

SOVEREIGN 1841

### **Chapter 1841: A Panicked Zhao Deng**

Although Gu Li had not been to the Azure Cloud Mansion before, he knew where the Azure Cloud Mansion's estate was located.

However, as he made his way to the Azure Cloud Mansion, he was unaware that he was being followed.

Despite having already broken through to the Divine Saint Stage, he was merely at the Early Divine Saint Stage. Naturally, it would be difficult for him to detect Zhao Deng who was following him since he was a Martial Cultivator at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage. For this reason, although Zhao Deng was following him not that far behind, Gu Li was completely unaware of it.

"I'd really like to see where did Ling Tian go!" Zhao Deng muttered to himself as he followed Gu Li from behind. His eyes flashed coldly as he muttered to himself.

After a few days, Zhao Deng who was following Gu Li could not help but frown. "The Crouching Dragon Lake where the Azure Cloud Mansion's estate is located just in front... What's Gu Li doing here?"

Although the Azure Cloud Mansion was also a quasi third-rate force just like their Mystical Sky Mansion, it was far superior in terms of strength and position!

Now that Zhao Deng had arrived at the entrance of such a force, even he, the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion, felt a little fear. From the beginning until the end, it did not cross his mind that Gu Li's destination would be the Azure Cloud Mansion! This was because he had never heard of any connections that Gu Li and Ling Tian had with Azure Cloud Mansion.

The first thought that popped up in his mind was Gu Li was merely passing by the Crouching Dragon Lake's lakeside, and he did not have anything to do with the Azure Cloud Mansion at all.

As long as they did not enter the Crouching Dragon Lake, they would not alert the Black Armored Guards of the Azure Cloud Mansion.

However, soon after, Zhao Deng discovered things were developing in a completely different from what he had imagined. Gu Li was not passing by the Crouching Dragon Lake where the Azure Cloud Mansion's estate was located at all!

"H-he actually entered the Crouching Dragon Lake!" Outside of the Crouching Dragon Lake, Zhao Deng witnessed with his own eyes how Gu Li flew into the Crouching Dragon Lake.

The scene he had expected to happen had also taken place. The moment Gu Li entered the Crouching Dragon Lake, he was immediately surrounded by ten Black Armored Guards who emerged from the Crouching Dragon Lake.

"What's Gu Li trying to do? Why would he come to the Azure Cloud Mansion?" Zhao Deng frowned. He was still baffled even after thinking about it for a long time.

Naturally, he knew Gu Li would not come here to seek death! Something he was unaware of must be going on!

“Huh? Why did the attitude of these originally menacing Black Armored Guards suddenly change?” Although they were a distance apart now, Zhao Deng could see very clearly that the ten Black Armored Guards who were surrounding Gu Li had suddenly opened up a path for Gu Li.

There was even one Black Armored Guard who was leading Gu Li and courteously inviting him into the Crouching Dragon Lake.

“T-This... What’s going on? I’ve never heard of Gu Ci Yun having connections with any of the high-ranking officials in the Azure Cloud Mansion!” It was only until Gu Li’s silhouette had disappeared before his eyes that Zhao Deng finally regained his senses.

The first thought that popped up in his mind was that Guardian Gu Ci Yun from the Mystical Sky Mansion must have known some high-ranking official from the Azure Cloud Mansion. Not only that, but they must have a good relationship as well. The position of the Azure Cloud Mansion’s high-ranking official must be quite high in the Azure Cloud Mansion. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for this Black Armored Guard to treat Gu Li, Gu Ci Yun’s son, so politely.

From the very beginning until the end, he did not even think that it was Gu Li who had a close relationship with some high-ranking official in the Azure Cloud Mansion. He did not think Gu Li was qualified enough to be friends with a high-ranking official in the Azure Cloud Mansion!

At this moment, Zhao Deng had completely forgotten about Ling Tian!

It would never cross his mind — not even in his wildest dreams — that the reason the Black Armored Guards were so polite toward Gu Li was because of the direct order from Duan Ru Feng, the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. The reason behind this was Duan Ling Tian!

“One day, if someone comes and claims he’s Gu Li, a disciple from the Mystical Sky Mansion, none of you should be discourteous to him!” Although Duan Ru Feng’s words were simple, they were akin to an imperial edict to the Black Armored Guards.

How could they possibly dare to be discourteous toward someone who made the Mansion Mansion personally give an order?

“Should I go and enquire about this matter or should I return first?” Zhao Deng wanted to turn around and leave. However, the moment he thought about how Ling Tian might be hidden in the Azure Cloud Mansion by Gu Li, he felt a little unwilling.

“Ling Tian must have hidden in the Azure Cloud Mansion by Gu Li through the relationship his father has with the Azure Cloud Mansion! Looks like they plan to leave the Azure Cloud Mansion and head to the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land soon! Does Ling Tian think nobody in our Zhao Clan can touch him just because he’s hiding in the Azure Cloud Mansion?” Zhao Deng continued to make his own assumptions as his eyes gleamed coldly as though he wanted to kill someone.

Currently, what he wanted most was to drag Ling Tian out!

Whether it was him or his father, both of them felt they had to find Ling Tian in order to find the killer of his son, Zhao Ji.

“Fine, it’s better if I go and enquire about it first. I’m sure these Azure Cloud Mansion’s Black Armored Guards won’t dare to be discourteous once I reveal my identity as Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion! They would probably answer my questions as well.” In the end, Zhao Deng decided to go and enquire about this matter.

The moment he thought about his identity as the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion, his confidence was greatly boosted.

Swoosh!

With a flash, Zhao Deng seemed to have transformed into a cannonball as he appeared above the Crouching Dragon Lake before the nine Black Armored Guards were able to return into the Crouching Dragon Lake.

“Who are you?!” Zhao Deng’s appearance had, naturally, alerted the nine Black Armored Guards. He was immediately surrounded by the nine Black Armored Guards.

“I’m Zhao Deng, the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion’s Vice Mansion!” Zhao Deng said as he raised his head high up in front of the nine Black Armored Guards and said.

At the same time, a terrifying aura emitted out of his body, pressuring the nine Black Armored Guards until their expressions turned grave.

No matter what, Zhao Deng was still a Mastery Divine Saint Stage powerhouse. Naturally, the aura he released was not something the group of Eminent Saint Stage powerhouses could endure.

Although that was the case, he did not dare to be too bold. Soon after, he withdrew his aura.

No matter what, these Black Armored Guards were from the Azure Cloud Mansion. As the saying went, ‘One must look at the owner before one hits a dog.’ He did not wish to offend the Azure Cloud Mansion just because of these Black Armored Guards!

Even his father and the Mystical Sky Mansion would not simply offend the Azure Cloud Mansion, let alone him!

The reason he had acted that way earlier was so the nine Black Armored Guards would not look down on him.

“Oh, it’s Vice Mansion Master Zhao from the Mystical Sky Mansion!” Soon after, one of the nine Black Armored Guards stepped out and cupped his hands in front of his chest before bowing at Zhao Deng. “Good day to you, Vice Mansion Master Zhao. I’m Liu Quan, the Decurion of the Black Armored Army’s 73rd squad in the Azure Cloud Mansion!”

“Good day to you, Vice Mansion Master Zhao!” The remaining eight Black Armored Guards bowed at Zhao Deng in unison.

When Zhao Deng saw how courteous the nine Black Armored Guards were, Zhao Deng became even more arrogant. It seemed like his show of power earlier was effective.

“You’re the Decurion?” Zhao Deng looked at Liu Quan. After he saw the latter nodding his head, he also nodded his head as well. “Very good. I have a question to ask you, earlier...”

“Vice Mansion Master Zhao!” Liu Qian interrupted Zhao Deng before he could finish speaking. Although Zhao Deng’s expression had turned grim, Liu Qian continued to say, “Our Lord Mansion Master has given an order saying that if you come, we must treat you politely, and he even asked us to bring you to the Central Main Hall, Vice Mansion Master Zhao. Lord Mansion Master has said before that he wishes to personally welcome you!”

Upon hearing his words, the grave expression on Zhao Deng’s face disappeared immediately. Although he was baffled by this, he was ultimately delighted. “The Mansion Master of your Azure Cloud Mansion wants to personally welcome me?”

At this moment, Zhao Deng had even thought that he had heard wrongly.

“Yes.” However, he soon obtained his confirmation from Liu Quan.

He did not hear wrongly at all! Zhao Deng instantly felt a warm feeling rising from his feet all the way up to his head, causing him to feel dizzy for a moment. He was obviously excited.

He paid no attention to these few Black Armored Guards since the strongest among them was merely at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage. However, the Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion was a completely different story!

The Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion was someone even their Mansion Master of the Mystical Sky Mansion had to respect. However, he was going to personally welcome him?

At this instant, Zhao Deng felt a little light-headed. However, after a while, he regained his senses and realized that something was amiss.

He did not know the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, and he had never heard of his father knowing the Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion.

In that case, why would the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, one of the two overlords in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, tell his subordinates that he was going to personally welcome him?

Apart from that, how did the Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion know he was coming?

Something was not right!

After Zhao Deng calmed himself down, he did not lose himself in his excitement again. After taking a deep breath, he looked at the nine Black Armored Guards and said, “Please pass my gratitude to your Mansion Master. However, I still have some matters to attend to so I’ll have to take my leave for now!”

Now that Zhao Deng had sensed that something was wrong, he had completely thrown Ling Tian and Gu Li to the back of his mind.

Currently, there was only one thought left in his mind. He had to leave the Azure Cloud Mansion as quickly and as far as possible!

The moment his words left his mouth, without waiting for the nine Black Armored Guards' response, he turned around and flew out of the Crouching Dragon Lake.

At the same time, a vast energy surged out of Zhao Deng's body as he tried to leave the surrounding area of the Azure Cloud Mansion as fast as he possibly could.

He felt something was strange about this matter. Somehow, it seemed like a trap when he was told the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion wanted to personally welcome him.

"Since you're already here, why are you in such a rush to leave?" Before Zhao Deng could mobilize all his strength to speed up, a cold voice laced with killing intent sounded in front of him.

When he came to a halt, he discovered someone was already standing before him.

This person was wearing a black armor as well, but it looked more exquisite and light.

This Black Armored Guard was a young man with an aloof looking face. He had a long and terrifying scar that began from the top of his left eye to the bottom of his face, causing him to have a cruel appearance.

"Y-You're Tong Zhong? The Black Armored Army's Centurion?" Upon seeing this young man with a scarred face, horror dawned on Zhao Deng immediately.

Tong Zhong was the strongest person after the Captain of the Black Armored Army!

He was a powerhouse at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage!

### **Chapter 1842: You're Not Qualified!**

In the Azure Cloud Mansion, some of the high-ranking officials were famous due to their strength. This included Tong Zhong, one of the Centurions in the Black Armored Army!

Apart from being the strongest person after the Captain of the Black Armored Army, he was also the strongest person below the Exemplary Saint Stage in the Azure Cloud Mansion and the entire Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land! All these were widely acknowledged by the people.

Not only that, but he had even made an announcement asking for whoever below the Exemplary Saint Stage in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land who was unconvinced of this to challenge him!

No matter who it was, they would become the strongest person below the Exemplary Saint Stage in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land if they could defeat him!

Although many people below the Exemplary Saint Stage came to challenge him in the Azure Cloud Mansion, none of them won at all!

In the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, Tong Zhong was also known as the Legend of the Divine Saint Stage!

In the world of the Divine Saint Stage, he was a legend. Based on that, one could imagine how strong he was!

“Lord Centurion!” After Tong Zhong appeared, the nine Black Armored Guards led by Decurion Liu Quan appeared as well and bowed politely.

If one paid attention, one could see that the nine people led by Liu Quan was looking at Tong Zhong with a hint of reverence in their eyes.

In the Black Armored Army, their Captain who was also the Commander of the Black Armored Army, was a powerhouse from the older generation. For this reason, they only revered the Commander from afar.

However, other than revering Tong Zhong, all these young Centurions idolized him!

In the several hundreds of years of history in the Azure Cloud Mansion, Tong Zhong’s innate talent was only inferior to their Lord Mansion Master!

Tong Zhong was only in his early thirties this year!

Although Zhao Deng felt afraid in front of Tong Zhong, he managed to conceal it and feign anger as he asked in his deep voice, “Centurion Tong Zhong, what’re you trying to do?”

He would not even be able to fight against an ordinary powerhouse at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage, let alone Tong Zhong who was invincible among all the Divine Saint Stage powerhouses.

His cultivation base was currently only at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage!

Tong Zhong’s originally cold face turned even colder.

“What am I trying to do?” Tong Zhong asked upon hearing Zhao Deng’s words. Meanwhile, the temperature in the surrounding seemed to drop by a few degrees.

“It’s a blessing that Lord Mansion Master wants to personally welcome you. I’m giving you two options. One, you can die here. Two, you can follow me back to the Central Main Hall!” Tong Zhong’s tone turned colder as time went by that it sent shivers up people’s spines.

