

Chapter 1951: The Fire Worship Sect's Unspoken Rule

Finally, after a span of ten breaths had passed, the two Spiritual Pearls in Duan Ling Tian's hands began to shine with a blue light, announcing to the world his Innate Spiritual Root.

"He really has a blue Innate Spiritual Root!" Wu Yi's eyes widened. Previously, he did not believe that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root since he had heard news from the Black Turtle Sanctum that Duan Ling Tian had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. However, now that he had seen them with his own eyes, he had no choice but to believe them!

"Blue Innate Spiritual Roots!" Having seen the results of the two Spiritual Pearls in Duan Ling Tian's hands, Guo Xiong was at a loss as well.

When he regained his senses, he inwardly cursed the Black Turtle Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder who tested Duan Ling Tian's Innate Spiritual Root back then. He had actually mistaken a Martial Dao prodigy with a blue Innate Spiritual Root as a mediocre person with yellow Innate Spiritual Root! Not only did that elder sabotaged the progress of this Martial Dao prodigy, but he was even pushing him away from the Fire Worship Sect!

"Duan Ling Tian... Why don't you accept me as your master and join the Vermilion Bird Sanctum instead?" Wu Yi looked at Duan Ling Tian with narrowed eyes with a hint of hope. He revealed a smile that he thought looked kind. Presently, he seemed to have forgotten his displeasure with Duan Ling Tian. As soon as he spoke again, he was asking Duan Ling Tian to become his disciple!

In the Fire Worship Sect, a Martial Dao prodigy with blue Spiritual Roots had always been fought over by Silver Flame Elders to be taken in as a disciple. As a Silver Flame Elder in the Vermilion Bird Sanctum, Wu Yi was, naturally, not an exception.

"There's nothing left for you in the Black Turtle Sanctum... You've already offended that petty Li An. You're only looking for trouble if you continue to stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum! If you're willing to accept me as your master, I'll ask the Lord Sanctum Leader of Vermilion Bird Sanctum to speak with the Lord Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum and bring you over from the Black Turtle Sanctum!" Wu Yi's voice contained a hint of urgency when he spoke.

While Duan Ling Tian was in a dilemma since he intended to refuse Wu Yi's offer, Guo Xiong immediately turned to look at Wu Yi and cursed, "Bull shit! Duan Ling Tian is a Martial Dao prodigy from the Black Turtle Sanctum. How dare you try and steal him away in front of me? Do you think I'm dead?"

"Guo Xiong, how can you say that!" Wu Yi was slightly unhappy when he heard Guo Xiong's words. He said with a straight face, "Currently, there's no one in the Four Symbols Sanctums who doesn't know about Duan Ling Tian's situation in the Black Turtle Sanctum. If Duan Ling Tian continues to stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum, who knows when he'll be killed by Li An... It's not like you don't know Li An. He's a ruthless person who would use all kinds of methods just to achieve his goals!"

"In the past, he thought Duan Ling Tian is merely someone mediocre with a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. That's why he's taking his own sweet time to deal with him. However, if he discovers that Duan Ling Tian

possesses a blue Spiritual Root, he would definitely do everything in his power to get rid of Duan Ling Tian!”

This was one of the reasons Wu Yi had consolidated his Flame Territory to block everyone’s sight.

If Li An discovered that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root. he was afraid Li An would kill this Martial Dao prodigy in the cradle.

“Therefore, I think it’s best for Duan Ling Tian to come to the Vermilion Bird Sanctum... It’s too dangerous for him to continue staying in the Black Turtle Sanctum! After all, Li An will learn about his blue Innate Spiritual Root sooner or later,” Wu Yi said.

After listening to Wu Yi, various expressions flitted across Guo Xiong’s face.

“Elder Guo Xiong, I know you also intend on taking Duan Ling Tian as your disciple. The reason you didn’t say anything is due to the fact that you know that you can’t protect him from Li An. Let him go. Let him join the Vermilion Bird Sanctum. Li An won’t dare to act as he pleases in the Vermilion Bird Sanctum!” Wu Yi advised Guo Xiong.

“Humph!” Guo Xiong sneered. “Although I can’t guarantee I can protect Duan Ling Tian, it doesn’t mean there’s no one in the Black Turtle Sanctum who can protect him!”

“You...”

Upon hearing Guo Xiong’s words, Wu Yi’s eyes widened in surprise as he asked, “You plan to introduce Duan Ling Tian to the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum?”

“That’s right.” Guo Xiong nodded.

“Elder Guo Xiong!”

Wu Yi became anxious when he saw how serious Guo Xiong was. He was really unwilling to let such a talented person slip through his fingers. “Please consider my age and the fact that I still don’t have a decent direct disciple. Give Duan Ling Tian to me. I, Wu Yi, will owe you a favor! I’ll definitely remember this favor!”

Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless as he watched the scene unfolding before him. Wu Yi did not even ask for his opinion from the beginning until the end.

Guo Xiong who was getting annoyed by how persistent Wu Yi was saw how speechless Duan Ling Tian was, and his eyes brightened up immediately. He quickly said, “Elder Wu Yi, there’s no point in telling me all this. If Duan Ling Tian isn’t willing to stay in the Vermilion Bird Sanctum, are you going to tie him up here? In my opinion, it’s best if you ask him what he wants instead of trying to persuade me. You’re doing things the wrong way.” With these words, Guo Xiong instantly pushed the problem, Wu Yi, to Duan Ling Tian.

When Wu Yi turned to look at him, Duan Ling Tian had an apologetic expression on his face as he said, “Elder Wu Yi, I’m sorry... I wish to stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum to master the

Black Turtle Sanctum's treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier!"

The Black Turtle's Barrier was the only reason Duan Ling Tian was staying in the Black Turtle Sanctum! The only thing he was lacking now was a high-grade defensive Divine Ability.

As the Fire Worship Sect's number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier was undoubtedly the most suitable defensive Divine Ability for him.

"Right! I almost forgot that Duan Ling Tian is also very talented in mastering Divine Abilities! You've already mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities," Guo Xiong immediately said before Wu Yi could speak. He looked at Wu Yi and continued to say with a smile, "Elder Wu Yi, if I'm not mistaken, the treasured Divine Ability of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum doesn't seem to be stronger than the high-grade movement Divine Ability that Duan Ling Tian has mastered! You should just forget about getting Duan Ling Tian to join the Vermilion Bird Sanctum. He's not going to join your Sanctum."

Wu Yi's expression turned stiff when he looked at Duan Ling Tian's determined gaze. He sighed. "Fine, fine..." Eventually, Wu Yi waved his hands helplessly, looking like a deflated balloon. It seemed as though he had aged a few decades.

"Elder Wu Yi, the most important matter now is to resolve the crisis Duan Ling Tian is currently facing!" Guo Xiong said as his expression turned solemn.

Wu Yi regained his senses when he heard Guo Xiong's words, and his expression turned solemn as well. "Since Duan Ling Tian possesses a blue Innate Spiritual Root... According to the unspoken rules of the Fire Worship Sect, the crime he has committed is not that big a deal! However, we still need to put on a show and punish him. Otherwise, it would be hard to deal with the others!"

Wu Yi and Guo Xiong looked at each other before they reached a mutual agreement.

"Unspoken rule?" The corner of Duan Ling Tian's lips twitched when he heard Wu Yi's words.

Duan Ling Tian knew the Fire Worship Sect truly appreciated talented geniuses and would not sentence him to death for killing the Yuan Brothers since he possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root. However, he did not know there really was an unspoken rule.

Outside the Flame Territory.

As time continued to pass, Li An began to feel more and more uneasy. Even his face was pale.

"It hasn't ended?"

"Why do I feel like something's wrong... It shouldn't take that long if the two Enforcement Elders want to kill Duan Ling Tian!"

"Are there any changes?"

"Changes? What could change?"

Many Vermilion Bird Sanctum's disciples also felt that something was wrong, but they did not know what was wrong.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian...” A glimmer of hope could be seen in the depths of Gu Li’s eyes.

Wa!

Finally, under everyone’s watchful eyes, the Flame Territory that blocked everyone’s sight disappeared, revealing three figures.

“This...”

When they saw Duan Ling Tian whom they thought had been killed standing there unharmed, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples were baffled.

After such a long time, the two Enforcement Elders did not kill Duan Ling Tian? Since they did not kill him, what were they doing for such a long time?

Li An’s eyes flashed as he looked at the two Enforcement Elders and asked in a deep voice, “Elder Wu Yi, Elder Guo Xiong... What were you doing earlier?”

Although he had spoken clearly, both Wu Yi and Guo Xiong ignored him. This caused Li An’s expression to turn extremely dark.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian, you...” At the same time, Gu Li could not help but transmit his voice to Duan Ling Tian. He did not understand what had happened.

“Senior Brother Gu Li, just watch what happens next.” Duan Ling Tian interrupted Gu Li’s Voice Transmission. When he spoke, he sounded calm.

Gu Li nodded when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. He quickly shifted his attention back to the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong.

The judgment regarding Duan Ling Tian depended entirely on Elder Guo Xiong.

Ahem!

Most people’s attention was on Guo Xiong when the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Wu Yi suddenly cleared his throat.

After he successfully captured everyone’s attention, Wu Yi said loudly, “After further investigation, I’ve confirmed that Duan Ling Tian did indeed kill the Yuan Brothers out of self-defense!”

Duan Ling Tian killed the Yuan Brothers out of self-defense?

Gu Li and the other Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples were dumbfounded.

“However, he killed Yuan Kuang without mercy even though he could’ve avoided it. Such behavior should be discouraged. Elder Guo Xiong will announce the final verdict regarding Duan Ling Tian’s crimes!” Wu Yi said.

Upon hearing Wu Yi’s earlier statement, Li An’s expression changed dramatically.

The ominous feeling he had felt earlier was not wrong.

Chapter 1952: Crazy Li An

“Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple, Duan Ling Tian, has killed Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Yuan Hong and Yuan Kuang. Although he did it out of self-defense and has a valid reason to do so, he was too reckless when he killed Yuan Kuang. Hence, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Wu Yi and I have reached an agreement. We’ve decided that he would start serving in the Fire Worship Sect’s First Mine for ten years after three months!”

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong announced the verdict. Duan Ling Tian would have to serve in the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine for ten years after three months!

The scene fell silent as soon as Guo Xiong finished speaking.

Apart from Guo Xiong and Wu Yi who looked calm, the only other person who was also calm was Duan Ling Tian. He seemed unsurprised by the verdict as though he had already known about it beforehand. Everyone, including Li An and Gu Li, was shocked.

Li An finally regained his senses. He looked at Guo Xiong with a grim expression and cried out, “Elder Guo Xiong! Duan Ling Tian might have killed Yuan Hong in self-defense. However, how could you say he killed Yuan Kuang in self-defense as well? Isn’t it a little ridiculous for you to come to such a conclusion?” Li An began to question Guo Xiong.

