

SOVEREIGN 1971

## **Chapter 1971: Black Turtle Sanctum's Great Senior Brother Hong Xu**

People from the Four Symbol Sanctums were not unfamiliar with the name Duan Ling Tian.

How could they not be familiar with that name?

First, he offended the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An and publicly opposed him as soon as he arrived in the Fire Worship Sect.

After that, he even killed Li An's grand disciple, Yuan Hong, who was a Vermilion Bird Sanctum's disciple! Not only that, but apart from killing Yuan Hong, he even killed Yuan Kuang, Yuan Hong's younger brother as well!

Everyone thought he would be sentenced to death for intentionally killing Yuan Kuang when the Black Turtle Sanctums Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong protected him. Not only that, but even the Saint Land Enforcement Hall had protected him as well.

Just with these few incidents alone was enough for Duan Ling Tian to become famous in the Four Symbols Sanctums.

Based on the news they received, it seemed like the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, Duan Ling Tian, had caused another incident? Moreover, this incident was related to Sun De who was currently the cause of a huge commotion.

"Duan Ling Tian defeated Sun De on the day he arrived at the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine? This is a joke, right?!" Whether it was people from the Azure Dragon Sanctum, White Tiger Sanctum, Vermilion Bird Sanctum or the Black Turtle Sanctum, when they heard this news, all of them found it hard to believe. However, the news was confirmed by some Four Symbols Sanctum's elders so they had no choice but to believe it.

"Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base is actually the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage?"

"Then, does this mean he did not use all his strength when he fought with Yuan Hong back then?"

"He's really good at concealing his strength, don't you think?"

Similar discussions could be heard in every corner of the Four Symbols Sanctums.

It was not an exaggeration to say that everyone from the four Sanctums had learned of Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage when he fought in the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

At once, they decided that Duan Ling Tian had concealed his cultivation base from the beginning until the end.

"Don't tell me he's still concealing his cultivation base, and it's not actually at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage?" Many people had such a question.

However, their question was soon refuted by other people. "Impossible! Don't forget he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root! It's the limit for a commoner with a yellow Innate Spiritual Root to reach the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage! It's even more difficult than rising to Heaven for them to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage!"

The fact that Duan Ling Tian had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root had long spread in the Four Symbols Sanctums. For this reason, most people thought Duan Ling Tian had reached his limit in regard to his cultivation base. It would be difficult for him to progress in the future!

However, there were also people in the Four Symbols Sanctums who knew that Duan Ling Tian did not possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root but a blue one instead! Among them was the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An!

Li An had also heard about Sun De, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, successfully comprehending the treasured Divine Ability from the Black Turtle Sanctum, the Black Turtle's Barrier.

He was taken aback by the news and was filled with jealousy. Although Li An was the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder, he was still unable to successfully comprehend the Black Turtle's Barrier.

An ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple had comprehended the most treasured Divine Ability in the Black Turtle Sanctum, the Black Turtle's Barrier. How could he not feel jealous?

"Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base is at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage? He defeated Sun De?" This shocking news had also shocked Li An. His expression turned grave immediately when he heard it. "That little brute's cultivation base is already at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage since a long time ago or did he just recently make a breakthrough?"

Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base filled Li An's mind with all kinds of thoughts. No matter what it was, Duan Ling Tian's existence definitely posed a threat to him.

He knew that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root. This meant that Duan Ling Tian's accomplishment would not be inferior to his. Moreover, with Duan Ling Tian's ability to easily comprehend Divine Abilities, he would most likely become an outstanding person in the Fire Worship Sect who was on par with a Golden Flame Elder in the future when he had grown stronger.

A Golden Flame Elder was someone whose position was higher than him. If Duan Ling Tian managed to obtain that position, Li An would be doomed.

"No way! I can't let this go on! Duan Ling Tian must die!" Li An muttered to himself. After he regained his senses, his breathing quickened. His eyes flashed coldly like a poisonous snake that was about to strike.

Li An was not really bothered about Duan Ling Tian who possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root despite the fact that he had a heaven-defying ability in comprehending Divine Abilities. However, Duan Ling Tian currently possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root, coupled with his talent in comprehending Divine Abilities, Li An could not help but feel afraid.

He was almost certain someone like Duan Ling Tian was going to bring him trouble when he grew stronger!

‘However, he’s currently in the First Mine, it won’t be easy for me to kill him! Moreover, his current strength is almost on par with an ordinary Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator!’ The moment Li An thought of this, horror dawned on him.

Apart from the First Mine’s elders, the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine only allowed Enforcement Elders and the criminals who were brought by Enforcement Elders to enter.

It was impossible for Li An to enter the First Mine, let alone killing someone inside!

“Duan Ling Tian, did you really think that I can’t get to you just because you’re hiding in the First Mine?!” Li An left his residence with a cold smirk on his face.

He traveled quickly to an unknown destination before he came to a halt. His destination was the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples. To be more specific, he stopped right in front of a Primus house.

“Elder Li An!”

“It’s Elder Li An!”

Li An’s appearance attracted the attention of many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples.

“Hong Xu!” After Li An stopped in front of the Primus House, he extended his Divine Consciousness and transmitted his voice to a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple.

“Who are you?!” The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who was originally cultivating in the Primus house was abruptly awakened. It was only natural he had a grave expression on his face. His eyes were burning with rage, and he felt like slapping the person who woke him up from his cultivation.

“It’s Li An!” The Voice Transmission resonated again, causing the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple to change his expression instantly. His expression was no longer grave. Instead, a forced smile that was uglier than a crying face appeared on his face. The rage in his eyes had also vanished.