Upon hearing Tong Zhong’s words, Zhao Deng’s expressions turned grave as he said, “Tong Zhong, I’m the Vice Mansion Master of the Mystical Sky Mansion! If you dare to touch me, the Mystical Sky Mansion won’t let you go!”

At this moment, Zhao Deng had no choice but to use the Mystical Sky Mansion as his shield.

Unfortunately, Tong Zhong did not seem to care about the Mystical Sky Mansion. His icy voice continued to say, “I’ll give you a span of three breaths to make your choice. If you still haven’t made a choice in a span of three breaths, I’ll take it that you’re choosing the former option. Currently, the span of one breath has gone by!”

Horror dawned on Zhao Deng's face when he discovered it was futile even when he used the Mystical Sky Mansion's name. It seemed as though he was grasping at straws as he said, "My father is Zhao Jin, the Guardian of the Mystical Sky Mansion! He's at the Exemplary Saint Stage!"

When Zhao Deng saw using the Mystical Sky Mansion's name did not work, he switched to using his father's name instead.

"One more breath left!" However, it seemed as though Tong Zhong did not hear him as he continued to count down in his cold voice.

Only the span of one breath was left! Colors drained from Zhao Deng's face, and he finally accepted his fate. "I'll follow you to the Azure Cloud Mansion's Main Mansion's Central Main Hall!"

There was no way he could resist in front of Tong Zhong at all. If he wanted to live, he could only compromise.

The nine Black Armored Guards led by Liu Quan looked at Zhao Deng in disdain when they saw him obediently following Tong Zhong.

"This Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion, Zhao Deng, is really a disgrace to the Mystical Sky Mansion! In front of Lord Centurion Tong, he gave up in less than the span of three breaths!"

"I really wonder how Zhao Deng became a Vice Mansion Master in the Mystical Sky Mansion in the first place... Don't they have anyone else in the Mystical Sky Mansion?"

"I heard that Zhao Deng's father is one of the two great Guardians of the Mystical Sky Mansion. I guess it must be due to nepotism that he managed to become a Vice Mansion Master!"

"I see."

At this moment, Zhao Deng had not left very far with Tong Zhong. Due to this reason, he, naturally, heard the nine Black Armored Guards' discussion that was filled with disdain.

Was it not said that the Azure Cloud Mansion's Black Armored Army was highly disciplined and taciturn?

Why were their words so mean then?

At this moment, Zhao Deng seemed to have forgotten how arrogant he had acted earlier when faced with the nine Black Armored Guards!

...

In the Central Main Hall of the Azure Cloud Mansion's Main Mansion.

"Enter!" Tong Zhong glanced coldly at Zhao Deng. After Zhao Deng obediently entered the Central Main Hall, Tong Zhong moved to stand at the great entrance of the Central Main Hall like a fearsome god guarding the door.

Who was inside the Central Main Hall that Tong Zhong, the Black Armored Army's Centurion, had to personally guard the door?

As soon as Zhao Deng entered, he saw a person. Moreover, it was someone he knew.

“Gu Li?” In the large Central Main Hall, other than Zhao Deng who had just entered, only Gu Li was inside.

“Vice Mansion Master Zhao, why are you here?” Gu Li frowned when he saw Zhao Deng.

Based on Gu Li’s expression, it was obvious he did not know Zhao Deng would show up.

Zhao Deng did not answer him. What could he say anyway? He could not just say that he had followed him here, could he?

However, Gu Li was not an idiot. He very quickly guessed the reason behind Zhao Deng’s presence. “Y-You followed me?”

“I only want to know where Ling Tian is! The direction you were headed after leaving the Mystical Sky Mansion is the same with the direction that he went in previously! Do you dare to say you’re not here for him?” When Zhao Deng spoke of Ling Tian, he became irritated.

If it was not for that guy, his son would not have died!

If it was not for that guy, he would not have followed Gu Li and be trapped in the Azure Cloud Mansion now!

Not only that, but until now, he still did not know what the intention of the Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion was.

How did he know he would come to the Azure Cloud Mansion?

Why did he want to welcome him personally?

Gu Li felt delighted when he saw how Zhao Deng still dared to be so daring even in the Azure Cloud Mansion. This was his junior brother’s territory. Meanwhile, he did not bother to conceal anything and admitted to his intention of coming here. “That’s right! I’m here to look for Junior Brother Ling Tian!”

“In that case, why can’t I follow you?” Zhao Deng smirked. “However, it really didn’t cross my mind that your father, Gu Ci Yun, actually knows a high-ranking official from the Azure Cloud Mansion. I’m sure that person must have a high position in the Azure Cloud Mansion since they’re willing to hide Ling Tian for your father!”

When Zhao Deng spoke, he had a knowing expression on his face as though he had already figured everything out.

When Zhao Deng saw Gu Li did not reply even after a long time, he assumed that he had guessed correctly. “Why aren’t you talking? Are you speechless because I figured everything out?”

At this moment, Zhao Deng seemed to have forgotten the reason he was here. Otherwise, he would not have said such words.



Which Azure Cloud Mansion's high-ranking official would dare to bring their personal guest to the Central Main Hall?

The Central Main Hall was the place where the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion welcomed his guests!

Moreover, Gu Li did not respond because he was shocked by Zhao Deng's words.

However, he finally remembered something. Zhao Deng was unaware of his junior brother's true identity.

"Yes, you've figured it all out! I'm completely speechless!" Gu Li nodded his head in assent when faced with Zhao Deng's arrogance. Gu Li had a 'You're right!' expression outwardly. However, inwardly, he was scolding Zhao Deng for being an idiot.

Zhao Deng no longer acted arrogantly since it seems like Gu Li was acting sensible this time. For this reason, he felt something was amiss.

The current Gu Li was completely different from the Gu Li he knew!

Was Gu Li someone who would compromise this easily?

Naturally, not!

At this instant, Zhao Deng calmed down again. After he had calmed down, he began to remember where he was.

"The Central Main Hall of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion is where the group of high-ranking officials gather for meetings. It's also a place for the Mansion Master to welcome his guests! Gu Li, don't tell me you're also..."

Just as Zhao Deng was about to ask Gu Li if he was also invited here by the Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion as well, a voice resonated from outside in a timely manner.

Zhao Deng was no stranger to this voice.

"Vice Mansion Master Zhao, it has been such a long time since we last saw each other!" As the sound resonated, a figure also walked into the Central Main Hall.

The person who came in was none other than Duan Ling Tian!

"Junior Brother Ling Tian!" Now that he had finally seen Duan Ling Tian, an expression of joy appeared on Gu Li's face immediately as he went to greet him.

"Senior Brother Gu Li, you're finally here!" Duan Ling Tian laughed out loud when faced with Gu Li who enthusiastically greeted him.

"Ling Tian!" When Duan Ling Tian and Gu Li were finally reunited, Zhao Deng's solemn voice interrupted them. "I can't believe you're alive! Tell me! Who killed my son that day?" Zhao Deng asked in an interrogative tone.

Duan Ling Tian nodded at Gu Li before looking at Zhao Deng once again. Smiling nonchalantly, he said, "Vice Mansion Master Zhao, do you even need to ask? Naturally, it was me who killed your son!"

"You? You're not qualified!" Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, not only was Zhao Deng not angry, but he had a derisive expression on his face instead.

His son, Zhao Ji, was at the Early Divine Saint Stage!

How could he possibly be killed by Duan Ling Tian!

"What? Vice Mansion Master Zhao, do you think even though your son is an Early Divine Saint Stage Devil Cultivator, I wouldn't be able to kill him?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile and narrowed eyes.

Early Divine Saint Stage Devil Cultivator!

Before Zhao Deng could reply, Gu Li was taken back. Zhao Ji was an Early Divine Saint Stage Devil Cultivator?

Based on his knowledge, Zhao Ji seemed to be an Intermediate Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator two years ago.

Even if he made a breakthrough, he was supposed to be a Mastery Refined Saint Stage Martial Cultivator!

#### **Chapter 1843: Idiot!**

"Isn't it so?" Zhao Deng looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully and smirked. "My son was fortunate enough to have found a Prehistoric Devil Beast's Relic and obtained the Prehistoric Devil Beast's legacy. For this reason, he managed to break through to the Early Divine Saint Stage from the Intermediate Eminent Stage in less than two years. Although your innate talent is high, your cultivation base is only at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage. You said you killed my son? What rubbish!"

The Prehistoric Devil Beast's Relic!

The Early Divine Saint Stage!

Gu Li was still shocked over Duan Ling Tian's words. However, when he heard Zhao Deng's words, he could tell Duan Ling Tian was telling the truth. "Zhao Ji was so lucky? To think he found a Prehistoric Devil Beast's Relic and obtained its legacy. He even managed to break through to the Early Divine Saint Stage from the Intermediate Refined Saint Stage in less than two years?"

When he thought of how he had only broken through to the Early Divine Saint Stage recently after arduously cultivating for a long time, he felt a sense of unfairness.

"The Prehistoric Devil Beast's Relic? The Prehistoric Devil Beast's legacy?" Upon hearing Zhao Deng's words, Duan Ling Tian was momentarily stunned before he burst out laughing.

"Vice Mansion Master Zhao, did Zhao Ji tell you he found the Prehistoric Devil Beast's Relic and obtained its legacy?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhao Deng with a peculiar smile on his face.

“What are you laughing about?!” Zhao Deng’s expression turned grave. He did not know why Duan Ling Tian was laughing.

“Vice Mansion Master Zhao, it seems like your son wasn’t honest even in front of you. Well, indeed, if it wasn’t for the fact that he thought that I’d die for sure, he wouldn’t have told me the truth of why his cultivation base had risen so quickly!” Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhao Deng intently when he reached the end of his sentence. The sneer on his face became even more apparent.

“What do you mean? What truth?” Zhao Deng’s expression turned graver.

At this moment, Gu Li also looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously. He did not know what Duan Ling Tian was trying to say, but he was looking forward to hearing what Duan Ling Tian was going to say next.

“The truth is Zhao Deng did not find any Prehistoric Devil Beast’s Relic nor did he obtain any legacy from the Prehistoric Devil Beast! The reason his cultivation base had risen so quickly was due to him cultivating the Devouring Dark Devil Technique just like former Palace Master Zhu from the Heaven Palace!” Duan Ling Tian answered Zhao Deng’s question indifferently.

When he reached the end of his sentence, a mocking smile appeared on his face.

The Devouring Dark Devil Technique!

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Gu Li’s eyes narrowed and looked at Zhao Deng with a completely different gaze. “Zhao Deng! How dare you allow your son to cultivate the Devouring Dark Devil Technique! How very bold of you!”

“Rubbish!” Zhao Deng glared at Duan Ling Tian as the vast energy in his body was about to surge out. “Ling Tian, my son is dead. I won’t allow you to slander him!”

“Slander?” Duan Ling Tian laughed. “Vice Mansion Master Zhao, I didn’t slander your good son! Everything that I know came from his own mouth. Not only that, but he even told me he was the one who arranged the meeting between Palace Master Zhu and Xu Jing, the Young Mansion Master of the Rising Sky Mansion! Perhaps, Palace Master Zhu might not have done what he had done if not for your son’s instigation!” When he reached the end of his sentence, his gaze turned cold immediately.

When Zhao Deng heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, he fell momentarily silent.

He could still remember during that time when he was monitoring Xu Jing, his son had come to the underground secret room where Xu Jing was imprisoned. He had stood at Xu Jing’s bedside for a long time.

At that time, he had thought his son managed to get Xu Jing to talk but his son said he had not been able to do so. Naturally, he did not suspect his son at that time.

However, now that he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, he found the incident peculiar as well. Not only that, but his originally steadfast heart began to waver as well.

'Don't tell me Ji'er managed to get Xu Jing to talk to him at that time? Could it be he didn't tell me because he was afraid I wouldn't allow him to cultivate the Devouring Dark Devil Technique?' Zhao Deng's heart sank the moment he thought of this.

"If I'm not mistaken, Zhao Ji must have known about how Palace Master Zhu was humiliated by Feng Bu Yi, the Deputy of the Mountainshade Black Market. So he seized the opportunity and fanned the flames in front of Palace Master Zhu. He knew how eager Palace Master Zhu is to seek revenge, he must have persuaded him to do this. He had single-handedly schemed and succeeded in rescuing Xu Jing!" In truth, these were all Duan Ling Tian's speculations.

"If I'm not wrong, Zhao Ji must have been absent from the Mystical Sky Mansion when the young girls in the west were turned into dried corpses, right? Not only that, but he should've only returned to the Mystical Sky Mansion after the incident there was revealed, right?" Duan Ling Tian asked unhurriedly as he looked at Zhao Deng.

Upon hearing that, Zhao Deng thought about it carefully. That seemed to be the case.