Guo Xiong’s expression instantly turned grim as he looked at Li An coldly. “Elder Li An, this verdict is jointly made by Elder Wu Yi and me. If you don’t think it’s fair, you can lodge a complaint in the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall after a few days! At that time, my verdict should’ve been recorded in the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall! As for now, you have no right to question my verdict!” Guo Xiong said harshly and sarcastically. After all, it was Li An’s fault he could not freely accept Duan Ling Tian as his disciple. Although he might not be much weaker than Li An, he was still weaker. Moreover, Li An had a stronger support in the Fire Worship Sect compared to him. If Duan Ling Tian accepted him as his master, he might not be able to protect him. For this reason, he planned to recommend Duan Ling Tian to the Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum in order to ensure Duan Ling Tian’s safety.

If Duan Ling Tian became the direct disciple of the Black Turtle Sanctum, Li An would have tread carefully even if he intended to plot against Duan Ling Tian!

The Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum was a Golden Flame Elder. It was a high-ranking position among the elders in the Fire Worship Sect.

“You!”

Li An became furious upon hearing Guo Xiong’s words. He stared fiercely at Guo Xiong as his body trembled in anger.

However, Guo Xiong only ignored him. He was not afraid Li An would make a move against him. If Li An dared to do so, he was confident he could send Li An to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall. He would make Li An pay a hefty price even if he could not kill him!

“Elder Wu Yi, do you also agree with Elder Guo Xiong’s verdict?” Li An asked after he took a deep breath to suppress his anger and turned to look at Wu Yi.

“Didn’t Elder Guo Xiong say so earlier? This is a jointly made verdict!” Wu Yi responded somewhat impatiently when faced with Li An’s question.

“Very well! After your verdict has been recorded in the Saint Land Enforcement Hall’s scrolls, I will personally go to the Enforcement Hall to lodge a complaint about this injustice. I’ll object to the verdict made today!” Li An’s expression became twisted in fury when he heard Wu Yi’s words.

After that, Li An looked at Wu Yi and Guo Xiong coldly before he glanced at Duan Ling Tian and sneered. “Duan Ling Tian, although I don’t know what you did to make them bend the law... You should know that they don’t own the Fire Worship Sect’s Enforcement Hall! Once the verdict has been recorded in the Enforcement Hall’s scrolls, I’ll go to the Enforcement Hall immediately to object to this! At that time, the Enforcement Hall will send out another Saint Land Enforcement Elder to investigate this. Your days are numbered!” Li An said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was looking at a dead person.

Duan Ling Tian did not even bother to look at Li An. As soon as Li An finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian spat out a word, “Idiot!!”

Idiot?!

Duan Ling Tian’s word shook the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples who were present.

This Duan Ling Tian is really bold!

He dared to call Li An an idiot to his face!

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re seeking death!” Li An was already seething with anger. When he heard Duan Ling Tian calling him an idiot, he was instantly furious. It seemed as though he was going to seize this chance to make a move against Duan Ling Tian.

In his opinion, he should teach Duan Ling Tian a lesson today even if he could not kill him yet!

Just as Li An was about to attack, Duan Ling Tian suddenly turned to look at him and said nonchalantly, “Elder Li An, are you misunderstanding something? You didn’t think I was calling you an idiot, did you? I wasn’t even looking at you. Or did you have such a nickname?”

Duan Ling Tian’s nonchalant expression angered Li An even more. He wished he could tear him into a million pieces! It was unfortunate, but he knew he could not make a move against Duan Ling Tian today.

This was because as soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he noticed Guo Xiong and Wu Yi’s attention were immediately locked on him. It was as though they would both attack him he made a move against Duan Ling Tian!

“Duan Ling Tian, you won’t be able to stay smug for long!” Li An looked at Duan Ling Tian again before he left in a huff without waiting for Duan Ling Tian’s response.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he stared at Li An’s departing figure. There was a cold glint in the depths of his eyes.

If he was given a chance, he would not let Li An live! After all, Li An was like a time bomb to him.

“What... What just happened?”

“Duan Ling Tian merely received such a light punishment after killing two of our Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples?”

“Isn’t this too much? Moreover, what happened inside Elder Wu Yi’s Territory? What’s with the huge turn in the situation?”

“Yes. Earlier, Elder Guo Xiong and Elder Wu Yi were obviously displeased with Duan Ling Tian... However, after coming out from the Flame Territory, it’s obvious that they’re both on Duan Ling Tian’s side and are protecting him. They even found him an excuse and gave him such a light punishment!”

“Something must have happened in the Flame Territory... Unfortunately, we won’t ever know what happened inside.”

The Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples whispered among themselves. They were all filled with questions.

All of them saw the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong and the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Wu Yi’s change in attitude before and after they entered the Flame Territory.

They were all baffled by the huge change in their attitude!

They went from wanting to kill Duan Ling Tian to protecting him. All this happened so fast, they found it hard to accept. There was only one thing they were certain of. Something must have happened in the Territory. Otherwise, those two Enforcement Elders’ attitudes would not have changed so drastically and quickly.

After the verdict had been made, Guo Xiong and Wu Yi also took their leave.

Many Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples who were curious about the matter directly asked Duan Ling Tian, “Duan Ling Tian, can you tell us why both Enforcement Elders changed their attitude so drastically after coming out of the Flame Territory?”

“If all of you want to know, you may go and ask Elder Wu Yi.” Duan Ling Tian only smiled and used Wu Yi as a shield.

After the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples failed to get an answer out of Duan Ling Tian, they finally gave up.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian, what’s going on?” After the group of Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples dispersed, Gu Li was finally alone with Duan Ling Tian. He transmitted his voice to him and asked him about what happened. Gu Li was also curious about this matter.

“Nothing much happened... I just showed them my worth,” Duan Ling Tian responded through Voice Transmission as he smiled coolly.

“What do you mean?” Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Gu Li became even more curious.

“I possess a blue Innate Spiritual Root!” Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile. He did not have to hide this matter from Gu Li.

“Blue Innate Spiritual Root?!”

When Gu Li heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, his eyes widened immediately and an expression of disbelief appeared on his face. “What... What’s going on? I thought you possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?”

The news regarding Duan Ling Tian possessing a yellow Innate Spiritual Roots had long spread in the Four Symbols Sanctums. It was only natural that Gu Li had heard about it.

However, Duan Ling Tian just said that he possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root!

Gu Li was completely dumbfounded.

“I didn’t expect Junior Brother Ling Tian to have a blue Spiritual Root. Indeed, only such an Innate Spiritual Root is worthy of your Martial Dao talents!”

Gu Li finally regained his senses. He assumed the news he heard from the Black Turtle Sanctum was false. Therefore, he no longer questioned Duan Ling Tian.

“Senior Brother Gu Li, your Innate Spiritual Root is quite good, right?” Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile.

“It’s much weaker than yours... I only have a green Innate Spiritual Root,” Gu Li said.

“A green Innate Spiritual Root is pretty good.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Chapter 1953: Wretched Ladyboy

“In the Fire Worship Sect, even someone with the worst potential with a green Innate Spiritual Root can still become a Bronze Flame Elder... Based on Senior Brother Gu Li’s talent, it’s not impossible for you to become a Fire Worship Sect’s Silver Flame Elder!” Duan Ling Tian said.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian!” Gu Li’s expression turned solemn when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words.

“What?” Duan Ling Tian’s heart skipped a beat when he saw Gu Li’s sudden solemn expression.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian, I want to leave the Fire Worship Sect for the time being... There’s something I need to do,” Gu Li said after he took a deep breath.

“What happened?” Duan Ling Tian asked, confused.

“It’s inconvenient for me to explain it to you now... However, this matter is very important to me! I originally planned to leave after bidding you farewell. However, the Yuan Brothers kept a close watch on me so I didn’t have a chance to find you in the Black Turtle Sanctum,” Gu Li said, “Who knew you’d come today and even killed the Yuan Brothers to avenge me... I think it’s time for me to leave.”

“Senior Brother Gu Li, no matter what you intend to do, you’ll always have my support.”

Since Gu Li said it was inconvenient for him to explain the matter, Duan Ling Tian did not persist in questioning him. After all, everyone had their own secrets.

Did he not keep secrets from Gu Li as well?

A smile instantly appeared on Gu Li's face after he listened to Duan Ling Tian's words.

"However, if you intend to leave, Senior Brother Gu Li, it's best you do it as soon as possible... In fact, now would be the best time! Otherwise, the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An and Yang Cong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, might tail you," Duan Ling Tian said solemnly.

"That's what I thought as well." Gu Li nodded. He seemed to have thought of something, and he said, "I hope Junior Brother Ling Tian will help me inform Palace Master Zhu of this."

"Alright!" Duan Ling Tian promised without any hesitation.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian sent Gu Li all the way till the north of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum before he finally stopped.

If they go further north, they would be considered as leaving the Vermilion Bird Sanctum.

"Senior Brother Gu Li, please take care," Duan Ling Tian said to Gu Li.

"Junior Brother Ling Tian, you have to be careful while you're in the Fire Worship Sect... When I've dealt with my matter, I'll return and help you! Perhaps, at that time, I would be more of a help and not as useless as I am now!" Gu Li said with a nod as a self-deprecating smile appeared on his face.

"What are you saying, Senior Brother Gu Li? No matter what happens, you're still my senior brother. Nothing will ever change that," Duan Ling Tian said seriously.

Under Duan Ling Tian's watchful eyes, Gu Li finally left. After Gu Li's figure disappeared from his sight, Duan Ling Tian finally regained his senses and left the Vermilion Bird Sanctum to return to the Black Turtle Sanctum.

What Duan Ling Tian wanted to do most now was to cultivate!

With this blue Innate Spiritual Root, his cultivation speed was more than one fold faster than what it used to be!

"I'd need half a month at most to breakthrough to the Mastery Divine Saint Stage... Give me another month, I might even break through to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage! After three months when I'll have to serve my sentence at the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, my cultivation base might even be at the Exemplary Saint Stage."

During Duan Ling Tian's journey back, he was dreaming about his bright future. With that thought in mind, he was even more eager to return to cultivating.

While Duan Ling Tian returned to the Black Turtle Sanctum, Gu Li had also left the Fire Worship Sect.

After leaving the Fire Worship Sect, he picked a direction and moved in a straight line as though there was something guiding him.

During the journey, Gu Li muttered to himself, "Thirty years... It has been thirty years..."

There was a secret in Gu Li's heart that even his father, Gu Ci Yun, was unaware of. He had obtained an incomplete inheritance in the Dao Martial Saint Land thirty years ago. It was only a small fraction of the inheritance.

According to the records in the small fraction of inheritance, he must head to the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land to find the entire inheritance. That was the reason why he had always wanted to go to the Upper Province!

However, he did not leave immediately to look for the inheritance as soon as he arrived in the Upper Province in order to understand it more.

His competitiveness was only sparked when he was tormented by the Yuan Brothers. He had desperately wished that he had the complete inheritance at that time.

He did not tell his father, Gu Ci Yun, about the inheritance due to a warning left behind by the senior who had left the inheritance. He had warned him against sharing the news of the inheritance with his family and friends. Unless it was someone who was suited with the inheritance, he must not pass it on!

In order to avoid putting himself in a tough spot, he had kept this a secret.