Creak...

Under Li An’s gaze, the door to the Primus house opened and a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple walked out. He bowed respectfully at Li An. “Good day, Elder Li An!”

This Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple was a middle-aged man with an ordinary appearance with a medium build. He would be difficult to pick out in a crowd of people.

“It’s Senior Brother Hong Xu!”

“Why did Elder Li An come looking for Senior Brother Hong Xu?”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who had not returned to their residences also saw the middle-aged man whom Li An called out.

Upon seeing this middle-aged man, respect could be seen in their eyes.

Hong Xu was the Great Senior Brother widely acknowledged by the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples in these recent years.

The reason he was widely acknowledged as Great Senior Brother was due to his strength. He had long broken through to the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage.

Currently, Hong Xu was also the only Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage disciple in the Black Turtle Sanctum!

However, when they found it strange that Li An was looking for Hong Xu. From what they know, both of them did not have any relationship at all.

As the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples were pondering over this...

"Follow me!" Li An said to Hong Xu indifferently before he turned and left the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples. His silhouette gradually disappeared before the eyes of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples.

As Li An's silhouette disappeared, Hong Xu followed after him despite feeling skeptical.

Li An was the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder after all.

Before he participated in the Saint Land assessment that was just around the corner, he was still a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple so he did not dare to simply offend Li An.

The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples finally looked away after Li An and Hong Xu's figures disappeared.

Although they were curious, none of them dared to follow them since they were afraid of Li An.

Li An finally came to a halt outside of the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple where a secluded bamboo grove was located.

"Elder Li An, is there a reason you came looking for me?" Li An asked with a puzzled expression.

"Hong Xu, I want you to head to the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine and kill someone!" Li An said without beating around the bush as his eyes flashed coldly.

Swoosh!

The moment Hong Xu heard his words, horror dawned on him. "E-Elder Li An, you want me to head to the First Mine to kill Duan Ling Tian?"

Although Hong Xu spent most of his time in closed-door cultivation, he would still come out once in a while. For this reason, he knew about Duan Ling Tian.

Due to this reason, when Li An told him to kill someone in the First Mine, Hong Xu instantly thought of Duan Ling Tian.

"That's right!" Li An nodded in response to Hong Xu's question.

“Elder Li An, I’m sorry, but I can’t do that!” Hong Xu took a deep breath before he directly rejected Li An’s request.

Put aside the fact that he was not confident he was able to kill Duan Ling Tian, so what if he could kill Duan Ling Tian? Would he not be sentenced to death for violating the Fire Worship Sect’s rules?

Li An did not seem surprised by Hong Xu’s rejection. He said nonchalantly, “Hong Xu, I suggest you think about this. If I’m not mistaken, Hong Clan is in the Western Province, right?!”

When he finished speaking, he looked at Hong Xu meaningfully.

Horror dawned on Hong Xu immediately. “Elder Li An, are you t-threatening me?”

“You can regard it as a threat.” Li An’s tone was calm as though he was speaking about some insignificant matter. “You better think about it carefully. Is your life more important? Or are the lives in Hong Clan more important?”

### **Chapter 1972: The Forbidden Pill — The Kismet Rejoining Pill**

Horror dawned on Hong Xu again when he heard Li An’s words.

Although most people were selfish in this world where they revered the strong, to Hong Xu, his clan was more important than his own life. It was all thanks to the support from his clan that he was able to come so far. If his clan did not nurture him with everything they had, he would not be able to accomplish everything at his age with his light green Innate Spiritual Root. One could say that his achievements today was 30% of his own hard work and 70% of his clan’s nurturing.

“Elder Li An, Duan Ling Tian is very strong. He has even defeated Sun De who has comprehended the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier. Although my cultivation base is at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage, I might not be a match for him at all!” Hong Xu looked at Li An with bloodshot eyes and a grave expression. “Even if I’m stronger than him, I can’t be much stronger than him. Wanting to kill him in a short time without giving the elders in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine to intervene is extremely difficult!” It was obvious Hong Xu had caved under Li An’s threats.

He had no choice but to compromise!

His clan was much more important than his own life. He suspected Li An knew this, that was why he had used his clan to threaten him.

Faced with Li An’s threats, he had thought of resisting. He thought about looking for an Enforcement Elder to seek justice. However, he also knew that even if he managed to obtain justice for himself, Li An would only be lightly punished. After all, Li An had only threatened him, but he did not touch him at all.

As for his clan and the lives of his relatives in the clan, they were unworthy in the eyes of the Fire Worship Sect’s high-ranking officials. After all, he had not grown so strong that the Fire Worship Sect would pay attention to him.

Even if Li An went to annihilate his clan, the Fire Worship Sect would not do anything at all!

In the eyes of the Fire Worship Sect's high-ranking officials, Li An's personal dispute had nothing to do with the sect.

"I've already thought about the things you mentioned. Don't worry. It'll take some time for the Punishment Zone's elders to reach you if you make your move in the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine's Punishment Zone. Everything will be fine as long as you kill him before the Punishment Zone's elders arrive!" Li An said indifferently as he answered Hong Xu's questions, "In the worst-case scenario, if you find that you're unable to kill him or you're no match for him, I've also made preparations for that!"

As soon as Li An finished speaking, he raised his right hand that was holding on to an exquisite pill bottle. "With your strength, as long as you consume this pill, your strength will be raised almost to the Saint Celestial Stage in a short period of time!"

