth, the Flowery Monk still could not see through this Li Feng. In the beginning, his intuition had told him this Li Feng was not a simple person.

However, he felt he was thinking too much after a while. Although there were many sectless cultivators in the Rising Sky Mansion's district, and there were a lot of sectless cultivators whose innate talent were

on par or even higher than him, how far could they go without the great resources a powerful sect could provide.

Take Zhong Gu for example. In terms of innate talent, he and Pure Yang Shrine's Jing Xu Zi might not be able to compare to him at all, let alone the Young Mansion Master of Rising Sky Mansion, Xu Jing.

Because Zhong Gu did not have access to great cultivation resources, not only could he not compare to him and Jing Xu Zi, he was even slightly inferior to Xu Jing. However, with the strength Zhong Gu displayed earlier, he was no longer certain if Zhong Gu was inferior to Xu Jing.

Judging by Zhong Gu's strength, it did not seem like he had just broken through to the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage. In terms of strength, even his senior brother, Wine-Meat Monk, and Pure Yang Shrine's Yu Xu Zi could not compare to him at all. Even so, Zhong Gu was still inferior to him and Jing Xu Zi. He was certain of this.

As for the aloof young man, Li Feng, based on the aura of his Divine Consciousness, he must be younger than forty years old.

Even if a sectless cultivator who had yet to reach forty years of age had some fortuitous encounter and had a high innate talent, just how far could he go without the great cultivating resources from a powerful sect?

When the Flowery Monk noticed Duan Ling Tian had shifted his gaze to the other Rising Sky Mansion's disciple who was at the Early Refined Saint Stage, his heart jolted as he thought to himself, "He's picking the other Rising Sky Mansion's disciple? Don't tell me he wants to copy Zhong Gu and vent the anger for the sectless cultivators?"

"His opponent is an Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator. Although he had just broken through, I don't think he's someone a young man who has not even reached forty years old will be able to deal with, right?" In his subconscious mind, the Flowery Monk Flowery did not think Duan Ling Tian was more powerful than the opponent he chose.

However, when he saw the calm expression on Duan Ling Tian's aloof face, he was puzzled. Was this young man who had not even reached forty years old really that confident or was he just putting on a show?

Naturally, the Flowery Monk did not know Duan Ling Tian's real age had already exceeded forty years old.

However, due to the complexity of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, the time that Duan Ling Tian spent inside was almost static outside. Due to this reason, currently, he appeared younger than forty years old even when someone probed him with their Divine Consciousness.

Many people shared the same thoughts as the Flowery Monk.

After all, there were more than one or two people who were even more powerful than the Flowery Monk in the crowd.

"This young man is not even forty years old?" Ren Zhong, the Vice Mansion Master of Sky Hurdle Mansion, regained his senses. His eyes widened, and there was a shocked expression on his face.

“He’s also a sectless cultivator?” Liu Hong Guang, the Second Elder of Raging Wave Mansion, was also stunned. He discovered this young man was not even forty years old after he probed him with his Divine Consciousness.

Although he was not even forty years old, he dared to make his appearance at this time?

Even in the Raging Wave Mansion, he did not seem to have any junior disciples at the Refined Saint Stage who were below the age of forty. However, this young man had boldly stepped out to challenge the Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator from the Rising Sky Mansion.

He found this a little ridiculous.

In the Lower Province of Dao Martial Saint Land, apart from those quasi third-rate forces, he had not heard of any sect that had Martial or Dao Cultivators below the age of forty who were at the Refined Saint Stage.

Moreover, not every quasi third-rate force had such a Martial or Dao Cultivator either.

“My goodness! He’s not even forty years old!” At the same time, the group people on the scene finally discovered this.

The atmosphere instantly turned heated due to Duan Ling Tian’s presence.

Many eyes landed on Duan Ling Tian. Some of them were filled with shocked and confusion, but most of them contained doubt. Many of them doubted this young man who was not even forty years old, and they wondered if he was just putting on a show. Perhaps, he was just an idiot.

Regardless, Duan Ling Tian who had just stepped out had snatched the limelight away from Zhong Gu.

“Hurmph! He’s not even forty years of age, and he wants to challenge the Rising Sky Mansion’s Early Refined Saint Stage disciple. Isn’t he just seeking death?” One of the old Taoist priests from Pure Yang Shrine snorted. His tone was filled with disdain. He was an elder from the Pure Yang Shrine, naturally, many people agreed with his words.

“I think he just wants to imitate Zhong Gu and vent out anger for the sectless cultivators. However, doesn’t he know that being in the limelight might cost him his life?” The people from various sects discussed among themselves. They all felt that Duan Ling Tian had overestimated himself.