"According to the records in the inheritance I obtained in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, the inheritance I'm about to obtain belongs to an ancient sect known as the Seven Absolutes Sect! The Seven Absolutes Sect has Seven Absolutes in total... The inheritance I found is the Third Absolute, the Kratos Progeny! I'll be the current heir of the Kratos Progeny!" Gu Li's eyes brightened. "As long as I'm able to obtain the third Absolute, the Kratos progeny of the Seven Absolutes Sect, my strength would improve greatly... At that time, I might be able to help Junior Brother Ling Tian in rescuing his wife when I return to the Fire Worship Sect!"

The Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land was very vast. It was far bigger than the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

...

In the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, in the North Polar Region.

It snowed there all year long. The sky and the ground seemed hard to differentiate since they were all white.

At this moment, an old figure stood on a snow-capped mountain in the North Polar Region. Although his clothes were thin, he did not seem cold at all.

As the old man's clothes fluttered in the wind, coupled with the falling snow, he seemed like a celestial being.

If there was another person there, they would discover that the old man's feet did not touch the ground. In fact, the snow did not even fall on him. It was as though there was an invisible shield around him.

Hu! Hu! Hu!

The cold wind blew continuously at the old man, but he continued to stand there motionlessly.

His eyes were looking in the distance in the southwest direction. His fingers were moving as though he was calculating something as he muttered under his breath, "The heir to the Fog Rain Progeny has grown stronger... Moreover, the heir to the Kratos Progeny seems to have appeared... It seems like the day when the people of the Seven Absolutes Sect gather isn't too far away!"

"The gathering of the Seven Absolutes? Old Prophet, that's a fanciful dream you have." Without knowing when, a beautiful woman had appeared on the snow-capped mountain as well. Although she was walking on the snow, there were no traces of her footsteps at all.

The beautiful woman had an exquisite face. Her near-perfect features were unforgettable once one had seen it.

She could not help but laugh when she heard the old man's words.

"As far as I know, the sixth absolute, the Didymus Progeny, still remains unfound, right?" The beautiful woman said.

"The Didymus Progeny is in my hands... I've chosen the heir for it. Looking at the time, Wu Ying should be bringing that person here now," the old man said.

"Yue Wu Ying? That wretched ladyboy?" Upon hearing the old man's words, a hint of disgust flashed in the beautiful woman's eyes.

As soon as the beautiful woman finished speaking, a feminine voice said, "Widow Hua, who are you calling a wretched ladyboy?" There was a hint of anger in that voice.

The voice seemed to come from nowhere. It did not seem like there was anyone else on the snow-capped mountain.

"I'm referring to that person with an androgynous voice! What? You're upset? Don't forget that your cultivation base is far beneath mine... You can fight me if you're unhappy." Upon hearing the feminine voice, the beautiful woman seemed to turn into a vixen.

"Humph!" The feminine voice only snorted. It seemed to have disappeared completely.

"You're his elder. Why can't you just leave him alone?" The old man sighed.

If Duan Ling Tian's father, Duan Ru Feng, was here, he would definitely be able to recognize the old man. It was none other than the Old Prophet. In fact, he was also no stranger to the feminine voice from earlier. It belonged to Yue Wu Ying who had spent some time by his side.

The Seven Absolutes Sect had Seven Absolutes. The fourth absolute was the Dark Shadow. The heir to that progeny was good at assassination. They could be considered as the Kings of Assassination.

Yue Wu Ying was currently the heir to the Dark Shadow.

"Since the wretched ladyboy is here, I assume the heir to the Didymus Progeny whom you've chosen is here as well... Let's go and meet them together!" The beautiful woman said.

Based on her words, it was obvious she was interested in who the Old Prophet had chosen to inherit the Didymus Progeny of the Seven Absolutes Sect.

At the same time, in the main hall of a palace that stood on a broad platform in the snow-capped mountain, two women's voices sounded in surprise at the same time.

"Miss Xue Nai?!"

"You... Why are you here?" The young lady was also stunned when she saw the pair of twins before her eyes.

The young lady who walked into the main hall was none other than Han Xue Nai who was brought to the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land by her master. She was also the Eldest Young Miss of the Greenwave Mansion in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

"Both of you are the ones whom the wretched ladyboy, Yue Wu Ying, brought?" Han Xue Nai asked in surprise after a few moments when she seemed to have recalled something.

"Xue Nai, I'll say this again... I'm not a wretched ladyboy! My name is Yue Wu Ying... You can address me as Senior Brother Yue Wu Ying or Lord Yue Wu Ying!" The feminine voice sounded in the main hall again. It sounded terrifying.

Chapter 1954: The Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation

"Miss Xue Nai, you... Why are you here?" One of the twin brothers looked at Han Xue Nai in surprise. It was obvious he did not expect to meet Han Xue Nai here.

Based on what he knew, Han Xue Nai was the Eldest Young Miss of a fifth-rate force, the Greenwave Mansion, from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Why would she be here?

"Nangong Yi, I was here much earlier than both of you."

Han Xue Nai blinked her beautiful eyes, and she sounded surprised when she said, "However, I didn't expect the heirs of the Didymus Progeny that the wretched ladyboy said Grandpa Prophet has chosen are two of you... This is really surprising! How did this happen?!"

The twin brothers standing in front of Han Xue Nai was none other than Nangong Chen and Nangong Yi. Ever since the brothers were brought to the Azure Cloud Mansion by Duan Ling Tian, they have stayed there. Until a while ago, they were brought away from the Azure Cloud Mansion by Yue Wu Ying and came to the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

During the journey, Yue Wu Ying had also informed them of some things. They knew they were about to become heirs to the Didymus Progeny from an ancient sect in the Dao Martial Saint Land, the Seven Absolutes Sect.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for them! For this reason, they were excited for a long time. However, they did not expect to meet Han Xue Nai here.

They were no strangers to Han Xue Nai. Back when they were still on Cloud Continent, they had met Han Xue Nai through Duan Ling Tian.

“Xue Nai, if you keep calling me that, don’t blame me if I start despising you!” The feminine voice rang again in the air, expressing his dissatisfaction, even though no one could be seen.

“I wasn’t the one who gave you the nickname Wretched Ladyboy. If you’re going to despise someone, then you should despise my master! As long as you can get her to stop calling you a wretched ladyboy, I’ll definitely stop calling you that,” Han Xue Nai said mischievously to the air.

The feminine voice no longer spoke after that.

Yue Wu Ying stayed in a corner, feeling depressed. Han Xue Nai’s master, Widow Hua, was not only a generation older than him, but her strength was far superior to his as well.

“Miss Xue Nai, you... Are you also one of the disciples of the Seven Absolutes Sect?” Nangong Chen who was standing at the side asked in amazement.

However, Han Xue Nai was even more surprised than him. She looked at Nangong Chen as if she was looking at a monster. She was shocked. “Nangong Chen... He can actually initiate a conversation?”

From what Han Xue Nai could remember, although the Nangong Brothers were identical physically, their personalities were completely different. One was an extrovert while the other was an introvert. They were polar opposites.

For that reason, she could not help but feel shocked when she heard Nangong Chen taking the initiative to start a conversation.

“That’s right. I’m also a disciple of the Seven Absolutes Sect... I’m the heir to the Seven Absolutes Sect’s Red Dust Progeny.” Han Xue Nai nodded in response to Nangong Chen’s question.

Although the Red Dust Progeny might be ranked seventh in the Seven Absolutes Sect, it was one of the most important progenies in the Seven Absolutes Sect because they were in charge of gathering information. It was not outrageous to describe the Red Dust Progeny as the eyes and ears of the Seven Absolutes Sect.

Moreover, apart from the Fog Rain Progeny that had a special place in the Seven Absolutes Sect, the ranking of the other Absolutes was not determined by strength.

Put the others aside, and focus on the second absolute, the Prophet, in terms of fighting ability, if all of them from the Seven Absolutes Sect had the same cultivation base, none of them could win the third Absolute, the Kratos Progeny!

However, the third Absolute, Kratos, would not necessarily be able to avoid the assassination attempt from the fourth Absolute, the Dark Shadow, if they had the same cultivation base!

The fourth Absolute, the Dark Shadow, would not necessarily be able to defeat the sixth Absolute, the Didymus, if they worked together! After all, he could only kill one person in a short span of time, and the

sixth Absolute, the Didymus, had two people. If both of them fought him, he, naturally, would find it hard to hide.

Apart from the Fog Rain Progeny, all Absolutes of the Seven Absolutes Sect had its own characteristics and strength.

...

Outside the palace.

From a distance, in the sky filled with falling snowflakes, the Old Prophet and a beautiful woman walked side by side. Their pace made it seem like they were taking a casual walk.

As they were walking, the beautiful woman looked at the Old Prophet and asked solemnly, "Old Prophet, are you really planning to open up the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation?"

"Yes," the Old Prophet nodded and said, "Since the heir to first Absolute, the Fog Rain Progeny has emerged and grown stronger... It's time to activate the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation left behind by the Sword Saint ancestor! Otherwise, the six other Absolutes wouldn't be able to keep up with the pace of the heir of the first Absolute."

"You go and look for the heir of the Kratos Progeny and bring him here. I shall return to the Phoenix clan to pick up that girl that inherited the Blazing Phoenix Progeny... At that time, I'll be able to open up the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation and give all six Absolute's heirs a once in a lifetime opportunity! At that time, you and I can take the back seat," the Old Prophet said.

"I've found an heir for the Red Dust Progeny... However, your Prophet Progeny doesn't seem to have an heir yet?" The beautiful woman questioned, "If the Prophet Progeny doesn't have an heir and you activate the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation, won't it cause harm to the future heir of the Prophet progeny? You and I are too old to fully reap the benefits of the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation. Moreover, as far as I know, the Six Absolute Heaven Defying Fate Changing Grand Formation left behind by the Sword Saint Ancestor is designed for the heirs of the six other progenies apart from the heir of the first progeny. If there's one less, the effect will be greatly reduced!"

"Rest assured, I've found an heir to the Prophet Progeny a long time ago... When I go to the Phoenix Clan to bring the girl from the Blazing Phoenix Progeny back, I'll also bring my heir back," the Old Prophet said.

"What?!" Upon hearing the Old Prophet's words, the beautiful woman was instantly shocked. "You... You've already found the heir to the Prophet Progeny?"

"Speaking of, I found my heir earlier than you did... She just didn't cultivate by my side," the Old Prophet said with a faint smile.

"Old man, you're really good at keeping secrets. I really didn't suspect anything at all. I've wasted my time worrying about you and if you'll be able to find anyone appropriate!" The beautiful woman snapped.

“Let’s go... Let’s go and see the two little fellows that’ll inherit the Didymus Progeny.”

Meanwhile, the Old Prophet and the beautiful woman finally arrived at the palace on the snow-capped mountain. The Old Prophet entered the palace as soon as he finished speaking as the beautiful woman followed behind him.

The snow kept falling on the snow-capped mountain. It hid the palace that was located on the mountain. If one did not pay close attention, one would not be able to discover its existence. The snow-capped mountain blended well with the snowy landscape, making it inconspicuous. For this reason, the three great sects were unaware of its location.

Otherwise, they would have sent out numerous powerhouses if they knew the remains of the Seven Absolutes Sect were hidden there... The sole purpose would be to eliminate all those from the Seven Absolutes Sect!