Li An looked at the bottle in his hand as Hong Xu's eyes followed his gaze. His expression changed slightly. Then, he shifted his gaze onto the pill bottle in his hand.

After hearing Li An's words, Hong Xu knew the pill would be able to raise his strength even though it was only for a short period of time.

The effect of such a pill was similar to the assist-type Divine Ability that could raise one's strength for a short time. However, the aftereffects were really bad compared to that of a Divine Ability.

The aftereffects of the assist-type Divine Ability were mostly temporary and would disappear after a while. However, it was difficult for the aftereffects of the pill to go away. Even if it did, the conditions that needed to be met were very strict.

Due to this reason, Hong Xu was horrified when he heard Li An's words and saw the pill bottle.

After a long while, Hong Xu took a deep breath and moved his slightly stiff neck before raising his head to look at Li An with a fearful expression on his face. He asked, "Elder Li An, what pill is this?"

"The Kismet Rejoining Pill!" Li An answered nonchalantly.

Swoosh!

As soon as Li An finished speaking, Hong Xu's eyes widened as he gasped.

He had heard of these pills before.

The Kismet Rejoining Pill, just like its name, was a pill that would join a person with his fate. It was also one of the few forbidden pills in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. People would be horrified when these pills were mentioned.

Usually, only a quasi Celestial-grade Saint Refinement Master who specialized in Medicine Refinement Dao could refine it. Not only that, but the medicinal efficacy was very strong as well.

Rumor had it that a high-grade Kismet Rejoining Pill could even help a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse to raise his strength for a short time! The amount of strength it granted its user was not little as well.

However, there were downsides to it as well. The aftereffects were horrendous. Best case scenario, one would be severely injured and would be chronically ill for a lifetime. Worst-case scenario, one would lose their lives.

This was why Hong Xu was so horrified when he heard Li An said the pill was a Kismet Rejoining Pill.

The Kismet Rejoining Pill was not an ordinary forbidden pill! In the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint, the Kismet Rejoining Pill was a very famous forbidden pill. Naturally, the price for it was extremely high as well.

It did not cross Hong Xu's mind that Li An, the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder, would use such an expensive forbidden pill like the Kismet Rejoining Pill just to kill Duan Ling Tian.

He was very clear that even if Li An was the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder, he might not have another Kismet Rejoining Pill. The Kismet Rejoining Pill was just too valuable.

Naturally, Hong Xu was unaware that Li An had already regarded Duan Ling Tian as a threat to his life.

Once Duan Ling Tian had grown stronger, if Li An wanted to live, it would be impossible for him to stay in the Fire Worship Sect. At that time, the Fire Worship Sect that had Duan Ling Tian would not allow Li An to remain in the sect!

Duan Ling Tian was not just some commoner with a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. He was a martial genius who possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root and a heaven-defying ability to comprehend Divine Abilities. Once he had grown stronger, his position would definitely surpass Li An's position.

For this reason, in order to get rid of this threat, Duan Ling Tian, Li An did not mind using the forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill, that he had treasured and kept for many years.

"Based on your expression, it seems like you've heard of the Kismet Rejoining Pills... In that case, there's no need for me to explain anything to you!" Li An said coldly as he passed the pill bottle to Hong Xu.

Hong Xu's hands froze when he saw Li An passing the pill bottle to him. A hint of terror appeared in his eyes when he looked at the pill bottle as though he was looking at some wild beast.

"Hurmph!" Li An snorted, causing Hong Xu's body to tremble.

Hong Xu reached out to take the pill bottle from Li An.

Although the pill bottle was small, Hong Xu felt as though he was carrying a heavy load.

"There's no need for me to teach you what to do next to be sent to the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, right?" Li An looked at Hong Xu coldly. Without waiting for Hong Xu to reply, he had flown away, leaving Hong Xu who had a sullen expression on his face behind.

He put the pill bottle away. Both his hands were fisted tightly as he stared at Li An's disappearing figure. A hint of dissatisfaction appeared in his eyes. He did not want to be ordered around by Li An. However, he had no choice at all. He could only do as he was told unless he forsook his family.

...

Meanwhile, in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

Inside a mining cave, the Four Symbols Sanctum's disciples stood far away from the area where Duan Ling Tian was mining since they were afraid of him. For that reason, he was mining first-grade Saint Stones with ease.

"If this goes on, I'll be able to collect a huge number of first-grade Saint Stones soon!" Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he put the Saint Stones into the extra-large wicker basket behind him and also into Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda as well. His movement was as smooth as water.

Nobody would be able to catch on to what Duan Ling Tian did unless they stared at him intently.

The first-grade Saint Stones might not be useful to Duan Ling Tian who was in the Fire Worship Sect, but it would be a great fortune once he left the sect.

The Saint Stone was a common transaction currency in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

"Huh?" Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian's sword was met with resistance. He instantly extended his Divine Consciousness to investigate.

Soon after, he noticed a Saint Stone emanating rich Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy that was embedded in a huge first-grade Saint Stone ore. The richness of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy far exceeded the first-grade Saint Stones.

'A quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened immediately as he became excited.

However, his expression changed into one of calmness as he continued working as though nothing out of the ordinary had happened.

As he maintained his usual expression, Duan Ling Tian threw the huge Celestial-grade Saint Stones into the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. His movement was stealthy and did not attract anyone's attention.

"It seems like I'm quite lucky. It's only the second day, but I've already found a quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone! Moreover, the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones isn't small!" Although his expression was calm, inside he was feeling a little overwhelmed.