"Stop slandering him if you don't have any actual proof!" Naturally, although Zhao Deng began to have doubts, he still refused to admit it.

Let alone that his son was dead, he would never admit it. Even if his son did not die and had cultivated the Devouring Dark Devil Technique, he still would not admit it.

In fact, those who cultivated the Devouring Dark Devil Technique were widely detested in the Dao Martial Saint Land!

"Actual proof?" Duan Ling Tian smiled. "Do you want me to swear on the lightning penalty oath to show you I'm not lying?"

"There's no need! I won't believe you anyway." Zhao Deng immediately rejected Duan Ling Tian's proposal as soon as he heard it.

However, deep in his heart, he was almost certain his son, Zhao Ji, must have cultivated the Devouring Dark Devil Technique. Otherwise, Ling Tian would not have dared to swear on the lightning penalty oath!

Gu Li shared the same thought with Zhao Deng.

"Zhao Ji actually cultivated the Devouring Dark Devil Technique... He deserves to die then!" Gu Li said coldly. He did not bother with Zhao Deng's piercing gaze that was aimed at him.

"Fine, we'll drop the subject for now. As for whether Zhao Ji cultivated the Devouring Dark Devil Technique or not, I'm sure you know the answer in your heart, Vice Mansion Master Zhao," Duan Ling Tian said as he looked at Zhao Deng.

"Ling Tian, I'm going to ask you again. Who killed my son? Does the person who killed him know you? Otherwise, why is my son dead and you're alive?" Zhao Deng asked coldly as he glared at Duan Ling Tian.

“Vice Mansion Master Zhao, I’ve already told you the truth. I was the one who killed Zhao Ji. There’s nothing I can do if you refuse to believe me!” Faced with Zhao Deng’s question again, Duan Ling Tian only shook his head. When he reached the end of his sentence, he even shrugged helplessly.

“Fine! Since you said you killed him, can you tell me how did a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage kill a Devil Cultivator at the Early Divine Saint Stage?” Zhao Deng’s expression turned grave again. He was getting impatient now.

If it was not for the fact that he wanted answers from Duan Ling Tian, he would have attacked him from the beginning!

“Well, under normal circumstances, it would be difficult for me to kill Zhao Ji with my cultivation base...” Duan Ling Tian nodded his head. He agreed with Zhao Deng’s words.

Under Zhao Deng’s watchful gaze, he continued to say, “However, no matter how powerful Zhao Ji was, he was still a Devil Cultivator at the Early Divine Saint Stage... In front of me, even a Devil Cultivator at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage would die, let alone a Devil Cultivator at the Early Divine Saint Stage!”

When he reached the end of his sentence, his body emitted confidence.

Upon hearing his words, both Zhao Deng and Gu Li were dumbfounded.

Based on his words, he could even kill a Devil Cultivator at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage?

‘That’s right! Junior Brother Ling Tian has the Deviseal Tablet with him!’ When he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words earlier, Gu Li was a little skeptical until he recalled Duan Ling Tian had the Super Saint Weapon, the Deviseal Tablet. He finally figured it out.

With his junior brother’s True Origin that was equivalent to a powerhouse at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage, he was indeed able to kill all Devil Cultivators under the Exemplary Saint Stage once he activated the Deviseal Tablet!

He was not lying when he said that he was able to kill a Devil Cultivator at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage!

Naturally, Gu Li knew this because he knew about Duan Ling Tian’s true identity and that he possessed the Deviseal Tablet.

However, Zhao Deng did not know about any of these.

“How ridiculous!” Zhao Deng regained his senses and looked at Duan Ling Tian mockingly as he said disdainfully, “Ling Tian, even if you want to lie, at least make it believable. You’re a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage. Not only did you brag about killing an Early Divine Saint Stage Devil Cultivator, but you even said you can kill a Devil Cultivator at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage? Do you think I’ll believe your nonsense?! Perhaps, you think I’m an idiot?”

When Zhao Deng reached the end of his sentence, he smirked coldly with an ‘I’m so smart’ expression on his face.

Duan Ling Tian laughed out loud for a long time before he finally stopped.

“What are you laughing about?!” Zhao Deng was furious, feeling humiliated. “Don’t tell me I’m wrong?”

“Vice Mansion Master Zhao, you’re indeed an idiot!” Under Zhao Deng’s infuriated gaze, Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently, “Did you even hear what I said earlier? I said under normal circumstances, it would indeed be very difficult for me to kill Zhao Ji with my cultivation base... However, what if I have a weapon I can rely on? I wonder if you’ve heard of the Super Saint Weapon in the Dao Martial Saint Land’s Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking that specializes in restricting Devil Cultivators?”

The Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking?

Super Saint Weapon?

The Super Saint Weapon that specialized in restricting Devil Cultivators on top of that?

‘The Devilseal Tablet!’ A thought immediately appeared in Zhao Deng’s mind.

As far as he knew, the only Super Saint Weapon that could restrict Devil Cultivators on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking was the Devilseal Tablet!

When the Devilseal Tablet was activated, one could even kill Devil Cultivators who had a higher cultivation base!

‘The Devilseal Tablet is rumored to be in a young man’s possession a few years back. His name seems to be Duan Ling Tian! Duan Ling Tian... Ling Tian...’ The moment Zhao Deng thought of this, he looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he had seen a ghost.

“Y-You’re Duan Ling Tian? Impossible!” Zhao Deng shook his head in denial and dismissed his own thoughts before Duan Ling Tian could even respond.

He had seen Duan Ling Tian’s portrait before. He looked completely different from the Ling Tian standing before him. Not only that, but there were no signs of disguise on Ling Tian’s face at all.

#### **Chapter 1844: The Apple Doesn’t Fall Far from the Tree**

Currently, Duan Ling Tian had hidden his true appearance and was wearing Ling Tian’s disguise to see Zhao Deng.

“Impossible?” Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently when he heard Zhao Deng’s words, “Do you think it’s impossible I’m Duan Ling Tian just because you can’t detect any signs of disguise on my face?”

Before Zhao Deng had time to reply, he saw the muscles on Ling Tian’s face began to shift. Soon after, a brand new face appeared in front of him!

If he had not seen this with his own eyes, he would not have believed there was such a marvelous disguising tactic in this world. Duan Ling Tian had obviously disguised his appearance, but his Divine Consciousness could not detect any signs of disguise at all.

“Y-You’re Duan Ling Tian!” Zhao Deng was momentarily stunned. When he regained his senses, he began to study Duan Ling Tian’s face and discovered it was identical to the portrait he had seen a few years ago. The person in the portrait was, naturally, none other than Duan Ling Tian who had the Devilseal Tablet in his possession!

“That’s right! I’m Duan Ling Tian. Now, do you believe I’m the one who killed your son, Vice Mansion Master Zhao?” Duan Ling Tian asked mockingly.

Zhao Deng’s expression turned grave. As soon as he saw Ling Tian reverting to his original appearance, he had already realized everything Duan Ling Tian said was true.

His son was indeed killed by Duan Ling Tian! To be more accurate, he was killed by the Devilseal Tablet in his possession!

He still remembered the cause of his son’s death was due to his soul being destroyed. There were no signs of outer injuries at all.

The way the Devilseal Tablet killed a Devil Cultivator was indeed by destroying a Devil Cultivator’s soul!

He had no more questions left. He had finally found his son’s killer!

“Ling Tian... Wait a minute, I should call you Duan Ling Tian instead!” Zhao Deng looked at Duan Ling Tian. Apart from hatred, there were also hints of greed toward the Devilseal Tablet in his eyes. “Thank you for telling me that it was you who killed my son. Since that’s the case, I’ll grant you a quick and painless death!”

As soon as he finished speaking, his energy surged out of his body instantly. He charged toward Duan Ling Tian without any hesitation.

At this moment, only one thought was left in Zhao Deng’s mind. He had to kill Duan Ling Tian to avenge his son and snatch the Devilseal Tablet!

The Devilseal Tablet was one of the ten Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking. Everyone coveted it. It was only natural that Zhao Deng would covet it as well.

Currently, he had completely forgotten that he was in the Azure Cloud Mansion! He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would be so bold as to reveal his true appearance and even admit to killing his son. Zhao Deng, at this moment, had completely lost himself in his desire for revenge and greed.

“How dare you!” Just as Zhao Deng’s face moved slightly and he was charging forward, a thunderous voice sounded in the Main Hall. It sounded so loud it felt as though it could shatter one’s eardrums.

One could tell the voice belonged to an elderly person.

Whoosh!

At the same time, a ghost-like figure appeared, blocking Zhao Deng’s path.

Bang!

It did not seem like the ghost-like figure made a move, but Zhao Deng who was fiercely charging out like a gust of wind was sent flying before he crashed on the ground upside down.

Barf!

Zhao Deng felt dizzy as soon as he landed, and he immediately opened his mouth and threw up a mouthful of blood. He struggled to get up, but it was futile. He was too heavily injured that he could not stand at all.

When Zhao Deng opened his eyes and looked forward, he saw an elderly figure standing in front of Duan Ling Tian, shielding him.

“Rong Yuan!” Horror dawned on Zhao Deng’s face when he saw the old man shielding Duan Ling Tian.

Rong Yuan was the right-hand of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. He shared the same fame as Ku Mi. He was so powerful that he was only inferior to the Mansion Master of their Mystical Sky Mansion! He was far more powerful than the two great Guardians in their Mystical Sky Mansion!

“Young Mansion Master!” However, Zhao Deng’s eyes widened in confusion when he saw Rong Yuan turned around and respectfully bowed at Duan Ling Tian.

Young Mansion Master?

Only the son of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion could be addressed as Young Mansion Master by Rong Yuan, right?

However, he had never heard about the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion having a son at all!

Moreover, Duan Ling Tian was his son’s killer!

“Duan Ling Tian... Duan Ru Feng... Both of them have the same surname...” Zhao Deng muttered to himself when he regained his senses. His heart instantly sank. “Don’t tell me Duan Ling Tian is the son of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ru Feng? Wait a minute! If he’s the son of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, why would he disguise himself as Ling Tian and join the Mystical Sky Mansion? Could it be because of the Saint Martial Secret Zone?”

Zhao Deng was still baffled even after mulling over it for a long time. Not even in his wildest dreams did he think the person that Zhao Clan was so eager to kill, whom they thought was a nobody, would turn out to be the son of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!

“Elder Rong.” Duan Ling Tian smiled in response to Rong Yuan’s now. He did not dare to act discourteously toward this old man who had been by his cheapskate father’s side for so many years.

As for the misunderstanding previously, he knew he had misunderstood the elder after his father gave him an explanation.

Rong Yuan had indeed passed the exquisite jade box to his father, but it was his father who had asked Rong Yuan to tell the Black Armored Guard who came to report that Duan Ling Tian was a liar. The reason for his father’s action was to test his strength!

Since the misunderstanding was resolved, there was no grudge between him and Rong Yuan!



“Young Mansion Master, how should I deal with this man?” Rong Yuan was extremely humble in front of Duan Ling Tian. It was as though he regarded Duan Ling Tian like he regarded the Mansion Master, Duan Ru Feng. He was loyal to the Mansion Master, it was only natural for him to treat the son of the Mansion Master the same way!

“Restrain him for now. I’ll deal with him after this,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“Yes.” Rong Yuan nodded his head respectfully. He, then, turned around. With just a raise of his hand, he restrained Zhao Deng who was trying to escape up.

The energy of an Exemplary Saint Stage powerhouse that had been transformed into an invisible energy surged into Zhao Deng’s body, completely suppressing his energy. Zhao Deng instantly collapsed to the ground. His face was pale. He was turned into an ordinary person immediately.

Duan Ling Tian strode forward and stood in front of Zhao Deng. He looked at Zhao Deng who was lying on the ground and clicked his tongue as he asked, “Are you okay, Vice Mansion Master Zhao?”

Zhao Deng who was lying on the ground had many expressions fleeting across his face.

The greed and hatred in his eyes had vanished and were replaced by panic and despair!

His son’s death and the Devilseal Tablet had all been thrown to the back of his mind at this moment. The most important thing now was his life. Only if he managed to stay alive would he be able to think about the others. If he had died, there was nothing he could do anymore.

“Young Mansion Master!” At this moment, a respectful voice sounded in the air. A scene that Duan Ling Tian did not expect unfolded before his eyes.

Zhao Deng, whose energy had been completely suppressed by Rong Yuan and was no different from an ordinary person, knelt in front of him after he struggled to get up.

“Young Mansion Master, I didn’t know about your background previously. Please forgive me for my offense! I guarantee I’ll never offend you again, Young Mansion Master! If you don’t believe me, I’m willing to swear on the lightning penalty oath!” Zhao Deng had already thrown his pride and honor as the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion away at this moment.

There was only one thought left in his mind, and it was to live! He must find a way to live!

He had not lived enough yet, and he did not want to die!