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the existence of the palace on the snow-capped mountain as well. Moreover, he was also unaware that almost all the current heirs of the Seven Absolutes Sect were there.

In fact, Duan Ling Tian still did not know about the existence of the Seven Absolutes Sect, not to mention the fact that his identity as the heir of the Fog Rain Progeny and the leader of the Seven Absolutes Sect!

Ever since he returned to the Black Turtle Sanctum and the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples, Duan Ling Tian was focused on his cultivation on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique!

As Duan Ling Tian circulated the cultivation method, the Sun Saint Energy flowed through the 99 Saint Veins in his body and completed a great Qi cycle repeatedly.

Time continued to pass, after some time, five months had passed.

At this time, a vast aura suddenly surged out of Duan Ling Tian who was sitting in midair inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. There were hints of Sun Saint Energy in the aura. There seemed to be some changes to the Sun Saint Energy as well.

After a while, the Sun Saint Energy returned into Duan Ling Tian’s body. It was as though it did not appear at all.

“I’ve finally made a breakthrough!” Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes. His eyes were as bright as the stars in the night sky.

Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base had finally broken through to the Mastery Divine Saint Stage!

“It took about five months in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda for me to break through. It’s a little more than half a month in the outside world. The blue Innate Spiritual Root is really amazing,” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself with bright eyes.

It merely took him half a month to break through from the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage to the Mastery Divine Saint Stage.

Even geniuses with blue Innate Spiritual Roots did not possess his cultivation speed!

'I must continue and try to break through to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage in one try!'

With that thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian shut his eyes and continued cultivating. He cultivated using the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique.

In his body, there were nine dragons repeatedly moving the Sun Saint Energy and the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy in one great Qi circulatory cycle.

...

When Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes again, a year and three months had passed in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. In the outside world, only one and a half months had passed.

When he felt the vast and majestic Sun Saint Energy in his body, Duan Ling Tian muttered under his breath, "I've probably broken through too quickly previously that's why my foundation wasn't stable. In turn, it took me longer to break through to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage."

It was fortunate there was no one around to hear his words. Otherwise, they would definitely beat him up.

It only took him one and a half months to break through from the Mastery Divine Saint Stage to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage... If that was considered slow, should the others just die?

Chapter 1955: Li An's Hesitation

"I thought after my Innate Spiritual Root changes my cultivation speed will increase much more than this... It seems that there are still limitations to the changes!" Duan Ling Tian understood the limitations after having two consecutive breakthroughs in his cultivation.

Before he broke through to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage, his cultivation had just entered the Mastery Divine Saint Stage and had a very unstable foundation. It was due to the instability of his foundation that caused obstacles in his recent cultivation.

'If it was not for the obstacles, I would've been able to save an additional thirty-three percent of my time!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

If it was not for his unstable foundation, Duan Ling Tian was confident he would be able to break through to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage from the Mastery Divine Saint Stage in just a month. It was the reason why his breakthrough took an additional fortnight. This obviously referred to the time outside.

A year and three months had passed in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, but only a month and a half had passed outside. The difference between the time in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and the real world is approximately one to ten.

'I'll be able to break through to the Exemplary Saint Stage if I continue cultivating and spend time in here, but I should stop cultivating for the time being and focus on comprehending my Divine Abilities and learning the moves of the Sovereign Heart Sword.'

Duan Ling Tian stopped cultivating temporarily after giving it some thought. In fact, there was no need for him to put effort into stabilizing his foundation. As long as he gave it some time, his foundation would eventually stabilize on its own.

"There's one more month left before I need to go to the First Mine of the Four Symbols Sanctums to serve my sentence... A month outside is ten months in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. I'll try to master the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier."

"I refuse to believe that my heart that has been tempered by the Sovereign Heart Sword can't master it!"

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian made up his mind to attempt to master the Black Turtle Sanctum's high-grade Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, for the time being. At the same time, it would also allow his foundation to stabilize.

'Almost two months have passed outside, but there's no movement from Li An. It seems like the Saint Land's Enforcement Hall has rejected him!' Duan Ling Tian thought of the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An before he attempted to master the Black Turtle Barrier.

He remembered when he killed the Yuan Brothers at the Vermilion Bird Sanctum two months ago, he was supposed to be sentenced to death. However, the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong and the Vermilion Bird Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Wu Yi changed their mind when he showed them his Innate Spiritual Root.

A Martial Dao genius with a blue Innate Spiritual Root could be considered as a future star in the Fire Worship Sect. It was forgivable for such a person to kill one or two normal disciples.

After all, compared to the death of one or two normal disciples, sentencing a Martial Dao genius to death would incur more losses to the Fire Worship Sect.

It was only natural the Fire Worship Sect would choose to protect the genius since the deaths of normal disciples would not affect the sect much.

This is proof that the Dao Martial Saint Land was a world where the fittest survived and the strong reigned. Highly talented disciples with bright futures were exempted from following the rules and were given special treatment even in big sects with strict rules such as the Fire Worship Sect.

Duan Ling Tian managed to survive because he had shown the Enforcement Elders his worth. He had shown them his blue Innate Spiritual Root!

'Li An should've already found out about me possessing a blue Innate Spiritual Root!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Li An was not satisfied with Guo Xiong's verdict almost two months ago, and he had threatened that he would go to the Saint Land's Enforcement Hall to object to it.

However, two months had passed since then, and Li An had not made any move. This was proof enough that Li An failed to change Guo Xiong's verdict.

"The report regarding my verdict that Elder Guo Xiong has submitted to the Saint Land's Enforcement Hall definitely states that I possess a blue Innate Spiritual Root. Otherwise, the Saint Land's Enforcement Hall would not let such a verdict stand!"

"After all, I can claim self-defense for killing Yuan Hong. However, there's no excuse for me to kill Yuan Kuang."

Duan Ling Tian dared to kill the Yuan Brothers because he knew he would possess the blue Innate Spiritual Root soon. At that time, before he killed Yuan Hong, he possessed a dark green Innate Spiritual Root. He was only a step away from possessing a blue Innate Spiritual Root.

As it turned out, Duan Ling Tian was right. After killing the Yuan Brothers and devouring their Innate Spiritual Roots, his Innate Spiritual Roots managed to change from dark green to blue.

The Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong and Wu Yi would not have such a drastic change in attitude if he did not show his blue Innate Spiritual Root. Their change was so drastic that they went from wanting to kill him to protecting him at all costs.

To protect Duan Ling Tian, Guo Xiong and Wu Yi cooked up a grand speech that would give them the justification to protect him.

Naturally, the justification was just a joke in the eyes of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum's disciples who were present at the time since everyone could tell the Enforcement Elders were just making excuses.

Even then, what could they do?

As long as Saint Land's Enforcement Hall decided to put the case to rest, the outcome of the incident had been decided.

"It seems that the outcome is already decided... As for my punishment, it won't affect my plan much to serve in the First Mine of the Four Symbols Sanctums."

"Based on the rules of the Four Symbols Sanctum, disciples who are sentenced to serve in the mines can still become Saint Land disciples as long as they obtain recognition from people in the Saint Land." Duan Ling Tian had heard about the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples being sentenced to the mines for wrongdoings in the past.

Moreover, he knew that as long as the disciple was able to enter the Saint Land then he would be free from the punishment.

"It's not too hard for me to obtain recognition to enter the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land... I can just participate in the Saint Land Assessment and become a disciple of the Saint Land with my own strength!"

However, it would be some time before the next Saint Land Assessment is going to be held.” Duan Ling Tian believed he would not have to serve in the First Mine of the Four Symbols Sanctums for a long time.

He would be able to leave the mine as soon as the Saint Land Assessment began. As long as he was able to pass the assessment and become a disciple, he would be free from his punishment of serving in the mines for ten years.

“I’ll try to master the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, during the next ten months. I refuse to believe I can’t master the best defensive high-grade Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect!”

Duan Ling Tian cleared his mind of all unnecessary thoughts and focused on mastering the Black Turtle’s Barrier. All the information regarding Black Turtle’s Barrier had been stored in his mind during his last visit to the Black Turtle Sanctum.

...

While Duan Ling Tian was busy mastering the Black Turtle’s Barrier, Li An was extremely unhappy with his recent discovery.

“Does Duan Ling Tian really have a blue Innate Spiritual Root? But... I remember during the innate talent assessment, he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root! Is it possible that not only did he conceal his cultivation base, but he also concealed his Innate Spiritual Root?” Li An said as his expression changed.

Li An had gone to the Enforcement Hall in the Saint Land a month ago, intending to overturn Guo Xiong’s verdict.

Duan Ling Tian had intentionally killed Yuan Kuang. Any of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples could attest to that. Therefore, Li An was very confident he could overturn Guo Xiong’s verdict. In his opinion, as long as he raised objections to Guo Xiong’s verdict, the Enforcement Hall would send another Enforcement Elder to investigate the matter. At that time, Duan Ling Tian would definitely die.

However, things did not go as he had expected them to. When Li An arrived at the Enforcement Hall in the Saint Land and read the report Guo Xiong had submitted, he was dumbfounded.

Guo Xiong had reported that there was a possibility that Duan Ling Tian had killed the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple, Yuan Kuang, on purpose. Since Duan Ling Tian was a Martial Dao genius who possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root, according to the unspoken rules that overruled the official rules and laws of the Fire Worship Sect, Duan Ling Tian should not be killed for the death of an ordinary disciple like Yuan Kuang. That was the reason why he had only sentenced Duan Ling Tian to serve in the First Mine of the Four Symbols Sanctums. The Enforcement Hall of Saint Land had agreed with his decision regarding this genius with a blue Innate Spiritual Root. Such a genius deserved to be given a chance.

“A blue Innate Spiritual Root? How’s it possible?!” Li An felt as though a thousand horses in a frenzy were trampling on his heart after he read the report.

He immediately accused Guo Xiong of falsifying information in the report since he was certain that Duan Ling Tian possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root and not a blue Innate Spiritual Root.

However, the response from the elder on duty in the Saint Land's Enforcement Hall made him hesitate.

"Before you have sufficient evidence proving that the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong falsified information in the report, the Enforcement Hall will not respond to your accusation based on hearsay! Naturally, if you insist on accusing him, you may do so! We'll send an Enforcement Elder from the Enforcement Hall to go along with you to verify the truth of your accusations... If your accusations are found to be false, we'll take it as you dishonoring the Enforcement Hall, and you will be severely punished!" The Enforcement Elder on duty said.

This made Li An hesitate because dishonoring the Enforcement Hall was not a minor crime. Although it was not serious enough to be banished from Fire Worship Sect, the punishment would be extremely torturous.

Chapter 1956: Filing A Complaint

Even Li An, the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder, did not dare to look down on the severe punishment by the Enforcement Hall. For this reason, at that time, he left the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to personally search for evidence to prove that Duan Ling Tian possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

He began by investigating the relationship between Duan Ling Tian and Guo Xiong.

As the Enforcement Elder, Guo Xiong's righteousness was famous in the Black Turtle Sanctum. Otherwise, he would not have been appointed as the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.

If Li An did not personally witness Duan Ling Tian tested yellow for his Innate Spiritual Root, he would not have doubted the Guo Xiong's verdict. Since he had witnessed it for himself, he felt the report Guo Xiong had handed in to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall was fabricated.