As far as he knew, it would take an average of ten days for an ordinary Four Symbols Sanctums' disciple to find a quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone.

The reserve in the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine was a first-grade Saint Stone reserve after all. Although there were quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones, the number was few.

'However, this Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine is really petty! There's no reward even if we find a quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone. We still have complete our daily tasks! There's no difference if we mined first-grade Saint Stones or quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones!' Duan Ling Tian grumbled inwardly.

**Chapter 1973: Hong Xu Is Here**



It was Duan Ling Tian's second day in the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine. For this reason, he had gotten much bolder.

As he threw the first-grade Saint Stones that he mined into the wicker basket on his back, he also secretly threw many first-grade Saint Stones into the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, increasing the first-grade Saint Stones in there.

In terms of quantity, the first-grade Saint Stones that Duan Ling Tian sent into the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda on the second day was about twice the quantity that he sent in on the first day!

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian completed his daily task and returned to the only Primus house in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

Right now, Duan Ling Tian had already been widely acknowledged as the strongest person among the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples in the First Mine's Punishment Zone. When he walked out, many Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples would address him as 'Senior Brother Ling Tian' politely when they saw him.

The strong ones were revered in this world.

Duan Ling Tian's strength when fought Sun De had earned the respect of many Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples.

"I should be able to cut the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones inside into a hundred standard-sized quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones..." After returning to the Primus house, Duan Ling Tian took out the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones that was the size of a basketball before cutting it.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

...

As his hands moved about, the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone that was about the size of a basketball was split into 123 pieces of quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones.

"As expected of the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone... What a rich Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy!" Duan Ling Tian could clearly sense the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones emitted.

'I still remember that I obtained three formation compasses when I was in the Moon Illumination Sect that are offensive, defensive, and hallucinogenic. I wonder what kind of power they would demonstrate if they're activated using the quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones?' The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he took out the Spatial Ring he had hidden inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

This Spatial Ring was the one that he usually wore. The Spatial Ring that he handed over when he arrived at the Punishment Zone in the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine was an empty Spatial Ring. However, since he did not remove his ownership of the Spatial Ring, no one would discover that it was actually empty.

When Duan Ling Tian learned he would have to hand over his Spatial Ring when he arrived at the Four Symbols Sanctums' First mine, Duan Ling Tian had already secretly switched his Spatial Ring. At that time, even the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong who came together with him did not notice his little trick.

With just a thought, he took out the three formation compasses that had been left untouched for many years. After that, he picked up the hallucinogenic formation and inserted nine quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones into the indentations on the formation compass.

After inserting the Saint Stones, Duan Ling Tian immediately activated the formation compass.

Crack!

However, as soon as Duan Ling Tian activated the formation compass, a crisp sound rang in the air. As it turned out, the formation compass he was holding in his hands had shattered.

"It's destroyed by the Saint Stone's energy?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

He did not expect the energy from the nine quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones would be so tyrannical to the point that it would destroy the formation compass!

'Looks like this formation compass is not a high-grade one. To think it would be destroyed by the nine quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stones,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

"I wonder what's the limit of what it could endure..." Soon after, Duan Ling Tian looked at the other two formation compasses. After trying for a while, he discovered the two formation compasses could only handle two first-grade Saint Stones at the most.

The offensive formation compass was also destroyed when he experimented by putting in three first-grade Saint Stones.

He only had the defensive formation compass left. However, the defensive formation compass activated by two first-grade Saint Stones was not useful to the current Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, he quickly put away the defensive formation compass.

"I can't believe I destroyed two formation compasses by just experimenting!" Duan Ling Tian shook his head as he looked at the two broken formation compasses. However, he did not find it to be a pity since he did not think the formation compasses would be of any help to him even if they were not broken.

'I'll continue to comprehend the number one defensive Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect, the Black Turtle's Barrier. Initially, I thought it would take half a year inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda for me to comprehend it. However, I'm confident I'll be able to successfully master it in three months at most!'

As soon as he thought about this, he no longer wasted any time and quickly entered the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to comprehend the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier.

Ever since he witnessed Sun De casting the Black Turtle's Barrier, his knowledge about the Black Turtle's Barrier had increased.

Just ten days inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, which was equivalent to a day outside, he had further comprehended the profundity of the Black Turtle's Barrier.

According to Duan Ling Tian's estimation, based on his current progress, it would not take him more than three months to successfully comprehend the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier!

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that while he was comprehending the Black Turtle's Barrier, another person in the Black Turtle Sanctum had committed a crime and was also sent to the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

The fact that this person had committed a crime had greatly shocked everyone in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Although this person was only an ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, since he was acknowledged by everyone as the Great Senior Brother, every small action of his was enough to raise a commotion in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

This person was none other than Hong Xu whom everyone regarded as the Great Senior Brother in the Black Turtle Sanctum!

When Hong Xu arrived at the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, it was already past noon so there was no need for him to go to the mines.

He went to the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples. His arrival had caught the attention of many Four Symbols Sanctum's disciples who were returning with their wicker baskets on their backs.

"Senior Brother Hong Xu?"

"It really is Senior Brother Hong Xu!"

"Senior Brother Hong Xu has also been banished to the First Mine?"

Many people recognized Hong Xu. Apart from the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples, other people from the other three Sanctums recognized him as well.

As the Great Senior Brother of the Black Turtle Sanctum, Hong Xu was also famous in the Four Symbols Sanctums. For this reason, many people recognized him.

"I wonder what crime did Senior Brother Hong Xu commit? To think that he's also sent to the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine too!"