“As expected from both father and son, the apple really doesn’t fall far from the tree. Zhao Deng, the way you’re begging for mercy now is similar to your son before he died. He begged in this manner as well.” If Zhao Deng had shown some integrity, perhaps, Duan Ling Tian might have respected him a little.

However, the way Zhao Deng was groveling now made him feel disgusted.

Although Zhao Deng heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, he did not dare to reveal the anger he felt in his heart. On the surface, he looked extremely humble.

“Young Mansion Master, I’m willing to swear on the lightning penalty oath to become your dog if you’re willing to forgive me. From today onward, I’ll bite if you ask me to bite without any questions asked!” Zhao Deng’s demeaning words made Duan Ling Tian frowned.

Was this really the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion?

Gu Li who was standing by the side quietly before this looked at Zhao Deng and rebuked him, “Zhao Deng, you’re really unworthy of becoming the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion! You’re an embarrassment to our Mystical Sky Mansion!”

However, Zhao Deng did not seem to hear any of Gu Li’s words at all. He was only staring at Duan Ling Tian pitifully as he begged for mercy.

At this moment, he only desired to live. As for other matters, he no longer cared about it!

Even Rong Yuan had a frown on his face. It was apparent that Zhao Deng’s cowardice and him stubbornly clinging to life made him feel disgusted as well.

“Young Mansion Master, please I beg you! Please forgive me this time!” Zhao Deng continued to beg for mercy!

“Elder Rong, I no longer want him in my sight.” A glint of hatred flashed across the depth of Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He did not want to see this kind of Zhao Deng at all. “You’re the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion no matter what. To think you’ll stoop so low when faced with death! I’m really speechless!”

“Noooo!” Zhao Deng’s eyes widened in horror when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. He continued to struggle on the ground. Since his energy had been completely suppressed, he was like a pig waiting to be slaughtered!

...

Rong Yuan retreat from the Central Main Hall after killing Zhao Deng.

“Senior Uncle.” Tong Zhong, the Black Armored Army’s Centurion who was standing outside the Central Main Hall since earlier, bowed at Rong Yuan when he saw him coming out.

Tong Zhong’s master was Ku Mi who shared the same fame with Rong Yuan in the Azure Cloud Mansion!

Although Rong Yuan and Ku Mi did not share the same master, both of them had been good friends for many years and regarded each other as blood brothers.

For this reason, Rong Yuan’s disciples would usually address Ku Mi as Junior Uncle while Ku Mi’s disciples would address Rong Yuan as Senior Uncle since Rong Yuan was much older than Ku Mi in terms of age.

...

After Rong Yuan retreated, only Duan Ling Tian and Gu Li were left in the Main Hall. Both of them looked at each other and smiled wryly.

“Senior Brother Gu Li.” In the end, Duan Ling Tian was the first one to break the silence. “I’m afraid I won’t be able to go to the Upper Province so soon. I’ll most likely have to wait for a year before I can head to the Upper Province!”

Duan Ling Tian wanted to go to the dragon clan’s lair and fulfill the five-year pact after ten months’ time.

### **Chapter 1845: Azure Cloud Platform**

“It doesn’t matter. Since it’s just a year, I’ll wait for you. I can use this time to strengthen my cultivation base as well. However, you’re the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, and I’m in your territory now. You must get me a good place to cultivate, okay?!” Gu Li joked when he reached the end of his sentence as he nodded.

Swish!

Almost at the instant when Gu Li’s words left his mouth, the sound of wind whistling in the air sounded suddenly as an item materialized and charged toward Gu Li. However, the speed of the item charging toward him was nothing.

With a raise of his hand, Gu Li caught the item. He squinted to look at it and discovered it was a light Order Token that seemed to be made of wood but not quite at the same time. The number ‘nine’ was carved on it. When he turned the Order Token around, he could see it was carved with stone platforms that were floating in the air. Each of the stone platforms had a standalone stone house.

Three tiny words were carved at the bottom right of the drawing — Azure Cloud Platform!

“This is the key to t-the Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine?” Gu Li gasped as though he had just remembered something.

The Azure Cloud Platform was a very good cultivation place in the Azure Cloud Mansion. The Spirit Gathering Formation inside was even directly linked to the quasi third-grade Saint Stone reserve in the Azure Cloud Mansion!

Usually, only outstanding disciples in the Azure Cloud Mansion would be allowed to enter the Azure Cloud Platform to cultivate. This was because one had to be strong to enter the Azure Cloud Platform to cultivate!

There was a total of 81 Azure Cloud Platforms, and it was said that they were suspended above the Main Mansion of Azure Cloud Mansion. Apart from that, they were divided into various ranks as well.

There was a total of nine Azure Cloud Platforms at the highest place. They were positioned in a circle and were named Azure Cloud Platform Number One, Azure Cloud Platform Number Two, Azure Cloud Platform Number Three... until the Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine!

It was said that these nine Azure Cloud Platforms had a cultivation environment that was in no way inferior to the cultivation place of the high-ranking officials in the Azure Cloud Mansion.

The key to the Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine was now in Gu Li’s hand. Only those in possession of a key could enter and cultivate there.

Below the nine Azure Cloud Platforms that were positioned in a circle were more Azure Cloud Platforms that were positioned in a circle. There was a total of 18 of them.

The cultivation environment of these 18 Azure Cloud Platforms was slightly inferior to the nine platforms above them.

Below these 18 platforms, more Azure Cloud Platforms were positioned in a circle as well. There was a total of 54 platforms and the cultivation environment was inferior to the two circles of platforms above it. However, it was not like the cultivation environment was bad, they were still much better than the normal places where Azure Cloud Mansion's disciples usually cultivated.

Since the 81 Azure Cloud Platforms had such a good cultivation environment. It was only natural that many disciples wanted to enter and cultivate there. However, those who wished to enter the Azure Cloud Platform to cultivate must be strong.

If someone weak occupied one of the Azure Cloud Platforms for the time being, sooner or later it would be snatched away by a stronger person.

"As expected from the son of Guardian Gu from the Mystical Sky Mansion. To think you even know about our Azure Cloud Mansion's Azure Cloud Platform. This is indeed the key to Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine. I've already told the elder in charge of the Azure Cloud Platform that you'll be entering Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine to cultivate. Our Azure Cloud Mansion's disciples won't compete for Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine with you so you can cultivate with ease!" A voice suddenly sounded as a figure appeared like a ghost in the middle of the Central Main Hall.

The person who came was none other than Duan Ru Feng, the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion! He was the one who had given the key to Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine to Gu Li!

"Father!" Duan Ling Tian felt a sense of warmth when he saw how Duan Ru Feng had arranged everything for him

"Greetings, Mansion Master Duan!" Gu Li bowed at Duan Ru Feng as soon as he regained his senses.

"I heard from Tian'er that you and your father have taken good care of him when he was in the Mystical Sky Mansion. I, Duan Ru Feng, won't forget this kindness!" Duan Ru Feng nodded his head toward Gu Li and smiled. "However, since you're Tian'er's friend, and he addresses your father as Uncle Gu, you can also just address me as Uncle Duan. There's no need to be so polite and address me as Mansion Master Duan!"

"Yes, Uncle Duan!" Gu Li did not object to this and immediately changed his way of addressing Duan Ru Feng.

However, in the next instant, Gu Li returned the key to Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine to Duan Ru Feng.

Duan Ru Feng was puzzled as he looked at Gu Li. Gu Li quickly said, "Uncle Duan, I've long heard that the Azure Cloud Platforms in the Azure Cloud Mansion is the best benchmark to test one's strength! For this

reason, I'd like to compete for the best Azure Cloud Platform as an Azure Cloud Mansion's disciple for this time instead of just getting a free pass!"

Gu Li's had always had a straight character. He felt uncomfortable that he was given special privileges without doing anything to earn it.

He might as well rely on his strength and forge a path for himself!

There was a hint of praise in Duan Ru Feng's eyes when he heard Gu Li's words. Without saying anything, he put away the key to Azure Cloud Platform Nine Platform.

"Since this is what you want, I'll agree to it. However, I must remind you that without this key to Azure Cloud Platform Number Nine, there would be difficult levels for you to go through if you want to enter the top nine Azure Cloud Platforms to cultivate. In our Azure Cloud Mansion, due to the existence of the Black Armored Army, many disciples at the Divine Saint Stage and above aren't willing to become ordinary elders since they all want to compete for the position of a Centurion in the Black Armored Army. This is because once they become an ordinary elder, they won't be able to enter the Black Armored Army! Do you understand what I'm trying to say?" Duan Ru Feng asked when he reached the end of his sentence.

"I understand, Uncle Duan." Gu Li nodded.

As for Duan Ling Tian who had already returned to the Azure Cloud Mansion for quite some time, he obviously knew what his father was trying to say.

Due to the rules in Azure Cloud Mansion that dictated elders were not allowed to enter the Black Armored Army, many Azure Cloud Mansion's disciples who were at the Divine Saint Stage and above were not willing to become the Azure Cloud Mansion's elders.

For this reason, they were willing to discard the top-tier cultivation environment they could obtain and sit by idly and choose the Azure Cloud Platforms, a much riskier place, instead.

Each of the Azure Cloud Mansion's elder had their own cultivation place and the cultivation atmosphere was comparable to the nine best Azure Cloud Platforms!

For this reason, there were many disciples at the Divine Saint Stage and above, other than the group of Eminent Saint Stage disciples, competing for the Azure Cloud Platforms, At the very least, the top nine Azure Cloud Platforms were usually occupied by the Azure Cloud Mansion's disciples at the Divine Saint Stage.

According to Gu Li's words, he wanted to make his way up in the Azure Cloud Platforms and snatch the best cultivation place using his own strength!

Perhaps, he might even gain something during this process. It was definitely not something he would gain if he had sat idly and just accepted what was given to him.

Duan Ru Feng respected Gu Li's decision, it was only natural Duan Ling Tian respected it as well.

“Senior Brother Gu Li, all the best to you then. I’ll come and visit when I’m free!” Duan Ling Tian looked at Gu Li and smiled.

“Why? You don’t want to make your way up into the Azure Cloud Platforms, Junior Brother Ling Tian?” Gu Li asked with a smile.

“With my current cultivation base, it’s completely impossible for me to get one of the top nine Azure Cloud Platforms. Not only that, but my time is limited during this time.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

If he did not use the Jasper Celestial Sword, it would be extremely difficult for him to defeat the Mystical Sky Mansion’s disciples at the Divine Saint Stage and above.

If he went to the Azure Cloud Platform, he could not use the Jasper Celestial Sword at all! There would definitely be bloodshed every time he wielded the Jasper Celestial Sword!

Those who cultivated on the Azure Cloud Platforms were all Mystical Sky Mansion’s disciples. They were his people, naturally, he would not use the Jasper Celestial Sword against them.

Ten months were not a long time, Duan Ling Tian had to have the best cultivation atmosphere. He did not have time to fight his way up in the Azure Cloud Platforms. Moreover, he wanted to enter the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate so he must have an absolutely tranquil and undisturbed cultivation place.

As the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, his father easily provided him with such a place.

Due to all these reasons, he did not plan to cultivate on the Azure Cloud Platform.

Perhaps, he might go in the future. However, that would have to wait until he had fulfilled the five-year pact.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian, did you encounter some problems?” Gu Li knew Duan Ling Tian was not afraid of trouble. Therefore, when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, he instantly sensed a hint of danger.

Upon hearing Gu Li’s words, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Duan Ru Feng as though asking for his permission.

Duan Ru Feng nodded his head.

“Senior Brother Gu Li...” Duan Ling Tian began to tell Gu Li about the five-year pact between him and Di Jue from the dragon clan.

“Di Jue? That Five-clawed Golden Dragon from the dragon clan?!” Horror dawned on Gu Li’s face when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. His eyes were wide as he quickly said, “No, you can’t go, Junior Brother Ling Tian! It’s too dangerous!” Currently, Gu Li was beside himself with worry. It was as though he was the one who would be facing danger soon.

“Don’t worry, Senior Brother Gu Li. There are ten months left. I have faith in myself.” Duan Ling Tian smiled.

“What faith are you talking about?” Gu Li remained unconvinced even when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. “Di Jue is the Five-clawed Golden Dragon from the dragon clan’s Imperial Family. Although he’s

not in his prime yet, his strength is comparable to some of those weaker Five-clawed Divine Dragon elders. Moreover, you even said so yourself... He was at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage five years ago! Now that five years have gone by, he might've entered the Exemplary Saint Stage! Even if we take a step back and say that he hasn't entered the Exemplary Saint Stage, he's still at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage! He's not someone you can fight with! Although you have the Devilseal Tablet, it can only deal with Devil Cultivators. Di Jue the Five-clawed Golden Dragon is definitely not a Devil Cultivator!" Gu Li said with fear on his face, "For this reason, it's okay even if you don't fulfill this five-year pact, Junior Brother Ling Tian! Nobody would say you're a coward even if news of this spread out. After all, when he made a name for himself in this world, you weren't even born yet!"