He firmly believed that Duan Ling Tian was only a commoner who possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

There was only one reason for such a fair and just person like Guo Xiong to lie for Duan Ling Tian. Their relationship must not be simple.

For this reason, for almost two months, Li An investigated the relationship between Guo Xiong and Duan Ling Tian's relationship from every aspect. Even then, he still came up empty-handed.

"Is there a technique to conceal one's Innate Spiritual Root? By right, it's impossible for such a technique to exist. Even if it exists, only powerhouses at the Saint Celestial Stage or above will be able to cast it! After all, only a powerhouse at the Saint Celestial Stage or above can detect the presence of their Innate Spiritual Root. Those below the Saint Celestial Stage can't even detect their Innate Spiritual Roots so how can they possibly master a technique to conceal their Innate Spiritual Root?" Li An muttered to himself. He was certain that Guo Xiong had lied to help Duan Ling Tian escape the death sentence even though he had no idea why Guo Xiong would do so.

"Master!" A voice suddenly rang from outside, causing Li An to regain his senses.

“Enter,” Li An answered before a ghost-like figure entered the vast mansion Li An was residing.

The person was a middle-aged man with a medium build. He had a slightly fierce appearance. His unkempt hair fell around his shoulders, and his eyes shone with a terrifying light. As he stood there, he looked like a vicious wolf. Anyone who saw him would feel chills running up their spines.

This middle-aged man was wearing a long white robe that was embroidered with a bronze flame. However, there was no pattern to the flame. Based on this, one could tell he was Bronze Flame Elder from the Saint Land.

The exclusive uniforms of Saint Land elders and disciples were embroidered with only flames.

Only the uniforms of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ elders and disciples had patterns on them.

“Good day, Master!” After the middle-aged man entered, he bowed at Li An respectfully.

Upon seeing the middle-aged man, Li An sighed. “Wei He, I’m sorry for letting you down. Not only did I cause you to lose a direct disciple, but I’m unable to kill that murderer as well!”

Based on their words, one could easily tell this middle-aged man, Wei He, was the master of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple, Yuan Hong, whom Duan Ling Tian killed two months ago!

“Master, Yuan Hong did not die in vain since it’s for your sake!” Wei He shook his head instead. However, his eyes gleamed coldly. “However, I can’t believe his killer has such a trick up his sleeve. He wasn’t even given a death sentence. He only possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, why is he receiving special treatment?!” Wei He sounded emotional when he reached the end of his sentence.

After all, Yuan Hong was his only direct disciple. Although Yuan Hong’s innate talent was only ordinary, he had adored Yuan Hong a lot due to how sensible he was.

Wei He had just come out of his closed-door cultivation yesterday. Since he was feeling bored today, he decided to visit the Vermilion Bird Sanctum to look for his friend. Who knew he would find out that his direct disciple, Yuan Hong, had been killed. Not only that, but his killer remained unpunished.

After he had learned about what happened and the killer was a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple called Duan Ling Tian, he immediately came to the Black Turtle Sanctum. He quickly went to look for his master as soon as he arrived in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

From what he knew, when the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong announced the verdict, his master was present as well. Not only that, but his master had announced he would go to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to object to Guo Xiong’s verdict.

However, based on the current situation, it seemed like his master had failed even after going to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.

“Master! I heard you’ve already gone to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall?” Wei He asked as he looked at Li An.

“Yes,” Li An nodded. It was still fine when Wei He did not mention the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, but as soon as he mentioned it, Li An’s expression turned grim immediately.

“You couldn’t get them to overturn Guo Xiong’s verdict?” Wei He asked again.

“No, I couldn’t.” Li An shook his head again.

“Why?!” Wei He was puzzled. “As far as I know, not only did Duan Ling Tian kill my disciple, but he also killed my disciple’s younger brother. He can claim self-defense for killing my disciple since he made the first move, but it’s obvious he had intentionally killed my disciple’s younger brother, Yuan Kuang! Moreover, there are many Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples who can attest to that. Don’t tell me the Saint Land Enforcement Hall really agrees with Guo Xiong’s verdict?” A hint of dissatisfaction could be heard when he spoke.

“In the report that was submitted by Guo Xiong, it’s stated that Duan Ling Tian is a martial genius who possesses a blue Innate Spiritual Root! It was because of this the Saint Land Enforcement Hall did not bother to investigate the matter of Duan Ling Tian intentionally killing a fellow disciple,” Li An answered in his deep voice.

Li An was extremely frustrated and baffled by this matter as well.

“Blue Spiritual Root?” Wei He was momentarily stunned before he said, “Master, as far as I know, Duan Ling Tian possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, right? Weren’t you one of the moderators when he took part in the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples’ assessment?”

“That’s right!” Li An nodded. “At that time, we used two Spiritual Pearls to determine his Innate Spiritual Root level. Both confirmed that he had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. I’m 100% certain of this.”

“Then, does this mean the report Guo Xiong handed in has been falsified? Did he lie about Duan Ling Tian possessing a blue Innate Spiritual Root?” Wei He’s eyes gleamed coldly.

“I thought so too in the beginning. I even wanted to file a complaint against that old geezer Guo Xiong. However, the person in charge in the Saint Land Enforcement Hall told me that if I insist on filing a complaint against Guo Xiong, the Enforcement Hall will accept and investigate the matter. However, if it’s proven that my accusations against Guo Xiong are false, I’d be punished by the Enforcement Hall instead!” A hint of fear could be seen in Li An’s eyes when he spoke. “Guo Xiong is a member of the Enforcement Hall after all. Slandering an Enforcement Elder is not a minor crime!”

“Then does this mean you’re not certain if Duan Ling Tian really has a blue Innate Spiritual Root, Master?” Wei He asked with a frown, “Master, didn’t you witness with your own eyes and confirmed it during the innate talent assessment that he only possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?”

“This is because Duan Ling Tian knows some technique to conceal his cultivation base. When I thought of this, I can’t be certain he doesn’t know another technique to conceal his Innate Spiritual Root. However, based on the situation, I don’t think it’s possible!” Li An continued to say, “After all, only a powerhouse at the Saint Celestial Stage or above can sense his own Innate Spiritual Root. Duan Ling Tian is only an Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, it’s completely impossible for him to sense his Innate

Spiritual Root. If he can't sense his Innate Spiritual Root, how can he possibly conceal his Innate Spiritual Root?"

"Indeed!" Wei He's eyes brightened when he heard Li An's words. It was obvious he agreed with Li An. "If that's the case, it's obvious that the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong is playing favoritism and has falsified his report!"

"That's what I suspect as well. However, in these past two months, I've repeatedly investigated the relationship between Guo Xiong and Duan Ling Tian, but I couldn't find anything fishy at all. As the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder, Guo Xiong has always been just and fair. There's no reason for him to favor a new disciple who has just entered the Black Turtle Sanctum and lie for his sake!" Li An said as he shook his head. This was what puzzled him the most.

This was why he felt slightly hesitant to lodge a complaint against Guo Xiong!

"Master, there must be some relationship between Guo Xiong and that Duan Ling Tian! They must have hidden it really well that's why you couldn't find anything. It's just as you said, with Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base, it's impossible for him to conceal his Innate Spiritual Root." Unlike Li An who felt hesitant, Wei He was very confident. "Not only that, but you personally witnessed he possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root during the innate talent assessment twice. Moreover, he was tested twice with two different Spiritual Pearls. From this alone, we can confirm that Duan Ling Tian only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Guo Xiong must have falsified his report!"

Wei He continued saying, "Master, after taking everything into consideration, I've decided I'm going to head to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall and file a complaint against the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong for favoritism and falsifying his report about Duan Ling Tian possessing a blue Innate Spiritual Root! Once Guo Xiong is found guilty, Duan Ling Tian will, naturally, also lose his privilege and be sentenced to death. Guo Xiong will be punished as well, and he might even lose his position as an Enforcement Elder!" Wei He's tone brooked no argument.

As soon as Wei He finished speaking, he bade farewell to Li An who was in a daze. When Li An finally regained his senses, Wei He had already left.

"I've really turned into a coward as I age... Even my disciple is more courageous than I am," Li An mocked himself with a smile.

Chapter 1957: Visitors From The Saint Land Enforcement Hall

"There's still not much progress. It seems like I'll have to observe someone casting the Black Turtle's Barrier before I can successfully comprehend and master it in a short time!" Inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, three days had passed in just a blink of an eye. Duan Ling Tian could not help but sigh when he opened his eyes.

'However, in the Fire Worship Sect, there are not more than ten people who have successfully comprehended and mastered the Black Turtle's Barrier. In our Black Turtle Sanctum, it seems like only the Sanctum Leader has mastered the Black Turtle's Barrier!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

The Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum was also a Golden Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect. It was said that he was a powerhouse who was ranked in the top 50 of the Supreme Saint Ranking!

When Duan Ling Tian was thinking about how he could get the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum to cast the Black Turtle's Barrier so he could watch, a boisterous voice rang in the air suddenly.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

The sound was so loud that it could be heard clearly in the Secundus house and the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

"Who's calling for me?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled when he heard the voice. He was certain he had not heard of the voice before.

The voice sounded old. He was certain the person calling out to him was an old man.

"I'm Meng Jin, a Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder!" After that person called out to Duan Ling Tian, he began to introduce himself as though he feared Duan Ling Tian would ignore him.

"Meng Jin?" Duan Ling Tian thought about it for a moment before he realized he had heard of this name before. Meng Jin was one of the five Silver Flame Elders in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

With Li An, Guo Xiong, and Teng Shan around, Meng Jin did not seem to have any presence. That was why it took Duan Ling Tian a moment to remember him.

After Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and put it away, he opened the door of the Secundus house.

The instant he left the Secundus house, he instantly sensed two pairs of eyes trained on him. One of them was filled with hostility.

Duan Ling Tian turned to look at them. He saw two figures standing nearby. One was standing in the lead, the other was standing at the back.

The person standing in the lead was an old man wearing the uniform exclusive to a Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder. His body was robust. If one did not look at his face, one would not be able to tell he was old.

The person standing behind the old man was no stranger to Duan Ling Tian. It was none other than the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple who had fought with and was defeated by Duan Ling Tian, resulting in his Secundus house being taken over by Duan Ling Tian. All this happened two months ago. He seemed to be called Zhang Ji.

It was apparent Meng Jin was the one who called out to him earlier.

"Elder Meng Jin, are you looking for me?" Duan Ling Tian asked curiously as he looked at the old man.

"You! Follow me," Meng Qing ordered Duan Ling Tian as he looked at him indifferently.

As soon as he finished speaking, he flew out of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples. It was as though he was certain Duan Ling Tian would do as he was told.

“Farewell, Master!” Before Duan Ling Tian made his move, he heard Zhang Ji cried out respectfully before bowing to Meng Jin.

“Elder Meng Jin.... Is Zhang Ji’s master?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised when he discovered this.

Earlier, when he saw Zhang Ji standing behind Meng Jin, he thought Zhang Ji was randomly asked by Meng Jin to show him his residence. He did not expect Meng Jin to be Zhang Ji’s master!