"No matter what crime he committed, there's no way he'll stay in the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine for long. He has already reached the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage so he won't have to serve his sentence once the Saint Land's assessment comes along. At that time, he'll enter the Saint Land and become a Saint Land disciple!"

"Indeed!"

Although they were surprised to see Hong Xu here, most of the disciples felt that he would be able to leave the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine soon.

“Where’s Duan Ling Tian staying?” Hong Xu asked a disciple who was standing nearby when he saw more and more Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples began to gather around.

As soon as this Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciple heard Hong Xu question, he did not dare to dally and quickly pointed at the highest suspended island and said, “The Primus house!”

A majestic mansion stood on the suspended island.

The mansion had a front and back courtyard. This was the only Primus house in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

Whoosh!

As soon as Hong Xu received his answer, he soared into the sky and arrived in front of the Primus house.

“Senior Brother Hong Xu plans to snatch the Primus house?”

“I don’t think so! Didn’t you hear him ask where Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is staying? If he plans to snatch the Primus house, he would’ve directly headed to the Primus house. Is there a need for him to ask where Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is staying?”

“Today’s Senior Brother Hong Xu’s first day in the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine. Perhaps, he has heard the news of Duan Ling Tian defeating Senior Brother Sun De. He might be unaware that Senior Brother Sun De used to live in the Primus house before Duan Ling Tian moved in. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have asked such a question.”

“Then, does this mean Senior Brother is looking for Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian? Could he have intentionally committed a crime to look for Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian in the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine?”

“That’s possible!”

When the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were still discussing among themselves, Hong Xu was already standing in front of the Primus house. He said loudly, “Duan Ling Tian! I, Hong Xu, am taking your Primus house!

Naturally, that was not his real intention. He only said this so the others would not feel suspicious.

After all, the reason he had intentionally committed a crime to be sent to the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine was to kill Duan Ling Tian!

Apart from him, the only person who knew about this was the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An who threatened him using his clan.

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples present on the seen finally obtained the answer to their question. “It looks like Senior Brother Hong Xu really plans to snatch the Primus house from Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian. Isn’t that akin to snatching the food from the jaw of a tiger?”

Only a few Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples had a slight frown on their faces. They felt that something was not right. This was because Hong Xu had asked where Duan Ling Tian was. He did not ask where the Primus house was.

Although they felt that something was not right, it did not even occur to them that Hong Xu had come to kill Duan Ling Tian!

“Hong Xu? It seems like I’ve heard this name before...” Duan Ling Tian who was comprehending the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda suddenly opened his eyes when he heard Hong Xu’s voice. His eyes brightened as he said, “I remember now! Hong Xu is the Great Senior Brother of our Black Turtle Sanctum!”

As a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple, although Duan Ling Tian had not seen Hong Xu before, he had, naturally, heard of him.

### **Chapter 1974: The Battle with Hong Xu!**

“I heard Hong Xu’s cultivation base is already at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage! He’s also currently the only Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse in the Black Turtle Sanctum!”

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had heard things about Great Senior Brother Hong Xu of Black Turtle Sanctum. Therefore, he was no stranger to Hong Xu.

‘I wonder what he did to be sentenced to the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine... However, with his strength, he would definitely be able to pass the Saint Land’s assessment in the near future and enter the Saint Land to be a disciple! Hong Xu wouldn’t stay in the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine for long.’ Duan Ling Tian knew this very well.

‘However, if he wants to snatch the Primus house from me, we’ll have to see if he has the capability or not!’ With that thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

After leaving the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, Duan Ling Tian put the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda away and walked out. He shot out like an arrow as soon as he opened the door.

Hu!

Duan Ling Tian moved like a gust of wind before he stopped and stood opposite an aloof person outside the Primus house.

‘He’s Hong Xu?’ Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian sized up the middle-aged man standing before him seriously.

The middle-aged man has an ordinary build. His appearance was ordinary as well. One would not be able to pick him out in a crowd.

“Duan Ling Tian!” While Duan Ling Tian was sizing up Hong Xu, Hong Xu was also sizing up Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was the target of his trip here.

Meanwhile, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An’s words to him before he came to the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine rang in his ears again. “Hong Xu, I know you know in your heart that regardless of how things end up, you’ll definitely end up dead. I’m warning you, if Duan Ling Tian is

alive, I'll take it that you showed him mercy even if you die, and I'll vent my anger on the Hong Clan!" These words completely defeated Hong Xu and snuffed out the last of his hope.

Initially, he thought since he was going to die anyway, he would spare Duan Ling Tian at the last moment, and let Duan Ling Tian kill him. In that case, he would not feel so guilty. Duan Ling Tian was innocent after all. Moreover, he really hated Li An. Naturally, he did not want things to go Li An's way.

When he heard Li An's words he completely dismissed this idea. Duan Ling Tian must die! Otherwise, his clan would be annihilated even if he died.

'Duan Ling Tian, I'm sorry... I have to kill you for the sake of my family. Don't worry. I'll join you soon after you die. If there's such a thing like reincarnation, I'm willing to serve you to compensate you,' Hong Xu thought to himself as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

In the Black Turtle Sanctum, one of the reasons Hong Xu was publicly acknowledged as Great Senior Brother, apart from his strength, was due to his kindness. He was known to be a nice person and had no dispute with anyone.

What a pity that such a nice person was forced into a corner by Li An.

A hint of sorrow could be seen in Hong Xu's eyes.