"Senior Brother Gu Li, there's no need for you to dissuade me from going." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "I've already made up my mind regarding this matter. Don't worry, I won't gamble with my life. Moreover, you've known me for quite some time. Do you think I'm the kind of person who would look for trouble for myself?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile when he reached the end of his sentence.

Gu Li was stunned. Now that he thought about it, ever since he met his junior brother, he was indeed someone who would not go looking for trouble.

One example was the Death Duel that took place outside of the Heaven Palace's Hall of Death where Junior Brother Ling Tian had overpowered Zhao Kun, a Zhao Clan's disciple, and killed him in a domineering manner when everyone looked down on him.

"Junior Brother Ling Tian, it's different this time..." Gu Li smiled wryly. "Your opponent this time is not Zhao Kun but Di Jue!"

### **Chapter 1846: The Commotion In the Mystical Sky Mansion**

In the end, Gu Li was still unable to change Duan Ling Tian's mind.

In fact, no matter who it was, nobody could change his mind. This was because he was confident he could defeat Di Jue and snatch the opportunity to enter the dragon clan's Saint Land, the Dragon Cleansing Pool!

After Gu Li went to the Azure Cloud Platform, Duan Ling Tian returned to his father's residence and returned to the room that his mother had long prepared for him.

In the entire Azure Cloud Mansion, other than those special Spirit Pools, the residence of Mansion Master Duan Ru Feng was undoubtedly the best cultivation place. After all, it was directly linked to the quasi third-grade Saint Stone reserve.

This place was shrouded with Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy all year round similar to fog surrounding a mountain.

However, with Duan Ling Tian's current needs, the Spirit Pool did not suit him even though it was good.

This was because he would quickly finish absorbing the liquified Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Spirit Pool in a short time. At that time, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings might

deplete and affect his cultivation. Not only that, the supply would not be able to meet his demand even if all of the Spirit Pools in the Azure Cloud Mansion were given to him.

For this reason, it was better for him to obediently stay in his father's residence to cultivate.

Despite Duan Ling Tian being in the Azure Cloud Mansion for so many days now, this news did not spread out at all.

Even in the Azure Cloud Mansion, only a few people were privy to him being the Young Mansion Master.

Currently, only those few Exemplary Saint Stage powerhouses below his father and some of the trustworthy members in the mansion knew he was the Young Mansion Master.

Those who knew he was in the Azure Cloud Mansion were even fewer. The reason he kept such a low profile was due to the Devilseal Tablet in his hands.

The Devilseal Tablet was one of the ten great Super Saint Weapons in the Dao Martial Saint Land's Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking. Even an Upper Province powerhouse would covet the weapon.

For this reason, for Duan Ling Tian and the Azure Cloud Mansion's safety, Duan Ru Feng did not announce the news of Duan Ling Tian being his son since the name 'Duan Ling Tian' was currently very sensitive in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

As long as this name was mentioned, the Devilseal Tablet would come to mind immediately!

'The most important thing right now is to transform the Golden Crow's Wings to the second form. At that time, I'll be able to break through to the Early Eminent Saint Stage as well! After I've broken through to the Early Eminent Saint Stage, it won't be a problem for me to further raise it to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage before the five-year pact reaches its deadline.' Although sounded like he was very confident before this, he was mainly trying to boost his morale.

Was the Elementary Devouring Tactic something he could master just because he wanted to?

Could he break through to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage just because he wanted to?

If he could not master the high-grade Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, and was unable to break through to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage, what could he use to battle with Di Jue the Five-clawed Golden Dragon apart from using the Jasper Celestial Sword?

If he did not have the Elementary Devouring Tactic, and his cultivation base did not break through to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage, he was not confident he would be able to defeat Di Jue without using the Jasper Celestial Sword even if he had comprehended the third stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword and relied on the Divine Ability, the Golden Crow's Wings.

In terms of brute strength, he did not have any advantage at all! Although his body was a lot stronger than a Six-clawed Divine Dragon with the same cultivation base, and a Five-clawed Divine Dragon could not compare to him at all, even if he had broken through to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage, his body would be equivalent to the body of a Six-clawed Divine Dragon at the Mastery Eminent Saint Stage at most.



Although a Six-clawed Divine Dragon was much tougher than a Five-clawed Divine Dragon, how could a Mastery Eminent Saint Stage Six-clawed Divine Dragon be compared to a Five-clawed Golden Dragon at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage when it came to the toughness of body?

The Five-clawed Golden Dragons were the elites among the Five-clawed Divine Dragons. No matter which aspect it was, they were much superior compared to Six-clawed Divine Dragons!

'I almost forgot that Di Jue's strength is not something a human Martial Cultivator can compare to!' The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of the dragon's powerful body, his expression turned grim immediately.

Previously, he was confident because he had forgotten Di Jue was different from an ordinary Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage and the Early Exemplary Saint Stage.

He only just remembered that Di Jue was a Five-clawed Golden Dragon!

A Five-clawed Golden Dragon at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage possessed a ridiculously strong body. What about a Five-clawed Golden Dragon at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage then?

Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine just by thinking about it.

He instantly felt the pressure bearing down on him. It felt so heavy that he almost suffocated.

Faced with this pressure, Duan Ling Tian immediately entered the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and greedily absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy to temper his Golden Crow's Wings.

The Golden Crow's Wings was changing at every minute and second. It would not take long before it would successfully transform into its second form!

At that time, he would no longer have to suppress his cultivation base, and he could break through to the Early Eminent Saint Stage in one fell swoop!

While Duan Ling Tian was working hard in tempering the Golden Crow's Wings, it was not tranquil in the faraway Mystical Sky Mansion.

"D-Deng'er?!" When the Mystical Sky Mansion's Guardian Zhao Jin saw the shattered Soul Pearl, his eyes turned as wide as saucers.

His eyes were completely bloodshot.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Zhao Jin's robes fluttered on his body as his hairband snapped and his salt and pepper hair fluttered in the air as well. The table and chair in the huge side palace suddenly trembled and before the sound of a crack sounded.

"No matter who you are, you'll have to repay with your life for daring to kill my son!" Zhao Jin said unhurriedly. One could see his Adam's apple bobbing up and down. Although his voice was not loud, it contained terrifying killing intent.

The shattered Soul Pearl belonged to Vice Mansion Master Zhao Deng from the Mystical Sky Mansion who died in the Azure Cloud Mansion.

Naturally, Zhao Jin was unaware that Zhao Deng had gone to the Azure Cloud Mansion and had even died there.

Faced with the powerful Rong Yuan, Zhao Deng did not even have time to send a message before he died.

In less than one month, his grandson and son had died. This greatly affected Zhao Jin. He was so furious he almost went crazy. Meanwhile, an uproar had also broken out in the Mystical Sky Mansion.

Zhao Deng, the Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion, did not only leave behind one Soul Pearl in the Mystical Sky Mansion. Other than the Soul Pearl in his own residence, he had another Soul Pearl in the inner mansion of the Main Mansion of Mystical Sky Mansion.

Today, when a Mystical Sky Mansion's disciple performed his daily routine and checked on the Soul Pearls, he noticed that Zhao Deng's Soul Pearl had shattered!

The Mystical Sky Mansion's disciple was horrified, and he immediately reported the matter.

There was no wall in this world that did not have a crack. Once the news was reported, it spread like wildfire through the Mystical Sky Mansion.

"Hey, did you hear? Vice Mansion Master Zhao Deng is dead!"

"No way! Vice Mansion Master Zhao Deng is strong. Apart from that, his father is Guardian Zhao Jin, who would dare to kill him? Are you sure your news is not fake?"

"It must be real! It's said that his Soul Pearl has shattered!"

"Who would be so daring to kill Vice Mansion Master Zhao Deng?!"

...

As an uproar broke out in the Mystical Sky Mansion, Mansion Master Meng Qing of Mystical Sky was also alerted by this matter. He immediately gathered all the high-ranking officials who were in the Mystical Sky Mansion's estate.

Among these high-ranking officials, the ones with lower positions were the four peaks' elders while the ones with the higher positions were the Vice Mansion Masters and the Guardians!

When Guardian Gu Ci Yun arrived, everyone had arrived except for Zhao Jin. However, after waiting for a moment, he finally made his appearance.

"My condolences, Guardian Zhao." When Meng Qing saw Zhao Jin, he sighed and gave his condolences.

"My condolences, Guardian Zhao." After Meng Qing, the group of Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials, including Gu Ci Yun, also spoke up to console him.

Naturally, some of the words were just empty words. There was a hint of pleasure in their eyes instead.

"Thank you, Mansion Master. Thank you, everyone." Zhao Jin's voice was a little hoarse. His body emitted a cold and unapproachable aura.

“Guardian Zhao, I’ve gathered everyone here to discuss the death of Vice Mansion Master Zhao. No matter who the killer is, the Mystical Sky Mansion won’t let him go for being so bold as to kill a Vice Mansion Master of the Mystical Sky Mansion!” Meng Qing voiced out his stance.

“Naturally, the most important thing now is to find who killed Vice Mansion Master Zhao. Does anyone have any clues about Vice Mansion Master Zhao’s whereabouts?” Meng Qing glanced at everyone present on the scene.

“Lord Mansion Master!” The moment Meng Qing’s words left his mouth, a Mystical Sky Mansion’s elder chimed in, “A few days ago, I was on patrol near the Earth Palace, and I saw Vice Mansion Master Zhao rushing in the direction of the south. That’s right! Before he left, Gu Li, Guardian Gu’s son, was also headed south!”

In the Mystical Sky Mansion, the Heaven, Earth, Mystical, and Yellow Palaces were each situated at the north, south, west, and east.

When one left the Main Mansion to head south, one would definitely have to pass the Earth Palace!

“South?” Meng Qing frowned.

When Gu Ci Yun heard this Mystical Sky Mansion’s elder words, his expression turned grave as his heart jolted. ‘The moment my son left, Zhao Deng also headed south? It seems like he intended to tail my son to find Little Tian!’

As one of the two Mystical Sky Mansion’s Guardians, Gu Ci Yun was a veteran. It was not difficult for him to figure this out.

The moment he thought of this, he broke out in cold sweat for his son. However, when he remembered how Zhao Deng had died but his son’s Soul Pearl was still intact, he heaved a sigh of relief. At the same time, he could faintly figure out what had happened. “To think Zhao Deng actually dared to have ill-intention toward Little Tian. I think it’s very likely he’s killed by a powerhouse from the Azure Cloud Mansion!”

Naturally, he did not verbalize his thoughts even though he had guessed the cause of Zhao Deng’s death.

Although he and Zhao Jin were Guardians of the Mystical Sky Mansion, they did not interact much with each other.

Apart from that, his son had suffered from several assassination attempts before. He had suspected it was Zhao Jin’s doings, but it was unfortunate he could not find any proof.

It was only until his son had announced that he did not intend to remain in the Mystical Sky Mansion and was thinking of heading to the Upper Province that the assassination attempts had stopped.

At that time, he had already confirmed that the person who was behind the assassination attempts was Zhao Jin. Part of it was also because he found out unintentionally that Zhao Jin wanted a disciple from the Zhao Clan to be the Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion. For this reason, he tried to destroy everyone who obstructed his plan.

**Chapter 1847: Yue Wu Ying!**

“South? Gu Li?” Mansion Master Meng Qing frowned upon hearing the Mystical Sky Mansion’s elder’s words and looked at Gu Ci Yun. “Guardian Gu, do you know why Gu Li was headed south?”

“My son went to look for a friend before they head to the Upper Province together,” Gu Ci Yun answered. He did not say that Gu Li went to look for Ling Tian.

“Gu Li is fine, right?” Meng Qing asked.

“Thank you for your concern, Mansion Master. Gu Li’s fine.” Gu Ci Yun shook his head. If something happened to his son, he would not have been so calm as he currently was.

“Guardian Gu, can you tell everyone which friend your son went to look for?” Zhao Jin asked in his deep voice as his eyes glinted coldly.

“Guardian Zhao, it’s no concern of yours who my son looks for, right? Moreover, my son left before your son, Zhao Deng, did. Don’t tell me you think my son asks someone to kill your son?” Gu Ci Yun said mockingly.

“You...” Zhao Ji’s expression turned grave, but he could not come up with a retort.

What could he say?

Could he say that his son tailed Gu Li and something had happened to him?

However, as various expressions fled across Zhao Jin’s face, he gritted his teeth as though he had made up his mind.

Zhao Jin looked at Meng Qing and said, “Mansion Master, the reason my son left the Mystical Sky Mansion a few days ago was to tail Gu Li, Guardian Gu’s son!”

A commotion instantly broke out!

Nobody expected such words to come out of Zhao Jin’s mouth!

Zhao Deng was tailing Gu Li? What was he trying to do?

Many people began to look at Zhao Jin with a peculiar gaze.