Although he knew that Meng Jin was Zhang Ji’s master, he still followed after him. Since there were so many people watching, he was not afraid Meng Jin would make a move against him.

“Duan Ling Tian has gone with Elder Meng Jin!”

“Elder Meng Jin seems to be looking for Duan Ling Tian. Does he intend to seek revenge for his disciple, Zhang Ji, for what happened two months ago?”

“Do you think it’s possible? That incident took place two months ago. If Elder Meng Jin wanted to seek revenge for Zhang Ji, he would’ve done so earlier. Why would he wait until now?”

“You have a point!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who happened to see Duan Ling Tian leaving together with Meng Jin could not help but discuss among themselves.

“No matter what, Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian won’t be placed in a disadvantageous position. Two months ago, he killed two people from the Vermilion Bird Sanctum and created such a huge commotion, and yet, he’s merely being sent to our Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine to serve for ten years! His crime is killing fellow disciples not some minor crime!”

“Isn’t it’s because the two Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples looked for trouble with Duan Ling Tian and wanted to kill him? Duan Ling Tian had only acted out of self-defense, that’s why he received such a light punishment!”

“The truth is not like that! I have a friend who’s a Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple, and he witnessed the incident that day. According to him, it’s indeed true that one of the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples made the first move and attack Duan Ling Tian. However, it’s uncertain if he intended to kill Duan Ling Tian. It’s very likely he just wanted to teach Duan Ling Tian a lesson for offending our Black Turtle Sanctum’s Elder Li An!”

“A Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple tried to seek revenge for Elder Li An? Are you sure you heard correctly?”

“Well, you probably don’t know this. Rumor has it that the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple was the direct disciple of Li An’s Great Direct Disciple. He’s Elder Li An’s grand disciple! How’s it strange for him to seek revenge for his Grand Master?”

“Put aside whether Elder Li An’s grand disciple really intended to kill Duan Ling Tian or not, it’s said that the other Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciple didn’t even make a move against Duan Ling Tian, but he was killed as well. From what the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s disciples said, Duan Ling Tian had intentionally

killed him! Although that was the case, in the end, our Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong only sent him to serve in the mine for ten years!"

"Don't tell me the Vermilion Bird Sanctum's Enforcement Elder has no objection against Elder Guo Xiong's verdict?"

"It's said that the verdict was jointly made by Elder Guo Xiong and that Vermilion Bird Sanctum's Enforcement Elder."

After discussing about Duan Ling Tian, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples soon shifted their topic to the incident that happened in the Vermilion Bird Sanctum two months ago.

That incident had now spread in the entire Four Symbols Sanctums.

At the same time, many Four Symbols Sanctum's disciples doubted the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder's verdict, but there was nothing they could do about it.

As the saying went, 'The words of the lowly carry little weight!'

As time went by, fewer and fewer people talked about it.

However, deep inside many of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples' hearts, they suspected Duan Ling Tian had a strong backing! Otherwise, how could he get away with killing someone intentionally with just a light punishment?

Meanwhile, when Duan Ling Tian caught up to Meng Jin, one of the five great Silver Flame Elders in the Black Turtle Sanctum, he could not help but ask, "Elder Meng Jin, where are you taking me?"

"You'll find out soon enough," Meng Jin answered nonchalantly.

However, upon hearing Meng Jin's words, Duan Ling Tian came to a halt and frowned as he said, "Elder Meng Jin, if you don't make it clear to me, please don't blame me for not cooperating with you. Who knows if you're trying to seek revenge from me for injuring your disciples two months ago?"

"Seek revenge from you?" Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Meng Jin was momentarily stunned before he began to chuckle. "An old man like me would not stoop so low as to interfere in the matters between two juniors! Moreover, you injuring him can be considered as a sort of training for him. I'm happy about that. Why should I seek revenge from you?" Meng Jin's words were magnanimous, and he sounded sincere, leaving no room for Duan Ling Tian to doubt him.

"Fine! Since it's just the both of us here, there's no harm in telling you about it now!" Meng Jin said, "The reason I came to look for you is due to Silver Flame Elder Qian from the Saint Land Enforcement Hall!"

"Saint Land Enforcement Hall? Silver Flame Elder Qian?" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and asked, "Elder Meng Jin, do you know why Elder Qian is looking for me?"

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's heart began to palpitate.

Could it be that Li An managed to overturn Elder Guo Xiong's verdict from two months ago? However, he quickly dismissed this thought since he found it ludicrous. With his Innate Spiritual Root, there was no way the Saint Land Enforcement Hall would not stand on his side.

'However, if Elder Li An did not manage to overturn Elder Guo Xiong's verdict, why would a Silver Flame Elder from the Saint Land Enforcement Hall look for me in the Black Turtle Sanctum?' Duan Ling Tian could not figure it out no matter how much mulled over it.

"I'm not sure about it as well. However, Wei He is with him as well," Meng Jin replied as he kept moving.

Duan Ling Tian caught up to him again and asked, "Wei He?"

It was his first time hearing this name.

"Wei He is the Great Direct Disciple of our Black Turtle Sanctum's Elder Li An. He's also the master of Yuan Hong whom you've killed two months ago!" Meng Jin added.

Yuan Hong's master?

Duan Ling Tian frowned as he became even more puzzled.

Under Meng Jin's lead, Duan Ling Tian arrived at a secluded palace situated at the north of the Black Turtle Sanctum. This palace was located in a forest and was very inconspicuous.

If it was not for Meng Jin, Duan Ling Tian would not have noticed this place.

Although the place looked old, it was kept clean.

As Duan Ling Tian followed behind Meng Jin, Duan Ling Tian saw a familiar figure as soon as he entered the palace.

The familiar figure was one out of three figures standing inside the palace. That person was none other than the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong.

"Elder Guo Xiong, why are you here as well?" Upon seeing Guo Xiong, Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask through Voice Transmission.

"Somebody filed a complaint saying that I abused my power for personal gain and falsified my report and lied about your Innate Spiritual Root to clear you of your crimes!" Guo Xiong answered through his Voice Transmission.

"What?!" Upon hearing his words, Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

Then, he shifted his gaze to a middle-aged man who was looking at him coldly. It was not difficult for him to figure out who that man was.

'He's Wei He? He's the one who lodged a complaint against Elder Guo Xiong? He thinks that Elder Guo Xiong is lying about my Innate Spiritual Root? It seems like Li An really doesn't believe that I possess a blue Innate Spiritual Root!'

Chapter 1958: Elder Qian

‘However. I’m afraid this time Li An has dug a grave for his own direct disciple!’ Duan Ling Tian smirked coldly as he looked at Wei He.

After Meng Jin brought Duan Ling Tian inside, he looked at the old man standing in between Guo Xiong and Wei He before he said to Duan Ling Tian, “Duan Ling Tian, this is Elder Qian from the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.”

“Good day, Elder Qian,” Duan Ling Tian greeted the old man politely upon hearing Meng Jin’s words.

Elder Qian was a refined old man and had an amiable appearance.

He nodded in response to Duan Ling Tian’s greeting through his half-closed eyes. He had a gentle and pleasant smile on his face. “You’re Duan Ling Tian?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Elder Qian did not beat around the bush as he said bluntly, “The reason I came to your Black Turtle Sanctum this time is regarding the verdict that the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong made two months ago!”

Duan Ling Tian nodded once again calmly. He did not look guilty at all. After all, there was nothing for him to feel guilty about.

Upon seeing this, Wei He snorted coldly as he thought to himself, ‘Humph! You’re trying to put on an act? When Elder Qian personally investigates this and tests your innate talent, I’d really like to see if you’ll be able to remain calm.’

Wei He was certain that Duan Ling Tian would be given the death sentence today. He was influenced by Li An and had the preconceived notion that Duan Ling Tian only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root

“Are you not surprised?” Elder Qian asked curiously when he saw how calm Duan Ling Tian was.

“Elder Qian, I’ve long suspected that this moment would come. However, I just didn’t expect the person who wants to overturn Elder Guo Xiong’s verdict isn’t Elder Li An from the Black Turtle Sanctum!” When Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he looked at Wei He who was standing next to Elder Qian meaningfully.

Wei He had originally planned on remaining silent. However, when he saw the mockery in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes, he was immediately enraged. He smirked coldly and said, “Why do my Master have to personally attend to this matter?”

“Humph!” However, Wei He’s words elicited dissatisfaction from Elder Qian instead. Elder Qian snorted coldly. “It’s not that simple to overturn a verdict made by an Enforcement Elder! Before the truth comes to light, nothing’s certain.”

In the Fire Worship Sect, when one wanted to overturn a verdict that had been made by an Enforcement Elder, it was equivalent to giving the Saint Land Enforcement Hall a slap in the face.

In the Fire Worship Sect, all of the Enforcement Elders, including the four Enforcement Elders in the Four Symbols Sanctums, were all under the jurisdiction of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall. Doubting the

verdict made by any one of the Enforcement Elder was equivalent to doubting the Saint Land Enforcement Hall's judgment when they selected their Enforcement Elders.

For this reason, when Li An tried to lodge a complaint against the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong that he abused his power for personal gain, the elder who was in charge at that time had intentionally warned him!

It was fine to lodge a complaint against an Enforcement Elder appointed by the Enforcement Hall, but if it was found that the complainant was slandering the Enforcement Elder, the complainant would be guilty of blaspheming the Saint Land Enforcement Hall!

In the Fire Worship Sect, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall was in charge of enforcing the law. It was also a very sacred and awe-inspiring place.

If somebody dared to blaspheme the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, they would be severely punished! The sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall was not allowed to be violated at all!

In the history of the Fire Worship Sect, there were many people who tried to blaspheme the Saint Land Enforcement Hall with various methods. Although most of these people did not do it intentionally, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall did not bother with that at all. Half of these people died from the severe punishments by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.

"Yes, Elder Qian." Upon hearing Elder Qian's snort, Wei He could not help but shudder. He no longer dared to say anything after he quickly responded to him. However, he still looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of mockery.

Whoosh!

Elder Qian was a straightforward person. With a raise of his hand, he took out a Spiritual Pearl and passed it to Duan Ling Tian. "Use the Spiritual Pearl to determine your Innate Spiritual Root first. If it shows that you possess the blue Innate Spiritual Root, I'll use my Divine Consciousness to see into your soul and investigate if you really possess a blue Innate Spiritual Root. Do you have any objections?" Elder Qian's gaze turned sharper as he looked at Duan Ling Tian when he finished speaking. It inadvertently pressured Duan Ling Tian.

"I'll do as you say, Elder Qian." Under Wei He's shocked gaze, Duan Ling Tian who was faced with the pressure Elder Qian emitted still remained calm.

He readily reached out to take Spiritual Pearl from Elder Qian.

'Things have already escalated to this point, how's he still so calm?' Wei He was certain Duan Ling Tian was merely putting on an act earlier to fool them. However, the fact that he could remain calm even at this point made Wei He feel extremely uneasy.

The Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong stood on the other side of Elder Qian. From the beginning until the end, his expression remained unchanged.

In his opinion, his verdict had been made according to the Fire Worship Sect's unspoken rule. He was not guilty at all.