Duan Ling Tian managed to catch the sorrowful look in Hong Xu's eyes. 'What's Hong Xu sad about? It can't be that he couldn't bear to snatch the Primus house away from me, right? If that's the case, why did he come to challenge me?' Duan Ling Tian thought this was the reason for Hong Xu's sorrow-filled eyes.

After all, not even in Duan Ling Tian's wildest dreams did he think that the Black Turtle Sanctum's Great Senior Brother Hong Xu whom he had never met before would want to kill him the first time they meet.

"Duan Ling Tian!" Hong Xu said bluntly, "Today, whether you give up on the Primus house or not, I still want to fight you. I wish to see the three high-grade Divine Abilities that you've mastered!"

Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard Hong Xu's words. It seemed like he was being overconfident. Did he think that Duan Ling Tian was going to give up the Primus house without putting up a fight?

"Senior Brother Hong Xu seems very confident!" The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples who were present also caught the underlying meaning in Hong Xu's words.

"With three high-grade Divine Abilities, Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian won't be any weaker than a Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse... Based on Senior Brother Hong Xu's words, it's clear that he's underestimating Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian."

"That's what I think as well."

"Do you think Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is going to give up the Primus house?"

“How’s that possible! Based on Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian’s character, he won’t just give up the Primus house unless Senior Brother Hong Xu defeats him.”

The group of Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples discussed among themselves. None of them thought Duan Ling Tian would give up the Primus house without putting up a fight.

...

Suddenly, one of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples appeared by the side of another Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciple. He asked in shock, “Cheng Ji? Why are you here? What did you do?”

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciple before him was also from the Black Turtle Sanctum. Moreover, they were fairly close.

“I’ll speak to you about it later.” The latter shook his head as his eyes were trained on Hong Xu. “For now, let’s watch the show. We might be able to learn something from their fight.”

Upon hearing Cheng Ji’s words, the former nodded in agreement and shifted his attention to Hong Xu.

However, at this moment, Cheng Ji narrowed his eyes as he sent Hong Xu a Voice Transmission, “Senior Brother Hong Xu, Elder Li An sent me here... If you can kill Duan Ling Tian with your own strength, you’re to pass me the Kismet Rejoining Pill after you kill him!”

Upon hearing the voice, Hong Xu glanced at a Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciple nearby from the corner of his eyes.

Although he did not know this Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciple, he was certain he was from the Black Turtle Sanctum.

After hearing the Voice Transmission, Hong Xu nodded discreetly despite the anger in his heart.

Before he left for the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine, Li An came to see him and spoke to him for a while.

“Hong Xu, it’s best if you can kill Duan Ling Tian with your own strength... After killing him, hand over the Kismet Rejoining Pill to a Black Turtle Sanctum disciple I will send to the First Mine as well without attracting any attention. He’ll be in touch with you when the time comes! At the same time, he’ll be watching you closely to see if you’re able to kill Duan Ling Tian with your own strength. If he sees that you take the Kismet Rejoining Pill even though you can do it with your own strength, don’t blame me if something happens to your clan.” Hong Xu felt wronged and resentful when he recalled Li An’s words.

However, Hong Xu was right. As he had previously guessed, a rare forbidden pill like the Kismet Rejoining Pill was extremely precious even for someone like Li An.

For the sake of the pill, Li An even sent another Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple to the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he looked at Hong Xu and asked coldly, “Hong Xu, don’t you think you’re underestimating me too much? Did you think I’ll surrender without putting up a fight?”

“I’m merely worried that I won’t be able to enjoy this fight,” Hong Xu responded in an equally cold voice.

“Rest assured...I’ll make sure you enjoy this fight to your heart’s content!”

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, the Sun Saint Energy within Duan Ling Tian’s body surged through his 99 Saint Veins and whirlpools began to form around him.

The Elementary Devouring Tactic!

At the same time, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in his surroundings were sucked into the whirlpools. All of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy entered Duan Ling Tian’s body and raised his Sun Saint Energy.

After a few moments, the whirlpools disappeared. All this happened in just a blink of an eye. However, in that short amount of time, Duan Ling Tian had absorbed all the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in his surroundings. Naturally, the effect was only temporary. Once he depleted his Spiritual Energy, the effect would disappear as well. At that time, his Sun Saint Energy would return to normal!

“Such a useful assist-type Divine Ability!” Hong Xu widened his eyes when he sensed the changes in Duan Ling Tian’s Saint Energy.

In the beginning, Duan Ling Tian merely emitted the aura of a cultivator at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage... In just a blink of an eye, Duan Ling Tian’s aura had changed to that of a cultivator at the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!

“Golden Crow Wings!” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as a pair of flaming wings appeared on his back. As it flapped slightly, the surroundings’ temperature seemed to have risen.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Loud explosions reverberated in the air as Duan Ling Tian flapped his Golden Crow’s Wings. He struck first and charged toward Hong Xu.

Since he was fighting Hong Xu, a Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage cultivator from the Black Turtle Sanctum, he did not dare to act recklessly. That was why he decided to strike first.

“Hong Xu, take this!”

In just a short time, Duan Ling Tian appeared near Hong Xu. He pushed his hand down as Saint Energy surged out of it. As soon as he finished speaking, a palm print appeared and charged toward Hong Xu.

The palm print flew down like a gigantic mountain trying to squash Hong Xu and trap him.

“How timely!” Faced with Duan Ling Tian’s attack, Hong Xu cried out as he charged forward.

Boom!

Faced with Duan Ling Tian’s attack, Hong Xu did not avoid it but faced it directly as he fisted his right hand. His Saint Energy surged out to meet Duan Ling Tian’s attack.