As expected, the moment Meng Qing heard Zhao Jin’s words, his expression turned grave immediately.

“Guardian Zhao, you mean... something happened to Zhao Deng because he was tailing Gu Li?”

“Yes!” Zhao Jin nodded his head confidently and glanced at Gu Ci Yun.

“How ridiculous!” Gu Ci Yun smirked. “Zhao Jin, let alone the fact that my son is not as strong as your son was, and it’s impossible for him to kill him, even if my son killed Zhao Deng, he was the one who asked for it in the first place. I really don’t know where you get your courage from, to admit that your son was tailing my son. Please don’t tell me the reason Zhao Deng tailed my son was to watch my son’s silhouette from afar. My son’s orientation is normal. He doesn’t have that kind of hobby at all!”

The first half of Gu Ci Yun’s sentence sounded normal, but the second half of his sentence made everyone look at Zhao Jin with an even more peculiar gaze.

They did not expect Guardian Gu to have such a sharp tongue!

What did he mean by his son has a normal orientation, and he did not have that kind of hobby?

Was he saying that Zhao Deng's orientation was abnormal and had that kind of hobby?

Goosebumps immediately appeared the moment they thought of this.

"Gu Ci Yun!" Zhao Jin became furious when faced with everyone's peculiar gaze. It almost sounded like a roar as he said, "The dead needs to be respected! Don't you think you've crossed the line by dishonoring my son?"

"Crossed the line?" Gu Ci Yun smirked. "Zhao Jin, are you serious? You're the first one to pull my son into this mess to wash away your own son's wrongdoing. I've crossed the line, but you haven't?"

"Enough!" Meng Qing snapped in his deep voice to calm things down.

"Guardian Zhao, why would Zhao Deng tail Gu Li?" Meng Qing shifted his piercing gaze to Zhao Jin.

"Mansion Master, I'm sure you know about my grandson's death, right? Until now, all of the clues that my son, Zhao Deng, and I have gathered point toward Ling Tian! We want to find him, but we don't have any news about him at all. For this reason, we had no choice but to make plans that revolve around Gu Li." At this moment, Zhao Jin could not longer hide some of the matters. It did not matter since he had no intention of killing Gu Li after all!

As for killing Ling Tian, he naturally hid his killing intent in front of Meng Qing. "We just want to find Ling Tian through Gu Li so that we can ask him if he knew who killed my son... Don't tell me it's wrong of us to do this?"

When Zhao Ji reached the end of his sentence, he seemed miserable and wretched.

At this moment, even Gu Ci Yun kept quiet. He did not add insult to injury.

Although he felt Zhao Jin's son and grandson only had themselves to blame, it was not suitable for him to voice out what was in his mind at this moment.

"Guardian Gu, Gu Li went to find Ling Tian, am I right?" Meng Qing looked at Gu Ci Yun.

"Yes." Gu Ci Yun nodded. When he saw Meng Qing was going to further question him, he quickly added, "However, I've no idea where he went to look for Ling Tian. He only told me he's going to look for Ling Tian to head to the Upper Province together. Perhaps, at this moment, they've already left the Lower Province and arrived at the Upper Province."

Meng Qing nodded his head before he said, "With Gu Li and Ling Tian's strength, they're no match for Vice Mansion Master Zhao even if they join forces. In this case, it must be someone else who killed Vice Mansion Master Zhao! Guardian Zhao, I'll give you the authority to be in charge of the investigation of Vice Mansion Master Zhao's death and search the south. If you need anything, the entire Mystical Sky Mansion and I will give our best in helping you!" Meng Qing promised as he looked at Zhao Jin.

Meng Qing's words undoubtedly meant Zhao Jin could investigate this matter without restraint. The Mystical Sky Mansion would support him.

The reason Zhao Jin had made an appearance today was for the sake of these words from Meng Qing. Otherwise, he would have long gone and investigated this by himself.

He knew very well that even if he had the entire force of the Zhao Clan to investigate the cause of his son's death, it would not be as effective as the force of the entire Mystical Sky Mansion.

Now that he had heard the words he wanted from Meng Qing, he would spare no efforts in investigating the south.

Days after days continued to pass before he finally arrived in the vicinity of the Azure Cloud Mansion.

"Guardian Zhao Jin of Mystical Sky Mansion requests to see the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion." Zhao Jin cupped his hands together in front of his chest and bowed in the air as he hovered in the air. His tone was humble and polite.

If one paid close attention, one could see the layer of sweat on his forehead. It was apparent even the Guardian of Mystical Sky Mansion felt wary against the Azure Cloud Mansion.

Actually, Zhao Jin did not intend to enter the territory of the Azure Cloud Mansion, but when he made one round around the Azure Cloud Mansion, he still did not encounter any clues.

The moment he thought of how the Azure Cloud Mansion's Black Armored Army usually guarded the Crouching Dragon Lake, he thought they might have some clues regarding his son, Zhao Deng.

For this reason, he braced himself before he entered the Crouching Dragon Lake and announced his intention to meet the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion.

He wanted the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion to ask the Black Armored Guards guarding the Crouching Dragon Lake if they had seen his son, Zhao Deng.

"I'm Guardian Zhao Jin representing the Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion to look for Mansion Master Duan!" Zhao Jin stood straighter when he recalled the promise made by his Mansion Master.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Soon after, ten Black Armored Guards appeared.

The Decurion, who was the leader, looked at him instantly and asked, "You're Guardian Zhao Jin from the Mystical Sky Mansion?"

"Yes." Zhao Jin nodded. "You must be the Decurion, right? The reason I came is to look for Mansion Master Duan on behalf of the Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion... Please pass this message on."

The Decurion nodded. "Please wait here for a moment."

Zhao Jin agreed and did not act arrogantly just because the other party was only an Eminent Saint Stage Martial Cultivator.

As the saying went, 'You have to be humble when you're trapped in a difficult situation.' Since he had a favor to ask from the Azure Cloud Mansion, it would not be worth it if he offended the Azure Cloud Mansion over some petty matters.

"Guardian Zhao Jin from the Mystical Sky Mansion wants to see Lord Mansion Master on behalf of the Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion?" Even the Black Armored Army's Decurion was not qualified to meet the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. For this reason, the person who first received this news was Rong Yuan.

"Isn't Zhao Jin Zhao Deng's father?" A sneer appeared on his face as he recalled this tiny fact.

After giving out his order to the Black Armored Army's Decurion, the Decurion turned to leave. "Bring him to the Central Main Hall to wait."

Just as the Decurion turned around to leave, Rong Yuan's voice resonated again and entered his ears through Voice Transmission. "Tell your subordinates to keep their mouths shut about Zhao Jin's visit to the Azure Cloud Mansion!"

The Decurion came to a halt in the air. After replying in a respectful manner, he began to leave. "Yes!"

Although Rong Yuan did not hold any position in the Black Armored Army, from the Commander to the ordinary guards in the Black Armored Army, all of them were extremely respectful toward him.

"Please follow me, Guardian Zhao." After the Decurion returned, he looked at Zhao Jin and gestured to Zhao Jin to follow him.

"Thank you for the trouble." Zhao Jin nodded before following him to the Azure Cloud Mansion's Main Mansion. Not only that, but he was also brought into the Central Main Hall by the Decurion.

Currently, there was no one in the huge Central Main Hall at all. Zhao Deng stood quietly without moving at all as he waited.

It was not that he did not want to move, but this was the Central Main Hall of the Azure Cloud Mansion. If any of his actions accidentally offended the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, his trip here would only be in vain.

15 minutes went by.

Half an hour went by.

An hour went by.

The Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion still had not arrived. However, Zhao Jin did not dare to grumble as he stood there obediently.

Rumble!

About two hours went by before the great doors to the Central Main Hall began to move. After a while, it was tightly shut.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

...

At the same time, the windows in the Central Main Hall began to close one by one as well.

At this instant, the entire Central Main Hall fell into darkness. It was so dark that one could barely see one's hands.

"Is this how the Azure Cloud Mansion welcome their guests?" Zhao Jin's grim voice resonated in the dark. His voice that lacked confidence seemed to tremble slightly as well.

"Tsk! tsk! Stop thinking so highly of yourself! Do you think you're qualified to be a guest of the Azure Cloud Mansion?" Another voice responded in the dark. The voice was so soft that the gender of the speaker remained unknown.

"Who are you?!" Zhao Jin's voice contained a hint of panic at this moment.

Subsequently, one could suddenly see a bright flash appearing out of nowhere, gradually revealing Zhao Ji's figure.

"Yue. Wu. Ying!" The soft voice resonated again, emphasizing each word.

#### **Chapter 1848: The Second Form! Breakthrough!**

At the instant the soft voice finished speaking, before the True Origin on Zhao Jin's body even fully surged out of his body, it was instantly extinguished.

Before the True Origin was completely extinguished from his body, one could faintly see a bright moon by his throat.

As that bright moon moved away, the True Origin on Zhao Jin's body was completely extinguished.

"The Guardian of Mystical Sky Mansion is so weak!" The soft voice said again before disappearing.

At the same time, the great doors to the Central Main Hall opened again and the windows in the surrounding were opened as well. The Central Main Hall was bathed in sunlight again.

As sunlight streamed into the Main Hall through the open door and windows, one could see a body lying on the ground.

The body belonged to Guardian Zhao Jin of Mystical Sky Mansion who was a powerhouse at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage.

Currently, he was lying in a puddle of blood as his blood continuously flowed from his slashed throat. Moreover, apart from the vital wound on his throat, one could also see a small red dot between his brows. It was a drop of blood.

If one used Divine Consciousness to probe the place between Zhao Jin's brows, one would discover a hole the size of a pin had been pierced from between his brows to the back of his head.



Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Three Black Armored Guards entered the Main Hall at lightning speed.

One of them brought Zhao Jin's body away, another took the blood-soaked carpet away while the final person installed a new carpet in the Central Main Hall.

As the bloody scent dissipated, the Central Main Hall regained its tranquility again. It was as though the incident earlier did not happen at all.

"This person seems to be the Guardian of Mystical Sky Mansion!" The Black Armored Guard who took Zhao Jin's body away said to the Black Armored Guard who took the blood-soaked carpet away.

"His name seems to be Zhao Jin." The latter nodded.

"It's said that the two Guardians in the Mystical Sky Mansion are all at the Exemplary Saint Stage. However, it only took a span of a few breaths from when the Central Main Hall was shut until it was opened again for Zhao Jin to die. Based on the injuries on his body, Lord Yue Wu Ying must be the one who made a move!" The former said.

When the three words 'Yue Wu Ying' were mentioned, his eyes widened.

"Rumor has it that in our Azure Cloud Mansion, other than Lord Mansion Master, even Elder Rong, Elder Ku, and Lord Commander have never seen Lord Yue Wu Ying before. As expected from Lord Mansion Master's shadow, Lord Yue Wu Ying really comes and goes like a shadow!" The latter added.

That day itself, the Azure Cloud Mansion released an announcement.

"Guardian Zhao Jin of Mystical Sky Mansion had been executed for offending the Azure Cloud Mansion!"

The moment this news was released, it created a huge uproar.

He was the Guardian of Mystical Sky Mansion after all. He was someone at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!

The news soon reached the Mystical Sky Mansion!

The group of Mystical Sky Mansions high-ranking officials, led by Mansion Master Meng Qing of Mystical Sky Mansion, gathered again.

Strange enough, the last time these people gathered was due to Vice Mansion Master Zhao Deng's death. However, today, they were gathered for Guardian Zhao Jin's death.

The death of the Zhao Clan's father and son caused a sense of unease in the Mystical Sky Mansion.

"I'm sure all of you have heard about it. Guardian Zhao has been executed by the Azure Cloud Mansion for offending them!" Meng Qing spoke in a deep voice with a grave expression on his face.

How could it not be grave?

Zhao Jin was one of the two great Guardians in the Mystical Sky Mansion and was at the Exemplary Saint Stage. He was one of the pillars of the Mystical Sky Mansion.

However, he had been killed now. This was no different than wrecking one of the pillars supporting the Mystical Sky Mansion.

“Yes.” Everybody nodded.

“Does anyone have anything to say regarding this matter?” Meng Qing added again.

A Vice Mansion Master of Mystical Sky Mansion said, “I think Guardian Zhao had never been the reckless type. Some sort of misunderstanding must have arisen.”

“I agree.” Many people agreed with his statement.

Meng Qing looked at Gu Ci Yun who remained silent and asked, “Guardian Gu, what do you think?”

“I disagree with the others. Moreover, I think the Azure Cloud Mansion wouldn’t have executed Guardian Gu for no reason,” Gu Ci Yun replied.

“I keep feeling that there’s something suspicious about this matter so I plan to personally make a trip to find out what had happened.” Meng Qing said as his eyes shone brightly.

“Lord Mansion Master, you can’t!”

“Mansion Master, you can’t!”

...

Upon hearing his words, many people present on the scene were struck with panic.