The group of sectless cultivators on the scene felt a burning sensation on their faces. A young man who was not even forty years old had stepped out to avenge the fallen sectless cultivators while they only stood idly by the side and watched the show. It made them feel ashamed. However, they truly did not have the courage to step into the ring.

Soon after, a kind sectless cultivator said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, “Little Brother, just come back. There’s no need for you to sacrifice your life.” He was unwilling to see Duan Ling Tian sacrifice his life for this.



“Brother, those fallen sectless cultivators understand your good intention... Come back! The Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple is not your match at all!” Soon after, many more sectless cultivators transmitted their voices to Duan Ling Tian.

They knew very well that the people from Rising Sky Mansion must have already been enraged due to Zhong Gu’s earlier action.

If somebody challenged the other Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple now, he definitely would not show any mercy.

Perhaps, they might not be able to find Zhong Gu to seek revenge. However, they could kill other sectless cultivators to vent their anger.

Just as they had expected, the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple whom Duan Ling Tian had chosen looked at Duan Ling Tian with a gaze that was a mixture of coldness and disdain. “A sectless cultivator who’s not even forty years old dares to challenge me?”

In his opinion, this sectless cultivator was a rash and hot-headed idiot!

However, since he had presented himself to him, he would not show any mercy at all!

Earlier, Zhong Gu had helped the sectless cultivators vent their anger by killing someone from the Rising Sky Mansion. That person was even a relative of his. He was his distant cousin. They even had a close relationship because their strength was almost on par with one another.

“Boy, are you sure you want to challenge me?” The eyes of the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple was filled with provocation when he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

When Duan Ling Tian heard the Voice Transmissions from the other sectless cultivators, warmth enveloped his heart immediately. He felt he had made the right choice by stepping out to help the sectless cultivators vent their anger even though he was influenced by Zhong Gu first.

Faced with the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple’s provocation, Duan Ling Tian merely looked at him calmly, but the determination in his eyes was more than enough of an answer.

In the middle of another huge chess piece, Zhong Gu hovered in the air as he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian as well.

He had noticed Duan Ling Tian earlier since he was the only one who came to Nimble Valley alone, just like him. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian was a sectless cultivator as well.

Put everything else aside, just this alone was enough for him to have a good impression of Duan Ling Tian.

When he saw Duan Ling Tian stepping into the ring, he even felt a sense of admiration. If it was possible, he would not reject being friends with this aloof young man who was also a sectless cultivator.

However, when Zhong Gu realized Duan Ling Tian was not even forty years old, he reminded him through Voice Transmission, “If you’re not confident, just surrender.”

When Duan Ling Tian heard Zhong Gu's reminder, he glanced at him and smiled at him slightly in response.

The faint smile on his aloof face revealed his confidence to Zhong Gu. It made Zhong Gu feel as though he could see through the aloof young man a little.

Among the group of Rising Sky Mansion's people, Xu Cen's eyes gleamed with a piercing light. He told Duan Ling Tian's opponent, "Xu Ping, kill him!"

Naturally, he spoke to him through Voice Transmission.

Xu Ping was Duan Ling Tian's opponent. He was a Rising Sky Mansion's disciple whose cultivation base was at the Early Refined Saint Stage. After hearing Xu Cen's words, the killing intent in his eyes intensified.

The True Origin in his body that he mobilized emitted a bloodcurdling aura.

It was killing intent!

Every sectless cultivators broke out in cold sweat on behalf of Duan Ling Tian.

"You overestimate yourself!" Xu Ping shouted suddenly as the True Origin on his body swept out like a typhoon. At this moment, the area within a 100-meter radius of him was filled with raging wind.

The wind continued to rage. In just a few moments, his body was in the eye of the hurricane as his robe fluttered loudly in the wind.

In the area within a 100-meter radius, consolidated wind blades could be seen everywhere. The wind blades sliced through the sky with a whistling sound and caused the air to tremble as though they were able to rip the space apart.

Although the wind blades were revolving around Xu Ping's body, the people standing far away could faintly feel the sharpness of these wind blades.

"Wind Blade Territory!" Such a Territory was not uncommon in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Naturally, its force was still great even though it was common. Once an ordinary person entered it, he would be shredded into a bloody mess before he even had a chance to react.

Duan Ling Tian was unaffected by the wind blades because he was standing outside of the Territory. There were still over ten meters between him and Xu Ping's Territory.

However, Duan Ling Tian's robes still fluttered from the hurricane that was charging toward him.

"DIE!" At the same time, Xu Ping snarled loudly. It was as though he had turned into a bolt of lightning as he charged toward Duan Ling Tian.

His Wind Blade Territory that was howling non stop moved along with him. The wind blades in the Territory emitted an ear piercing noise as he charged out as though the sky was going to split apart. The sky and earth seemed dim in comparison.