**Chapter 1975: You Lost!**



Bang!

An earth-shattering noise sounded when Duan Ling Tian's palm attack collided with Hong Xu's fist.

The collision was violent. It caused air turbulence and deafening explosions. From the center of the collision, airwaves swept out, turning into a flurry of hurricane.

The strong wind felt like a sharp knife, forcing some of Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples with weaker cultivation base to take a few steps backward.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

It sounded as though the sky was falling.

Sou!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Hong Xu stood unmoving like a statue.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian who made the first move was defeated by the mighty attack. It took him a while to completely avoid the remnant force of Hong Xu's attack.

Hong Xu was a Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse after all. His fist contained the Saint Energy at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage that was powerful.

On the other hand, even with the help of the assist-type Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Energy was merely comparable to an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse. Therefore, he was at a disadvantageous position in this fight!

"The strength of a Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse is actually so terrifying?"

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples were shocked when they saw Duan Ling Tian had fallen into a disadvantageous position. They did not expect Hong Xu to be so strong.

Although they were surprised by Hong Xu's strength, they were still not certain Hong Xu would emerge victorious in the fight with Duan Ling Tian. Duan Ling Tian was someone who had mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities after all! One of the high-grade Divine Abilities he mastered was even an offensive Divine Ability! It was also the only Divine Ability he had not used.

'In regards to brute strength, I'm still inferior to him,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at Hong Xu. However, he was not discouraged. This was because he had even more powerful attacks.

After Hong Xu sent Duan Ling Tian flying with a punch, Hong Xu did not go after him. Instead, he said coldly, "Just use your high-grade offensive Divine Ability... Otherwise, you're no match for me!"

It was not that he did not want to pursue Duan Ling Tian, but Duan Ling Tian's high-grade movement Divine Ability was too fast.

When Duan Ling Tian charged toward him using the high-grade movement Divine Ability, Hong Xu discovered Duan Ling Tian's speed was comparable to someone at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage. In fact, he might even be faster than most people at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage. Due to this reason, he did not chase after Duan Ling Tian.

As long as he was able to wait until Duan Ling Tian's assist-type Divine Ability lost its effect, he would have a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian. It would be extremely easy for him to kill him at that time!

"As you wish!" Duan Ling Tian said softly as soon as he heard Hong Xu's words. He looked at Hong Xu as he flapped his wings again and charged toward Hong Xu at lightning speed.

At this moment, Hong Xu's expression turned solemn, his Saint Energy was faintly showing on the surface of his body in preparation for Duan Ling Tian's attack.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian's strength was equivalent to an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator with the help of his assist-type Divine Ability!

Hong Xu did not dare to underestimate an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator attacking with a high-grade offensive Divine Ability.

Boom!

While Duan Ling Tian arrived near Hong Xu, a loud explosion sounded. The noise came from him stomping his legs as he shot up even higher in the air.

Golden Crow Wings!

Otherworldly Celestial!

A high-grade movement Divine Ability coupled with a high-grade offensive Divine Ability. Duan Ling Tian seemed to have disappeared in the sky above in just a blink of an eye.

Hong Xu's expression turned even more solemn when he saw this.

"Is Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian going to use his high-grade offensive Divine Ability?" At the same time, the eyes of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples brightened immediately. All of them stared unblinkingly at the sky.

"He's back!" Someone cried out suddenly.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian appeared from the clouds.

However, Duan Ling Tian was not alone. There were five people altogether!

"It's just like the rumors said!" Many of the Four Symbols Sanctum disciples' eyes lit up.

Previously, they had heard about Duan Ling Tian's high-grade offensive.

When they saw five Duan Ling Tians, they finally realized Duan Ling Tian had cast his high-grade offensive Divine Ability!

All the Duan Ling Tians who descended from the sky high above looked as elegant as a celestial as their robes fluttered.

Although they looked elegant, the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords in all five pairs of hands emitted an extremely cold and piercing aura.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian seemed like a sword celestial. Moreover, there were five of him diving down to attack Hong Xu at the same time.

His attacks contained the Otherworldly Celestial and the profundity of the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the third stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword. It was an extremely powerful sword technique.

Weng!

At some point, Hong Xu had also taken out his Saint Saber. He began to tremble when he saw there were five Duan Ling Tians. He was trembling not because he was afraid but because he was inserting more and more Saint Energy into his Saint Saber.

The Saint Saber in Hong Xu's hands was a Hundred Inscriptions Saint Saber. It was the Hong Clan who spent a fortune to search for a powerful Saint Inscription Master to forge it specifically for him. It was very powerful.

Hence, in his battle with Duan Ling Tian, put aside other factors, he was definitely not inferior when it came to Saint Weapons.

"Saber King Ingress!" Hong Xu cried out as he faced the high-grade offensive Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial.

Following that, the Saint Energy on his body surged and then dispersed into the surroundings. It created a huge shadow that shrouded him.

The gigantic shadowed had a humanoid shape. One could vaguely see it had a strong build and exerted an extremely oppressive aura. It held a giant saber in its hand that exuded a piercing aura. It seemed as though the God of Saber had arrived as air explosions sounded in the air.

This was the medium-grade offensive Divine Ability that Hong Xu master, the Saber King Ingress! It was a saber-type offensive Divine Ability!

That Divine Ability would summon a Saber King that he could control. The attacks were stronger than his own attacks.

"Ghastly Shadow Thousand Strike!" Hong Xu cried out as he made his move.