What a joke!

It was still acceptable that Guardian Zhao died after he went into the Azure Cloud Mansion. However, if their Mansion Master went to the Azure Cloud Mansion and followed in Guardian Zhao’s footsteps, what would happen to the Mystical Sky Mansion? What should they do then?

A Mystical Sky Mansion without Meng Qing was like a tiger with no fangs. If the Mystical Sky Mansion fell, all of them who relied on Meng Qing would be affected as well.

For this reason, they were willing to let this matter go without investigating it. They did not wish for Meng Qing to risk his life.

Meng Qing was not only the Mansion Master of the Mystical Sky Mansion, but he was also the strongest person in the Mystical Sky Mansion!

“Don’t tell me we should just let this matter go? If outsiders learn that the Mystical Sky Mansion did not take any actions over this matter, what would they say about us?!” Meng Qing said in a deep voice.

Many people fell silent immediately.

“Mansion Master!” In the end, Gu Ci Yun was the first to break the silence. He said, “Let me go then... If I return safely after going to the Azure Cloud Mansion, it means that the Azure Cloud Mansion is not

intentionally picking on the Mystical Sky Mansion. If I don't return, then this means the Azure Cloud Mansion is intentionally picking a fight with our Mystical Sky Mansion."

Gu Ci Yun stood out during this critical moment.

In the end, after being dissuaded by the group of Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials, Meng Qing could only dismiss the idea of personally making a trip to the Azure Cloud Mansion. He could only let Guardian Gu go!

It only took Gu Ci Yun ten days to go the Azure Cloud Mansion before he returned.

When he returned, the group of high-ranking officials, including the Mystical Sky Mansion's Mansion Master Meng Qing, gathered once again.

"Mansion Master, when I arrived at the Azure Cloud Mansion, I remained courteous and so did the people from the Azure Cloud Mansion. Mansion Master Duan Ru Feng of Azure Cloud Mansion even told me that he'd personally visit our Mystical Sky Mansion as a guest if he has the time. He has also said that if you decide to visit the Azure Cloud Mansion, you'll definitely be welcomed," Gu Ci Yun told Meng Qing in front of everybody.

Meng Qing's icy expression immediately thawed a little.

"I've long heard that even though the Azure Cloud Mansion rose up to the top quickly, the people there are not haughty nor do they use their power to bully others like those people from the Mountainshade Black Market. Come to think about it, it must be because of the Azure Cloud Mansion's Mansion Master's amiable personality."

"From what Guardian Gu described, Mansion Master Duan doesn't seem like an unreasonable person. Although Guardian Zhao had offended the Azure Cloud Mansion, he didn't vent his anger on Guardian Gu and the Mystical Sky Mansion."

"In my opinion, Guardian Zhao must have been rude and offended the Azure Cloud Mansion previously. I guess it must have not been a simple offense either!"

The group of Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials discussed among themselves. Judging by their words, everyone was siding with the Azure Cloud Mansion, and nobody stood up for Zhao Jin at all.

"Guardian Gu, did you ask about Guardian Zhao's matter?" Meng Qing asked as he looked at Gu Ci Yun.

"Yes." Gu Ci Yun nodded. "I've asked Mansion Master Duan about this. According to him, Guardian Zhao entered the Crouching Dragon Lake, intending to ask the Black Armored Guards on patrol around the Crouching Dragon Lake whether they had seen Zhao Deng. However, the Black Armored Guards replied that they just came on shift and suggested he wait for the Black Armored Guards on duty at that time. Then, Guardian Zhao wanted the Black Armored Guards to help him look for the Black Armored Guards on duty at that time. However, they told him he would have to wait until their shifts were over before they could help him. Unfortunately, Guardian Zhao refused to listen and domineeringly made his move by killing the other party since he felt they were being disrespectful! There are ten Black Armored Guards in the team of Black Armored Guards. Apart from the Decurion who managed to escape, the

other nine were killed by Guardian Zhao. Due to this reason, the Azure Cloud Mansion's powerhouses attacked and killed Guardian Zhao!" Gu Ci Yun did not even blink as he lied through his teeth.

Although he was lying, he did not feel guilty at all.

"That's too much!"

"Guardian Zhao had really crossed the line!"

"That's right! Would the Azure Cloud Mansion kill him if he did not act that way?"

Zhao Jin's 'actions' aroused the indignation from the Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials.

Although Mansion Master Meng Qing remained silent, he had a frown on his face. He felt that Zhao Jin had embarrassed the Mystical Sky Mansion.

From the beginning until the end, nobody suspected Gu Ci Yun's words at all. It would never occur to them, even in their wildest dreams, that Gu Ci Yun had been lying during the latter part of his story.

Naturally, the first half of the story was true.

He had indeed gone to the Azure Cloud Mansion and was warmly welcomed by them. Even Mansion Master Duan Ru Feng of Azure Cloud Mansion personally accompanied him!

However, the reason he was greeted so warmly was not due to his status as the Guardian of the Mystical Sky Mansion but due to him being Gu Li's father. It was also due to the care he had given Duan Ling Tian in the past.

Just like that, Zhao Jin's death had been resolved. The Mystical Sky Mansion no longer bothered with investigating it.

Due to the reason that both Zhao Jin and Zhao Deng, the two pillars of Zhao Clan, had died one after another, the Zhao Clan began to decline. In the end, the members left the clan and returned to being ordinary Mystical Sky Mansion's disciples.

...

In Mansion Master Duan Ru Feng's residence in the Azure Cloud Mansion.

It was empty inside a vast yet quiet room.

A tiny pagoda the size of a speck of dust was hidden in a small corner behind the bed. Nobody would notice it, and nobody would know there was another world in there.

"I've succeeded in transforming the second form!" The sound of laughter reverberated in the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Duan Ling Tian had successfully tempered his Golden Crow's Wings to the second form after many days of hard work.

"I can finally make a breakthrough in my cultivation base!" After tempering the Golden Crow's Wings to the second form, Duan Ling Tian no longer needed to suppress his cultivation base. He could directly break through to the Early Eminent Saint Stage.

After another three days and three nights, Duan Ling Tian finally did what he could have done a long time ago!

“The Early Eminent Saint Stage!” When Duan Ling Tian sensed the transformation of the quality of the Sun True Origin in his body, he felt excited.

“From now on, I can use the Golden Crow’s Wings and comprehend and cultivate the Elementary Devouring Tactic!”

### **Chapter 1849: The Speed Of The Golden Crow’s Wings**

Due to how extraordinary the Sun True Origin was, although Duan Ling Tian’s current cultivation base was only at the Early Eminent Saint Stage, his strength was comparable to an Early Divine Saint Stage powerhouse!

Apart from that, because the Sun True Origin in his body was on par with the strength of a Divine Saint Stage powerhouse, he could already use Divine Abilities even though he was only at the Eminent Saint Stage!

‘Golden Crow’s Wings!’ Duan Ling Tian called out inwardly as a pair of huge golden wing appeared on his back.

The wings were completely formed by the Sun True Origin. From afar, the wings looked like two dazzling suns were suspended behind him.

‘According to Elder Huo, as long as I break through to the Early Eminent Saint Stage, my speed would be equivalent to those at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage when I use the second form of the Golden Crow’s Wings! Let me try it out!’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he immediately activated the Golden Crow’s Wings on his back.

The Golden Crow’s Wings suddenly moved before it transformed into two streaks of golden light that soared across the sky. In the next instant, Duan Ling Tian had already flown far away. He had flown all the way to the edge of the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda before he came to a halt.

“How fast!” Earlier, Duan Ling Tian did not have time to realize what was even happening when he discovered he had already appeared at the edge of the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

In fact, his speed was only equivalent to a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Eminent Saint Stage. At most, it was slightly faster than it previously was. However, with the second form of the Golden Crow’s Wings, his speed was equivalent to a Mastery Divine Saint Stage powerhouse. It was natural he did not realize what was happening earlier since the difference of the speed from before and now was just too big. The difference was so big that he found it hard to get used to. He was similar to a newborn who had suddenly turned into an adult. Naturally, it would be hard for him to adapt in a short time.

“This is the speed of a Mastery Divine Saint Stage powerhouse?” Duan Ling Tian continued to flap the Golden Crow’s Wings and moved around in the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

In just a blink of an eye, he had already circled around the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda a few times. When he flew around, hurricanes appeared in his wake. Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's body was hidden by the hurricanes.

'How fast!'

'This is too fast!'

'Isn't this speed a little too crazy?!'

When Duan Ling Tian experienced the speed the Golden Crow's Wings granted him, he felt excited for a long time before he finally calmed himself down.

Whoosh!

After his figure came to a halt, he retracted the Golden Crow's Wings. However, the hurricanes were still around. The hurricanes were formed when Duan Ling Tian was flapping his wings earlier. Now that he was no longer flying, with no energy to fuel it, it gradually disappeared as well.

Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged in the air as a lot of information appeared in his mind. The information was about the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's eyes were closed. It seemed as though he was attaining mental composure, but the truth was he was comprehending the Elementary Devouring Tactic.

It seemed as though he had turned in a statue that was sitting cross-legged as he immersed his heart and mind into comprehending it. There were no movements and noises from him at all.

Time continued to pass by quietly.

A day went by.

Two days went by.

Three days went by.

...

About five months had passed when Duan Ling Tian who had been sitting motionlessly finally showed signs of moving.

If there was someone next to Duan Ling Tian, if they studied him closely, they would discover the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in within one-meter radius of him was rushing at him at a monstrous speed, surging into his body.

At this moment, all the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in within a meter radius had been completely devoured by him. For a short time, there was no Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at all in within one-meter radius around him. It was only until the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from outside entered that the surrounding returned to its original state.

“What a great feeling... Is this the Elementary Devouring Tactic?” At the same time, Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes that had been closed for five months. Excitement filled his face as his eyes shone brightly. “In just five months, my Elementary Devouring Tactic could be considered to be at the Rudiment Stage. The Elementary Devouring Tactic suits me quite well!” Duan Ling Tian praised himself when he reached the end of his sentence.

It took him five months to comprehend the Elementary Devouring Tactic. Many people would be surprised to learn he had comprehended a high-grade Divine Ability in just five months.

Moreover, the Elementary Devouring Tactic Duan Ling Tian comprehended was not an ordinary high-grade Divine Ability. If news of this spread out, Duan Ling Tian’s name would definitely become a household name again!

Five months in the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda meant that only a month had passed in the outside world.

‘Coupled with the time I spent to cultivate the Golden Crow’s Wings, there are eight months left in the outside world before I have to fulfill the five-year pact!’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he felt the same pressure from before bearing down on him.

Although he had comprehended the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, he could only absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in within one-meter radius. This would not be too helpful to him.

The main point of the Elementary Devouring Tactic was to absorb the energy in the vast surrounding, allowing his strength to rise to the highest stage possible in the shortest time. The amount of energy he absorbed was directly linked to how much his strength would rise!

For example, the old man he encountered in the final test for the Divine Ability Relic where he obtained the Elementary Devouring Tactic. He could absorb the energy from the vast surrounding until it reached the limit where his body could handle. With the cultivation base at the Early Refined Saint Stage, the old man was able to mobilize the strength of a powerhouse at the peak of the Refined Saint Stage for a short time using the Elementary Devouring Tactic!

This was the true power of the Elementary Devouring Tactic!

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was still far from reaching that stage.

“Using the Elementary Devouring Tactic to absorb the energy in my surroundings would burden my body. However, my body’s stronger than a Six-clawed Divine Dragon at the same stage, coupled with the 99 Saint Veins in my body, the burden I’ll be able to bear will definitely be more than what the old man could bear if our cultivation bases are at the same stage!” Currently, Duan Ling Tian was very familiar with the basics of the Elementary Devouring Tactic. All he needed to do was further comprehend and cultivate it.

“If that old man’s body was similar to mine when he used the Elementary Devouring Tactic with a cultivation base at the Early Refined Saint Stage at that time, he would’ve been able to absorb more energy! With a body like mine, his strength would’ve been at the Eminent Saint Stage when he used the

Elementary Devouring Tactic with a cultivation base at the Early Refined Saint Stage!” Duan Ling Tian who had already understood the Elementary Devouring Tactic did not doubt this at all.

Since his inherent talent was better than others, it was only natural that when he used the Elementary Devouring Tactic that he would be able to use it better compared to others.

Not everyone had a monstrously strong body like him!

“I must leave a few days earlier before eight months’ time is up. In other words, I’ll be able to stay in the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda for another three years.”

Would he be able to break through to the Intermediate Eminent Saint Stage in three years? Duan Ling Tian had no idea!

However, he knew he had to do everything he could!

Although he had comprehended the Elementary Devouring Tactic, it was only at the Rudiment Stage. He still had a long way for it to be useful during battles.

No matter how difficult it would be during these three years, he would not slack and work as hard as he possibly could!