Many sectless cultivators closed their eyes. They could not bear to watch the scene where Duan Ling Tian was shredded into pieces by the wind blades.

In their opinion, this aloof-looking young man might not even be able to block this Rising Sky Mansion's disciple's Territory, let alone fight with him.

### **Chapter 1680: Sun True Origin's Power**

If he could not even block the Territory, there was no need to fight anymore. This was because he would die in his opponent's Territory before he could even make his move. Naturally, this would only happen when the gap between the strength was too wide.

The sectless cultivators might not have thought like that if Duan Ling Tian had not been so young. However, Duan Ling Tian was just ridiculously young.

As the saying went, 'A man too young to grow a beard is not dependable.' These words were applicable to the current situation.

"Overestimated myself, huh?" A faint smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face when he heard Xu Ping, the Rising Sky Mansion's disciple's words.

Duan Ling Tian's expression did not change at all even though Xu Ping was charging at him with his Territory in tow.

Although his expression did not change, his body began to emit a burning hot aura as a dazzling golden True Origin surged out of his body.

10,000 Swords Territory!

At this instant, the area within a 100-meter radius of Duan Ling Tian transformed into a golden sea.

It seemed as though sunlight had enveloped him, it caused many people to instinctively shut their eyes. They gradually tried to open their eyes, but they ended up having to squint. This was because the golden light before them was too dazzling that their eyes could barely stand it.

"What kind of Territory is this?" Many people were baffled. This was their first time seeing such a Territory.

High in the sky, Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang's expressions turned grave immediately. This was also their first time seeing such a Territory.

In their eyes, they could barely see the figure shrouded in golden light. This shocked them greatly.

"What a horrifying Territory!"

Although the Territory had not displayed its strength yet, its aura was enough to make their hearts jolt.

"What cultivation base does this young man have? To think he can actually consolidate such a powerful Territory!" Ren Zhong said in shock as he looked at Liu Hong Guang.

“He must have cultivated some secret technique that could conceal his cultivation base. Even we can’t see through it at all... Originally, I thought I’ll be able to judge his cultivation base based on his True Origin when he unleashes it. As it turns out, his True Origin is actually this peculiar. It seems like he’s only at the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage?” Liu Hong Guang said, baffled.

“You think so as well?” Ren Zhong was dumbfounded. Originally, he thought that he had sensed it wrongly. He could not believe Liu Hong Guang came to the same conclusion as him as well.

When Duan Ling Tian displayed his True Origin, he realized the aura of the True Origin was only the True Origin of an Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage if one judged it based on normal logic.

However, he also realized Duan Ling Tian’s True Origin was not as simple as it seemed. Even he could not explain why he felt this way.

Particularly when Duan Ling Tian’s True Origin formed his Territory in just a blink of an eye, surpassing the speed of his opponent. He was extremely shocked. “Impossible! It’s impossible that it’s the True Origin of an Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse!”

What a joke!

How could the True Origin of an Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse be able to form a Territory so quickly? It confounded them.

It felt as though the Territory was a vast golden ocean while the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple’s Wind Blade Territory was just like papier mache that could barely withstand a blow.

Ren Zhong and Liu Hong Guang had lived for a very long time, but this was their first time witnessing such a peculiar scene.

“Who is he?” Both of them were bewildered.

Both of them had noticed that something was not right. It was only natural that Xu Cen, the Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion, had also noticed something was amiss. The moment he noticed it, his expression turned horrified, and he could not even transmit his voice in time. Instead, he shouted out loud, “Xu Ping, admit defeat now!”

The instant Xu Cen’s words left his mouth, the entire scene broke into an uproar.

The Grand Elder of Rising Sky Mansion actually asked that Rising Sky Mansion’s disciple to admit defeat?

Did he feel his disciple was not even comparable to a sectless cultivator who was not even forty years old?

Among the people present on the scene, only a few were able to faintly see the situation taking place inside the golden light that appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s Territory.

Ren Zhong, Liu Hong Guang, and Xu Cen could see it. Apart from that, the Shrine Master of Pure Yang Shrine, the Abbott of Brahma Temple, and another leader of a fifth-rate force in the Rising Sky Mansion’s district could faintly see what was happening.

As for the others, they could not see anything at all.

Perhaps, they would only be able to see once they enter the Territory.

Xu Cen had shouted instinctively when he realized he had underestimated that young sectless cultivator.

Earlier, he had thought the young sectless cultivator was seeking death. That was why he had asked Xu Ping to kill him. It did not cross his mind that the tide would change in just a blink of an eye. Although the opponent's True Origin was similar to that of an Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage powerhouse, its vibe after it formed the Territory felt more like an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage powerhouse.

It was precisely because of this he had lost his cool and shouted out loud. Unfortunately, his warning came too late.

How could an arrow that was released from the bowstring be retracted?