For this reason, in his eyes, Wei He's filing a complaint to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall against him was merely a joke. The person who would be placed in a disadvantageous position in the end would not be him anyway.

As Duan Ling Tian took hold of the Spiritual Pearl, apart from Guo Xiong who did not even bother to pay attention to it, Elder Qian from the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, Wei He, and Meng Jin were staring intently at the Spiritual Pearl in Duan Ling Tian's hand with utmost concentration as they waited for the change in the Spiritual Pearl. It would change after a span of ten breaths.

Time continued to pass by quietly.

The span of a breath went by.

The span of two breaths went by.

When the span of ten breaths had passed, the Spiritual Pearl in Duan Ling Tian began to show changes. Elder Qian, Wei He, and Meng Jin instantly narrowed their eyes.

Under the gaze of the three men, a faint blue light began to shine from within the Spiritual Pearl before it gradually turned more and more dazzling!

"He really has a blue Innate Spiritual Root!" Meng Jin could not help but exclaim in his deep voice.

"Impossible!" Wei He's originally anxious expression turned horrified instead when he saw the blue light shining from the Spiritual Pearl in Duan Ling Tian's hand. There was also an expression of shock and disbelief on his face.

"Something must be wrong with this Spiritual Pearl! I have a Spiritual Pearl with me as well! Use mine and try again!" Wei He said as he hurriedly took out another Spiritual Pearl and threw it at Duan Ling Tian.

Smack!

Although Duan Ling Tian could have just ignored the Spiritual Pearl that Wei He threw at him, in order to make Wei He give up and fall into despair, he caught the Spiritual Pearl that Wei He threw at him.

He would use Wei He's Spiritual Pearl to determine his Innate Spiritual Root!

When Wei He saw Duan Ling Tian had caught his Spiritual Pearl, he stared at the Spiritual Pearl with utmost concentration. There was a hint of hope in his eyes. At this moment, his Spiritual Pearl was like his last hope!

Unfortunately, after a span of ten breaths, a dazzling blue light appeared on his Spiritual Pearl as well. He had a horrified expression on his face as his eyes were filled with disbelief and despair.

"How could this happen? Impossible! Impossible! When you entered the Fire Worship Sect, my Master personally witnessed you undergoing the innate talent assessment twice! Both times it was shown that you possess the yellow Innate Spiritual Root. You must be tricking us!" Wei He roared with an expression of disbelief on his face. At this moment, he had completely lost his composure.

Meng Jin shook his head as he glanced at Wei He.

At this moment, even him, an outsider, was certain that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root.

As for why Duan Ling Tian was found to possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root when he went through the innate talent assessment, he had no idea at all. He only believed what he had seen with his own eyes.

“Enough!” Only when Elder Qian shouted that Wei He regained his senses and fell silent.

“Whether he’s tricking us or not, it’ll be revealed once I use my Divine Consciousness to investigate and sense his Innate Spiritual Root!” Upon hearing Elder Qian’s statement, a hint of hope appeared in Wei He’s eyes again. Once again he regarded Elder Qian’s Divine Consciousness as his last hope.

“Duan Ling Tian, my Divine Consciousness will only investigate and sense your Innate Spiritual Root, it won’t harm your soul so you don’t have to feel pressured. Just relax, and let things take its course,” Elder Qian said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Duan Ling Tian’s readiness to cooperate made Elder Qian liked him more. After smiling at him, he extended his Divine Consciousness to investigate and sense Duan Ling Tian’s Innate Spiritual Root.

The instant Elder Qian’s Divine Consciousness entered Duan Ling Tian’s soul, it pressured Duan Ling Tian immediately. This was because Elder Qian’s Divine Consciousness was very powerful!

However, compared to Elder Huo’s Divine Consciousness, Elder Qian’s Divine Consciousness was much weaker.

‘It seems like Elder Huo’s strength has recovered quite a lot. If only he can come out of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, with the help of his currently restored strength and all kinds of Divine Abilities, even the Golden Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect might not be a match for him!’ He thought it was a pity that Elder Huo could not leave the pagoda. Otherwise, Elder Huo would be a big help to him.

If he had someone so strong helping him, he would have rushed into the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land Enforcement Hall directly to save his wife and daughter and bring them away from the Fire Worship Sect.

‘Is this Wei He an idiot? It has already come to this stage, and yet, he still has hope?’ When Elder Qian extended his Divine Consciousness into Duan Ling Tian’s soul, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Wei He and saw the hope gleaming in Wei He’s eyes.

Chapter 1959: An Eye For An Eye

Very soon, under the watchful eyes of the others, Elder Qian withdrew his Divine Consciousness.

At once, Wei He looked at him as the glimmer of hope in his eyes intensified.

“Duan Ling Tian’s Innate Spiritual Root is indeed the blue Spiritual Root...” Elder Qian glanced at Wei He when he sensed his eyes on him. His eyes turned cold instantly as he snarled. “Wei He! You slandering the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong is equivalent to blaspheming our Saint Land Enforcement Hall’s sanctity! Follow me to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall immediately and accept your punishment!”

The moment Elder Qian’s words left his mouth, Wei He was terrified.

“Elder Qian, I’m merely upset because of my direct disciple’s death. I wasn’t thinking clearly. Please show mercy, Elder Qian! Please show mercy!” In the next instant, Wei He kept begging for mercy from Elder Qian. He no longer cared about Duan Ling Tian.

If he went to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, he would be flayed even if he was not killed.

“Hurmph!” Elder Qian completely ignored Wei He’s begging. After he snorted, he waved his big hands as a vast energy pressed down on Wei He and restrained him.

After restraining Wei He, Elder Qian lifted him up with one hand like an eagle carrying a little chick.

“Elder Guo Xiong, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall will deal with the matter of Wei He slandering you!” Elder Qian looked at Guo Xiong. After he finished speaking, he brought Wei He who had turned pale away in just a blink of an eye.

“Duan Ling Tian, I can’t believe you actually possess a blue Innate Spiritual Root.” After Elder Qian brought Wei He away, Meng Jin looked at Duan Ling Tian and sighed emotionally. “I was curious about Elder Guo Xiong’s verdict. He seemed to be protecting you. As it turns out, you have a blue Innate Spiritual Root. That’s why you’re given special treatment according to the Fire Worship Sect’s unspoken rule.”

“Thank you for leading me here earlier, Elder Meng Jin!” Duan Ling Tian nodded at Meng Jin. Although he was not fond of Zhang Ji, Meng Jin’s direct disciple, he acknowledged that Meng Jin was a decent person.

At the very least, Meng Jin would not unreasonably side with someone who was in the wrong. This could be seen from the way Meng Jin spoke during their journey here.

“I still have some matters to attend to so I’ll take my leave first, Elder Guo Xiong, Duan Ling Tian!” Soon after, Meng Jin bade farewell and left Duan Ling Tian and Guo Xiong alone in the palace.

Actually, Guo Xiong had requested for Meng Jin to leave through Voice Transmission since there was something he wanted to speak to Duan Ling Tian about privately.

“Duan Ling Tian, you will head to our Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine for your service in a month. Have you prepared for it?” Guo Xiong asked as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“I’ve prepared long ago,” Duan Ling Tian smiled nonchalantly as he said, “Speaking of, thank you, Elder Guo Xiong. Otherwise, I would’ve been sentenced to death two months ago.”

“Don’t thank me... You know very well it’s all because of your blue Innate Spiritual Root that you managed to survive! If your innate talent is not the blue Innate Spiritual Root but just the yellow Innate Spiritual Root as rumored, I wouldn’t have been able to protect you!” Guo Xiong said, “Perhaps, at that time, we would be here as well. Just that our situation would be reversed with Wei He.”

“Wei He?” Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as it turned cold. He asked, “Elder Guo Xiong, what kind of punishment will be given to Wei He for slandering you and blaspheming the Saint Land Enforcement Hall? Would he be sentenced to death by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall?”

“No, it won’t be to the extent where he’ll be sentenced to death.” Guo Xiong shook his head. His eyes flashed coldly as well as soon as Wei He was mentioned. “However, even if they don’t kill him, he’ll be flayed at least! Blaspheming the Saint Land Enforcement Hall is not a minor crime. Not only that, but Elder Qian promised me earlier that the Saint Land Enforcement Hall would deal with this matter. Based on his words, I’m certain Wei He’s punishment wouldn’t be light.”

“He wouldn’t be sentenced to death?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly disappointed when he heard this.

It was apparent Wei He was trying to get him killed today. If he still possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, he would have died because of Wei He.

Duan Ling Tian had always believed in the saying, ‘An eye for an eye’.

It was only natural that he felt disappointed when he heard that Wei He would not be sentenced to death by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.

“Why? Do you really wish for him to die?” Duan Ling Tian did not bother to conceal his disappointment so it was easy for Guo Xiong to see through his thoughts.

“Don’t tell me you don’t wish him dead for slandering you, Elder Guo Xiong?” Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

“In my opinion, even if he doesn’t die, he’ll be flayed. This is enough to quell my anger. Naturally, I’ll feel a lot better if he’s sentenced to death!” When Duan Ling Tian heard the first half of Guo Xiong’s words, he felt slightly disappointed. However, when he heard the final part of his sentence, he realized Guo Xiong felt the same way he did.

“However, it won’t be easy for me to get him a death sentence. If he isn’t at the Saint Celestial Stage or above, it would definitely be impossible for him to withstand the punishment from the Saint Land Enforcement Hall! Unfortunately, as a Saint Land Bronze Flame Elder, he’s at the Saint Celestial Stage.” Guo Xiong sighed. A hint of regret could be heard in his voice.

“Elder Guo Xiong!” However, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened suddenly as he asked, “If I’m not mistaken, the matter of Wei He lodging a report against you and asking the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to reinvestigate the matter has not spread out, right?”

“Yes.” Guo Xiong nodded. “Usually, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall won’t spread this kind of news. After all, the Enforcement Hall is uncertain whether I’m guilty or not. If I am, the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall would be tarnished if news of it spreads out!”

"It's just as I thought." Duan Ling Tian nodded. His eyes flashed coldly as he asked, "However, if the news of how Wei He slandered you and blasphemed the Saint Land Enforcement Hall today spreads out, what would happen? Since news of this won't tarnish the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall won't investigate the source of the news, right?"

"Theoretically, you're right. However, if news spreads out, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall will suffer from pressure as well. If Wei He's punishment is too light, it won't be able to show that the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall is inviolable!" Guo Xiong answered Duan Ling Tian.

However, when he finished speaking, his eyes brightened up immediately as he stared at Duan Ling Tian intently. "You mean... We should spread this news and let the Saint Land Enforcement Hall kill Wei He to protect the Saint Land Enforcement Hall's sanctity out of pressure?!"

"Not me, but you!" Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "I'm merely an ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple so I daren't spread this news for fear of offending the Saint Land Enforcement Hall. However, as the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder who was appointed by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, even if you spread this news, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall won't blame you at all, Elder Guo Xiong! Not only that, but if you do so, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall will only think that you're spreading this news out of revenge because of Wei He slandering you!" Duan Ling Tian's words were flawless.