Apart from that, he had not forgotten the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the Sovereign Heart Sword. If he could successfully comprehend the profundity of the third stage in the coming three years, his strength would also increase.

‘If there’s more time, I’ll try comprehending the Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial as well... The Otherworldly Celestial is a high-grade sword-type Divine Ability, if I pair it with the Sovereign Heart Sword, I’ll definitely get stronger since they’re both sword techniques,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

For this reason, he was very busy during these three years. He did not even leave the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Three years inside the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda were equivalent to seven months in the outside world. Although three years had gone by, in other people’s views, Duan Ling Tian had only been in closed-door cultivation for less than a year.

It was because of the short time outside that many people who cared about Duan Ling Tian felt anxious on his behalf.

Duan Ru Feng was still fine. After all, it was the Old Prophet who had asked him to make the five-year pact. With his trust in the Old Prophet and the confidence his son had shown, he chose to believe his son would be able to defeat Di Jue. Naturally, he was still slightly worried.

Gu Li who was fighting his way up in the Azure Cloud Platforms could not help but think of Duan Ling Tian and break out in cold sweat on his behalf when he had free time. He did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to defeat Di Jue eight months later.



Due to his worries and intention to help Duan Ling Tian, coupled with the fact that he felt he was too weak, his cultivation base made a huge leap of progress due to the stress. Even he did not think this would happen.

Pressure could also motivate a person! This sentence described Gu Li perfectly during this time.

Apart from Gu Li, there were also other people who were worried about Duan Ling Tian.

For instance, Li Rou and Li Fei.

Although Duan Ru Feng and Duan Ling Tian did not mention this matter to them, news of the five-year pact Duan Ru Feng made was spread out by the dragon as time drew closer. Naturally, news of it did not spread very far.

However, as the wife of the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Li Rou, had naturally received news of it.

“Tian’er is going to fight with Di Jue, the Five-clawed Golden Dragon from the dragon clan, in eight months for a chance to enter the dragon clan’s Saint Land, the Dragon Cleansing Pool? Five-year pact? Brother Feng’s the one who personally made the pact with the dragon clan?”

Li Rou and Li Fei immediately went and search for Duan Ru Feng when she learned about Di Jue’s strength.

“Brother Feng, why would you make the five-year pact on Tian’er’s behalf? Di Jue was already at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage at that time! He must have already broken through to the Exemplary Saint Stage! Asking Tian’er to compete for a chance to enter the Dragon Cleansing Pool is akin to asking him to die!” Li Rou asked upon seeing Duan Ru Feng. Her eyes contained hints of anger, and she had a panicked expression on her face.

## **Chapter 1850: That Era**

Although Li Fei remained silent, she was staring intently at Duan Ru Feng. It was obvious she wanted to know what Duan Ru Feng’s answer to Li Rou’s question would be.

She had witnessed Di Jue’s strength previously. At that time, Di Jue had single-handedly destroyed Ling Tian Sect. Many people had died because of him on Half Moon Island! Up until now, fear still lingered in her heart when she recalled that incident.

“Rou’er, it’s Senior Prophet who arranged the five-years pact. So you don’t have to worry too much about this. Nothing’s going to happen to Tian’er,” Duan Ru Feng told Li Rou, “Moreover when the time comes, I’ll be by Tian’er’s side. I promise you if Tian’er is in danger, I’ll save him immediately!”

Duan Ru Feng had long prepared for this so he was quite adept at dealing with Li Rou.

Senior Prophet?

Upon hearing his words, Li Rou’s heart jolted. Naturally, she knew the Old Prophet whom her husband just mentioned. He was famous in both the Upper and Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Li Rou began to slightly relax when she thought about the Old Prophet and her husband's promise.

"You're certain nothing's going to happen to him?" Naturally, she was still worried even though she had relaxed a little.

"Don't worry." Duan Ru Feng nodded. At the same time, he looked at Li Fei. "Fei'er, don't worry. Tian'er is my son. I won't let anyone hurt him. The chance to enter the dragon clan's Saint Land, the Dragon Cleansing Pool, is very important to Tian'er. He wants to fight for it as well!"

Li Fei had stayed in the Azure Cloud Mansion for a long time now and had learned about the Old Prophet from Li Rou.

When Duan Ru Feng mentioned the Old Prophet, her heart felt slightly more at ease just like Li Rou. She nodded her head when she heard Duan Ru Feng's words.

She would support her man unconditionally since it was his decision.

It would be fine if he was unharmed. However, if something happened to him, she would not continue to live on her own. She would live or die together with him. This was Li Fei's love for Duan Ling Tian. Like a moth that could not help but be attracted to the fire, she would charge into a fire for him. Although it seemed like a small act, it was an act that needed courage.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of what was going on. Currently, he was working hard in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda!

At the Mountainshade Black Market's headquarter, Leader Dugu had also received the news about the five-year pact between Duan Ru Feng and the dragon clan. Apart from that, he also learned it would take place in a few months' time.

"Didn't Duan Ru Feng's son disappear? Will he even show up for this five-year pact?" Dugu felt skeptical about this matter.

At that time, when news about Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ru Feng's son, possessing the Devilseal Tablet spread out, he had ordered his subordinates to look for Duan Ling Tian with all their might. Although he managed to gather some clues, in the end, Duan Ling Tian still managed to escape.

Since that time, the Mountainshade Black Market had never stopped looking for Duan Ling Tian, but it was all in vain even after so many years. Moreover, Dugu had sent out many capable subordinates to be stationed around the vicinity of the Azure Cloud Mansion's estate. Their mission was to stop Duan Ling Tian from returning to the Azure Cloud Mansion.

Unfortunately, several years had passed, but Duan Ling Tian still had not returned to the Azure Cloud Mansion. It was as though he had disappeared into thin air.

At the very least, in the eyes of the powerhouses from the Mountainshade Black Market, Duan Ling Tian had yet to the Azure Cloud Mansion.

They were unaware that Duan Ling Tian did not only return to the Azure Cloud Mansion, but he was even trying with all his might to get stronger in preparation to go to the dragon clan's lair and fulfill the five-year pact in a few months' time.

Let alone the subordinates from the Mountainshade Black Market, it did not even occur to Leader Dugu of Mountainshade Black Market that Duan Ling Tian knew a secret disguising tactic that was undetectable by Divine Consciousness.

It was all thanks to this disguising tactic that Duan Ling Tian was able to return to the Azure Cloud Mansion safely undetected by the Mountainshade Black Market's powerhouses. Otherwise, he would have been captured and brought to the Mountainshade Black Market long ago if they did not kill him.

Deputy Leader Feng Bu Yi of Mountainshade Black Market who was standing below on Dugu's right said, "Lord Leader, why don't we make a trip there and find out if Duan Ling Tian would appear?" His words were respectful. He did not dare to look down on his leader who was much younger than him.

Even if he wanted to look down on him, he did not possess such capability. Although his leader was a lot younger in comparison, his strength could not compare to him at all.

In his opinion, currently, in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, among those of the same age, only that Mansion Master from the Azure Cloud Mansion was a match for their Mountainshade Black Market's Leader.

As for the other rising buds, only Ling Tian from the Mystical Sky Mansion could be mentioned in the same breath with their leader!

"You're right. We should make a trip to the dragon clan's lair and take a look." Dugu nodded. He narrowed his eyes as he muttered to himself in his deep voice, "Duan Ru Feng, I hope your son will show up. I really want to see if someone as monstrously strong as you have a son who would surprise me! According to Di Jue from the dragon clan, your son hadn't even entered the Pristine Saint Stage four years ago!" In the Dao Martial Saint Land, the Leader of the Mountainshade Black Market was a monstrous genius who would only appear once in a hundred years in the Lower Province. Dugu had always been alone and felt lonely in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

It was only when the Azure Cloud Mansion rose up and Duan Ru Feng appeared that his life began to have colors again.

Although Duan Ru Feng was his rival, he and Duan Ru Feng respected each other as well. At the very least, this was the case on his part.

Due to this reason, when he found out Duan Ru Feng's son was actually Duan Ling Tian who was widely known in the Lower Province to possess the Devilseal Tablet, he did not spread this news.

Although he knew Duan Ru Feng and the Azure Cloud Mansion would be hit by calamities if news of it spread out, he did not do so.

The Devilseal Tablet was more than enough to attract the attention of powerhouses from the Upper and Lower Province!

Dugu preferred to rely on his own strength and the Mountainshade Black Market's strength to defeat Duan Ru Feng or the Azure Cloud Mansion. He felt it was beneath him to use such a method to deal with Duan Ru Feng.

'Dugu in the South, Ru Feng in the North, dominating the entire Lower Province... Duan Ru Feng, you and I will have to fight eventually to see who's the superior one! I hope that day will come soon, but at the same time, I don't wish for it to come. Won't I be lonely again if I defeat you and destroy the Azure Cloud Mansion?' Dugu thought to himself, 'Duan Ru Feng, I hope you'll put up a good fight and don't let me surpass you too quickly! At the very least, don't let me surpass you before I leave the Lower Province for the Upper Province. I won't be able to get used to your absence.'

...

In the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

At the old address of the Seven Absolutes Sect.

A cold gust of wind blew past as an old man hovered in the air with his hands clasped behind him. He looked at the ruins below his feet and muttered to himself, "At that time, who would've thought the Seven Absolutes Sect that dominated for such a long time would fall to such a state."

If Duan Ru Feng was here, he would be able to recognize with just a glance that the old man was none other than the secretive and mysterious Old Prophet!

The Seven Absolutes Sect was separated into seven absolutes!

The Old Prophet was the present successor of the second absolute, the Prophet Progeny. He was currently the Acting Sect Leader for the Seven Absolutes Sect. He was also someone the three great sects in the Upper Province wished to kill even in their dreams!

Due to Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang, the Seven Absolutes Sect had once taken the entire Dao Martial Saint Land by storm for an era.

During that era, the Dao Martial Saint Land had yet to be split into two. There were no Upper Province nor Lower Province.

If somebody asked just how powerful the Seven Absolutes Sect was at that time, the answer would be the Seven Absolutes Sect was so powerful that even the three great forces were forced to join forces for the first time ever. Even then, they were only able to withstand and survive the attack of the Seven Absolutes Sect.

Otherwise, the three great sects would not have existed in the Dao Martial Saint Land now!

During that era, if somebody asked which sect was at the top, everyone would shout that it was the Seven Absolutes Sect!

During that era, if somebody asked who the strongest person was, everyone would point to Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang!

During that era, the Seven Absolutes Sect was synonymous to Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang's name. Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang did not need the Seven Absolutes Sect at all.

With just one sword, he traveled the Dao Martial Saint Land alone and was known for being invincible.

During that era, the three great sects on the Dao Martial Saint Land in the past had to huddle together just to survive.

That era belonged to Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang and the Seven Absolutes Sect!

It was only until Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang had transcended and entered the Devata Realm that the era finally came to an end!

Bloodshed was destined to follow when an era ended.

The three great sects that had always suppressed in the past, huddling together and enduring hardship in order to survive, retaliated in full fury the moment they had a chance to do so.

Although the Seven Absolutes Sect that was caught unprepared was filled with talented people, it was still difficult for it to endure the full fury of the three great sects. After it had held its position for three months, it was finally annihilated.

Fortunately, despite the Seven Absolutes Sect's annihilation, the legacy did not die at all. Instead of finding a disciple to teach, the legacy of the Seven Absolutes Sect placed importance on fate.

Each of the Absolutes' members had the habit of leaving behind their legacies in different parts of the Dao Martial Saint Land, waiting for the one who was fated to encounter it.

Due to this reason, the foundation of the Seven Absolutes Sect was not annihilated.

Naturally, the three great sects panicked when they learned about this. They mobilized all their forces to search every part of the Dao Martial Saint Land for the legacies left behind by the Seven Absolutes Sect's members.

They were worried that someone like Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang would appear in the Seven Absolutes Sect again in the future. For this reason, they had to do everything that they could to destroy the foundation of the Seven Absolutes Sect.

The Seven Absolutes Sect was their mortal enemy!

It was only until the Dao Martial Saint Land was split in two, the three great sects moved to the Upper Province. Only then did they stop searching for the legacies left behind by members from the Seven Absolutes Sect in the Lower Province.

However, whenever they encountered anyone whom they suspected to be a member of the Seven Absolutes Sect in the Upper Province, they would kill without mercy.

Take the Old Prophet, the current successor for the Seven Absolutes Sect's Second Absolute, the Prophet Progeny, for example, he was someone who was blacklisted by the three great sects in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Whenever there was news of his sightings, the three great sects would immediately send powerhouses out to try and kill him!

“The Dragon Cleansing Pool will be where the Dragonization of the successor of our Seven Absolutes Sect’s First Absolute, the Fog Rain Progeny, takes place... Once the Fog Rain’s successor goes through the Dragonization, he would be unstoppable! How I look forward to it...” The Old Prophet vanished into thin air, only the echoes of his words were left behind.