Together with his Wind Blade Territory, Xu Ping charged into the Golden Brilliance Territory that surrounded a 100-meter radius around Duan Ling Tian.

The five powerhouses present on the scene could clearly see the moment Xu Ping entered the Golden Brilliance Territory, solidified sword rays suddenly appeared. After these sword rays appeared, it seemed to have transformed the Golden Brilliance Territory into a world of swords.

As the figure in the middle of the Golden Brilliance Territory raised his hand and pointed a finger toward the sky —

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

10,000 ear-piercing sounds of sword whistling reverberated in the air.

"STOP!" At this moment, Xu Cen realized Xu Ping had no time to admit defeat, and he immediately shouted at Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission. This was his attempt to make Xu Ping realize the overwhelming odds against him. He could only resort to this when he found out Xu Ping was no match for Duan Ling Tian at all.

"Stop?" A sneer appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face. He could tell the voice belonged to Xu Cen. However, he had no intention of stopping at all. Instead, he only stared coldly at Xu Ping who had a panicked expression on his face.

Everything was almost over.

10,000 swords sliced through the sky and charged toward Xu Ping who entered Duan Ling Tian's Territory with his Wind Blade Territory in tow. The entire scene was chilling.

Unfortunately, only five people could faintly see what was happening inside.

As for the others, they merely heard 10,000 ear-piercing sounds of sword whistling in the air that that overwhelmed the sound of the wind blades slicing through the air.

However, when they heard Xu Cen shouting earlier, they could roughly guess what was going on inside.

“How’s this possible?” Many people found this unbelievable. It was like a joke!

A sectless cultivator who was not even forty years old was stronger than the Rising Sky Mansion’s disciples who was at the Early Refined Saint Stage?

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was no longer like the former him.

His cultivation base had already made a breakthrough to the Intermediate Pristine Saint Stage. Due to the fact that the True Origin in his body had been transformed by Elder Huo into the Sun True Origin, it was extremely domineering. It was almost equal to the True Origin of an ordinary Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivator.

The Territory formed by such a True Origin was almost on par with the techniques and Territory of an ordinary Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial and Dao Cultivator.

Since his opponent was merely an Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, Duan Ling Tian did not use any other technique at all since there was no use for him to use any other technique. He merely used his True Origin against his opponent.

10,000 swords whizzed in the sky. Xu Ping and his Territory were completely annihilated. It was as though they had been vaporized by the sun. There was no trace of them at all.

Naturally, when Duan Ling Tian retracted his Territory, everybody present could faintly smell a burnt smell.

“Xu Ping’s gone?” At this moment, apart from Xu Cen, the Grand Elder of the Rising Sky Mansion, who was staring furiously at Duan Ling Tian, the people from Rising Sky Mansion had a horrified expression on their faces and hints of confusion in their eyes.

Although they knew Xu Ping was no match for this sectless cultivator who was not even forty years old from the way the Grand Elder had lost his composure, they did not expect that Xu Ping would vanish without a trace after the sectless cultivator had retracted his Territory.

Silence.

The entire place was silent.

From the high-ranking officials such as Ren Zhong, Liu Hong Guang, and other people from the fourth-rate forces to the people from the lower forces and the sectless cultivators whose cultivation base was low and only came to watch the show, they were all staring dumbfounded at the aloof young man. They did not regain their senses for a long time.

A thought kept looping around in their minds. This sectless cultivator was not even forty years old yet.

Although he was not forty years old yet, he managed to instantly kill an Early Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator. Not only that, he did not even leave a trace of his opponent’s body behind.

The only thing that remained behind was a Spatial Ring that was falling down.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian took the Spatial Ring. This was his war trophy. It did not belong to anyone else.

“I can’t believe that the 10,000 Swords Territory that’s consolidated by the Sun True Origin is so tyrannical. Moreover, there seems to be a layer of golden light along the edge of the Territory that conceals what’s happening inside. If I’m not mistaken, those with a lower cultivation base would not be able to see what’s happening inside.” This was the first time Duan Ling Tian used his 10,000 Swords Territory after he had broken through to the Pristine Saint Stage and obtained the Sun True Origin.

The outcome was completely beyond his expectation. When he was controlling the 10,000 swords attack in the 10,000 Swords Territory, he noticed the 10,000 swords seemed to have a trace of Sun’s Flame on them. Although the Sun’s Flame could not be compared to Elder Huo’s Flame of Sun, it was still a pure Sun’s Flame.

Faced with the 10,000 swords attack that had the Sun’s Flame, Xu Ping whose strength was originally inferior to Duan Ling Tian had completely been vaporized.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was shocked as well.

Although he had heard from Elder Huo about how powerful the Sun True Origin was, he was still stunned when he saw how domineering the force of the Sun True Origin was.