"Duan Ling Tian, you seemed to have everything planned out!" Guo Xiong was stunned by Duan Ling Tian's words. When he regained his senses, he stared at Duan Ling Tian intently. "However, how are you so sure that I'll do as you say and spread this news to pressure the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to kill Wei He?"

"I'm not certain." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "I'm merely giving you a suggestion, Elder Guo Xiong. As for whether you choose to spread this news or not, it's all up to you! Just like you, although I want him dead, his death would not affect me at all. I, Duan Ling Tian, dare to offend his master, Li An, why would I be afraid of him?" Duan Ling Tian smiled mockingly when he reached the end of his sentence.

"Duan Ling Tian, previously, I thought it was unwise for you to oppose Li An since it seems like you're overestimating yourself. However, right now, why do I suddenly feel that you might be the one who ends up having the last laugh?" Guo Xiong stared at Duan Ling Tian again. He was calm outwardly, but in actual truth, a tempestuous storm had been set off in his heart.

This method of forcing the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to kill Wei He that Duan Ling Tian came up with showed how meticulous he was, unlike other people.

At the very least, Guo Xiong had never thought of this before.

"You flatter me, Elder Guo Xiong. I'm merely an ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple. How can I possibly fight with Li An? He's our Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder after all!" Duan Ling Tian smiled humbly but his words were said without sincerity.

Naturally, Guo Xiong could see the insincerity of Duan Ling Tian's words, but he did not point them out.

Guo Xiong smiled indifferently before he said, "Duan Ling Tian, I intend to recommend you to Lord Sanctum Leader as a direct disciple. Duan Ling Tian. If Lord Sanctum Leader agrees to take you as his direct disciple, you won't be punished at all if he recommends you to become a Saint Land disciple.

However, when I went to look for Lord Sanctum Leader two months ago, I was told he was at a critical juncture in his closed-door cultivation. For this reason, I didn't interrupt him. Up until now, he has yet to come out."

Guo Xiong continued to add, "If Lord Sanctum Leader still hasn't come out of his closed-door cultivation in a month, I'll have no choice but to personally send you to the First Mine in our Four Symbols Sanctums. However, don't worry, I'll recommend you to Lord Sanctum Leader as soon as he comes out of his closed-door cultivation."

Duan Ling Tian widened his eyes when he heard Guo Xiong's words.

Lord Sanctum Leader was actually in closed-door cultivation?

He instantly dismissed the idea of watching him casting the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier.

Chapter 1960: Wei He's Death

"Elder Guo Xiong!" Duan Ling Tian turned solemn as he looked at Guo Xiong. "I understand your good intention for wanting to recommend me to Lord Sanctum Leader. I appreciate your kindness, but I must decline your offer. I already have a master! Not only that, but the tradition from my hometown is once I have a master, I have to get permission from my master if I want to accept another master. Otherwise, it would be equivalent to treason!" Duan Ling Tian said resolutely.

"You already have a master?" Guo Xiong was slightly astonished. He asked, "Which force does your master belong to?"

"My master is only a sectless cultivator." Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

"Duan Ling Tian, you must think it through. In the Fire Worship Sect, if you can become the direct disciple of a Golden Flame Elder such as Lord Sanctum Leader, it would only benefit you!" Guo Xiong advised Duan Ling Tian solemnly, "Put everything else aside, just take the enmity between you and Li An as an example, if you become the direct disciple of the Sanctum Leader of our Black Turtle Sanctum, Li An wouldn't dare to plot against you even if he's ten times more courageous. Most importantly, Lord Sanctum Leader won't mind if you have another master or not. As long as you're willing to become his direct disciple, he definitely won't reject you based on your innate talent!" Guo Xiong was patient when he advised Duan Ling Tian.

In his opinion, with Duan Ling Tian's blue Innate Spiritual Root, coupled with his monstrous ability in comprehending Divine Abilities, he would definitely be the most sought after martial genius with a blue Innate Spiritual Root in the Fire Worship Sect!

He was undeniably sure that as long as he recommended Duan Ling Tian to the Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum, he would definitely accept Duan Ling Tian as his disciple without a second thought

"Elder Guo Xiong, there's no need for you to advise me further. I've already made up my mind!" Duan Ling Tian shook his head. He spoke resolutely.

Naturally, he was tempted by Guo Xiong's proposal. However, he felt that it was inappropriate.

Put aside that it would be a disservice to his master, Feng Qing Yang, whom he had never met before, even if his master did not mind, he was not willing to drag another person into his mess.

That was right! He was unwilling to drag another person into his mess!

The reason he came to the Fire Worship Sect was not to become a true Fire Worship Sect's disciple and continue to rise to a high position and become a high-ranking official in the Fire Worship Sect.

His only purpose of coming to the Fire Worship Sect was to save his wife and daughter.

One could imagine that if he accepted a master in the Fire Worship Sect, his master would definitely be affected, whether or not he knew of his plan, after he saved his wife and daughter.

As the saying went, 'He who teaches me for a day is my father for life!'

Put aside the other person was his master, if possible, Duan Ling Tian did not want to implicate any innocent people at all.

"Alright. Since you're already made up your mind, I won't persuade you anymore." Guo Xiong stopped persuading him since he could sense his determination. After sighing, he added again, "One month later, I'll pick you up, and we can head to the First Mine of the Four Symbols Sanctums!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he left and did not bid farewell to Duan Ling Tian. It was obvious he was a little angry at how stubborn Duan Ling Tian was.

After Guo Xiong left, Duan Ling Tian returned to the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples and his Secundus house.

However, in the next month, he did not enter closed-door cultivation.

Instead, he constantly comprehended the Sovereign Heart Sword and further comprehended the Divine Abilities, the Elementary Devouring Tactic and the Otherworldly Celestial, that he had mastered.

As for the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, he put it aside for the time being.

"Before I can observe someone casting the Black Turtle's Barrier, there's no point in me wasting my time comprehending it." This was the reason Duan Ling Tian decided to put it aside for the time being.

Besides, both Divine Abilities, the Elementary Devouring Tactic and the Otherworldly Celestial, still had room for improvement. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian spent time comprehending them.

Heaven would always reward the faithful!

Ten months later, Duan Ling Tian finally managed to touch the threshold of the third stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword and further mastered the Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial. However, he seemed to have reached a bottleneck when it came to the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, and was unable to make any progress for a long time.

"It's time." With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

After he put away the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he pushed the door open and walked into the little courtyard outside of the house before sitting down in front of the stone table in the courtyard.

Ten months inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was only one month outside.

'Judging by the time, Elder Guo Xiong should be arriving soon,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he sat in front of the stone table.

At this moment, a voice rang from below his Secundus house.

"Did you hear? Wei He, Elder Li An's Great Direct Disciple, has been sentenced to death by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall three days ago!"

Wei He was sentenced to death?

Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard this.

Another voice chimed in, "Are you serious? He's been sentenced to death? Just because news of what happened spread out?"

"Hurmph! Don't look down on that piece of news! Nobody knows who had intentionally spread the news and said that Wei He has violated the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall and has been detained by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall."

The voice that spoke earlier said, "Perhaps, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall did not plan to kill Wei He in the first place since he was still a Bronze Flame Elder with a blue Innate Spiritual Root! However, somebody leaked out news of Wei He blaspheming and violating the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall. This is no doubt an act of adding fuel to the flame. At this moment, if the Saint Land Enforcement Hall still doesn't sentence Wei He to death, wouldn't they be tarnishing their own sanctity? In our Fire Worship Sect, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall is a sacred place that allows no blasphemy! If a person could still live on after blaspheming such a place, what would the others think? Nobody would take the Saint Land Enforcement Hall seriously anymore if that's the case!"

One must admit that the owner of this voice had seen through everything.

"I must agree, you have a point. However, did you know how Wei He had blasphemed the Saint Land Enforcement Hall?" The owner of the other voice asked.

"I have no idea. It's said that Wei He was unsatisfied with the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong's verdict regarding Duan Ling Tian so he went to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to file a complaint against Elder Guo Xiong for malpractice!" The former voice answered again, "I heard that the Saint Land Enforcement Hall had to personally send a man to our Black Turtle Sanctum to investigate this matter, and the result of the investigation is Wei He was found guilty of slandering Elder Guo Xiong!"

"Not only did Wei He fail to avenge his disciple, but he even lost his own lowly life. How sad," the other person said.

“It seems like Elder Guo Xiong decided to leak the news in the end.” Duan Ling Tian smiled indifferently when he found out Guo Xiong had taken his advice.

“Duan Ling Tian!” Just as Duan Ling Tian was thinking of Guo Xiong, a voice resonated from afar. The voice belonged to someone with a large build. It was none other than Guo Xiong.

Guo Xiong came according to the schedule to bring Duan Ling Tian to the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine to serve his time.

“Elder Guo Xiong, since you leaked the news, did the Saint Land Enforcement Hall investigate who leaked the news?” Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask as they made their way to the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

“Yes, they did.” Guo Xiong nodded before taking a good look at Duan Ling Tian. “Just like you said, even after the Saint Land Enforcement Hall found out it was me who leaked the news, they did not make things difficult for me.”

Everything was just as Duan Ling Tian had predicted.

For this reason, Guo Xiong felt Duan Ling Tian was really meticulous. In his heart, he even made a decision not to make an enemy out of Duan Ling Tian even if he had to fall out with Li An. In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian was even more dangerous than Li An was!

“Now that Wei He has been executed, I believe Li An must be upset, right?” Duan Ling Tian smiled nonchalantly.

In his opinion, Li An was the one who dug the grave for his own Great Direct Disciple!

If it was not for the fact that Li An had informed Wei He of the ‘truth’ about Duan Ling Tian merely possessing a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, Wei He would not have been so stupid as to file a complaint to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall against Guo Xiong for malpractice!

One could say that it was Wei He who looked for his own death! Moreover, it was all because of Li An.

“Wei He was executed by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall three days ago, but the news has only reached our Black Turtle Sanctum today. Even if Li An found out about the news, I’m sure he has only learned about it not too long ago,” Guo Xiong chimed in.

Just as Guo Xiong predicted, Li An had just learned about Wei He being executed by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall.

Bang!

As a loud sound resonated, the stone table in front of Li An crumbled instantly into dust.

“He’er, I’ve failed you!” Li An’s expression was grave, and his eyes were bloodshot. He emitted a terrifyingly cold aura that it seemed as though the temperature in the surroundings had dropped by a few degrees.

Wei He was his Great Direct Disciple. He was also his first direct disciple. He had especially doted on this direct disciple to the point where he regarded him as his own son. However, the direct disciple he had regarded as his own son had died!

“I was the one who had underestimated Duan Ling Tian... I can’t believe he possesses a blue Innate Spiritual Root!” Li An felt pressured as well after learning that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root.

Now that he found out his Great Direct Disciple was sentenced to death by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, he really wanted to knock on Duan Ling Tian’s door and kill him!

Li An blamed Wei He’s death on Duan Ling Tian completely!

At this instant, his desire to kill Duan Ling Tian had reached an unprecedented high!

‘Duan Ling Tian, you cost me my family so I’m going to let you have a taste of this feeling as well!’ Li An thought to himself as his eyes flashed coldly and a terrifying killing intent surged out of his body.

In the next instant, he left his residence in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

His destination was the White Tiger Sanctum!