The Hundred Inscriptions Saint Saber moved and left a gust of wind in its wake. All of these happened in just a blink of an eye.

"Slash!" Hong Xu shouted under everyone's watchful eyes as he moved the Hundred Inscription Saint Saber in his hands. Simultaneously, the Saber King Ingress made a move as well.

The Saber King's movement mimicked Hong Xu's movements.

The Hundred Inscriptions Saint Saber in Hong Xu's hand slashed toward Duan Ling Tian who was standing nearby. At the same time, the saber in the Saber King's hands also slashed toward Duan Ling Tian

Weng! Weng! Weng! Weng! Weng!

...

A cacophonous sound filled the air. One after another powerful saber rays charged toward the five Duan Ling Tians who looked like celestials.

There were hundreds and thousands of saber rays, it seemed as though they had turned into a web and intend to trap Duan Ling Tian inside.

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples were still in a daze when Duan Ling Tian cried out, "Break!"

In the next moment, under the watchful eyes of those Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples, the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords of all five Duan Ling Tians who seemed like a sword celestial suddenly lit up. From a distance, they looked like five blazing suns, dazzling and blinding.

The saber web brought darkness with it. However, as the five blazing suns rose, it chased away the darkness.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Another series of deafening explosions rang in the air of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples, but they still stared unblinkingly at the scene unfolding before their eyes. Even those with weaker cultivation base gritted their teeth and held on just to watch the fight.

Nobody wanted to miss this!

Under everyone's stares, the saber web was destroyed in the wake of Duan Ling Tian's five Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords.

Suddenly, all five Duan Ling Tians merged into one along with the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian stood with his sword like an invincible Sword Celestial. Wherever his sword pointed, it would bring about destruction.

Wa!

After the saber web was completely destroyed, the Saber King Ingress had also disappeared. Hong Xu suffered a huge backlash, causing him to throw up a mouthful of blood and his face to turn pale.

"Senior Brother Hong Xu lost?"

"It seems to be the case..."

"Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is just too strong! This high-grade offensive Divine Ability looks invincible!"

"Even if Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian's strength isn't at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage, he seemed quite close to it. There aren't many Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouses who would be a match for him, let alone defeat him!"

Admiration filled the eyes of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples as they looked at Duan Ling Tian. Apart from being impressed by Duan Ling Tian's strength, his strength had also gained their respect.

“Hong Xu, you lost!” Duan Ling Tian said calmly as he looked at Hong Xu.

However, inwardly, Duan Ling Tian was not really calm. ‘I didn’t think the power of the Otherworldly Celestial would improve so much. Hong Xu’s strike wasn’t weak at all, and yet, I was able to destroy it!’

### **Chapter 1976: The Forbidden Pill!**

Hong Xu’s prior attack contained an extraordinary saber martial technique and saber Divine Ability. Duan Ling Tian could clearly see and sense it.

It was only natural Duan Ling Tian thought that it was Hong Xu’s strongest attack. Even his strongest attack was destroyed by him. What else could Hong Xu use to fight him?

While most of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples, including Duan Ling Tian, thought Hong Xu would back down, Hong Xu retrieved a pill bottle from his robes under everyone’s watchful eyes.

Pa!

The pill bottle was crushed open as soon as Hong Xu tightened his grip.

In the next moment, a blood-red pill with a black aura that emitted a chilling aura appeared before everyone’s eyes. In just a move, Hong Xu consumed the pill. When he swallowed the pill, the noise was audible to everyone present.

‘That’s not a Healing Medicinal Pill.’ Duan Ling Tian’s expression changed as his eyes widened. He would be able to tell if it was a Healing Medicinal Pill, but the pill Hong Xu had consumed was definitely not a Healing Medicinal Pill. It emitted an extremely dangerous vibe.

Boom!

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were still confused when Hong Xu’s Saint Energy surged again. However, his current Saint Energy seemed to be on a different level compared to before. His current Saint Energy made everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, feel as though he was invincible.

Meanwhile, Hong Xu’s eyes turned red. The lingering Saint Energy around his body was laced with a black aura that sent chills running up the others’ spines.

“Forbidden pill!”

It was unknown who had cried out, but the person’s words instantly caused an uproar.

“Senior Brother Hong Xu actually consumed a forbidden pill?”

“Isn’t it just a Primus house? Is it necessary to take things so far?”

“Although the effects of a forbidden pill are similar to the effects of an assist-type Divine Ability, the aftereffects are worse than the aftereffects of an assist-type Divine Ability. It can’t be compared at all since it’s aftereffects are harmful. Has Senior Brother Hong Xu gone crazy? Is it necessary to consume a forbidden pill just for the sake of a Primus House?”

“Even if he defeats Duan Ling Tian by consuming the forbidden pill, Duan Ling Tian could still snatch the Primus House when the aftereffects set in. I really don’t know what’s going through his mind!”

After Hong Xu consumed the pill, the changes began to show on his body. It caused an uproar among the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples.

Based on their words, it was obvious they were baffled by Hong Xu’s actions.

“Forbidden pill?” When Duan Ling Tian heard the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples’ words, a hint of wariness appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. Naturally, he had heard of forbidden pills. He knew that it was an extremely terrifying pill that could boost one’s strength to a terrifying stage in a short amount of time. Naturally, the aftereffects were terrifying as well.

‘After Hong Xu consumes the forbidden pill, his Saint Energy seemed to have moved past the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage... What’s the forbidden pill that he took?’ Based on Duan Ling Tian’s knowledge, the more a forbidden pill could improve one’s cultivation base, the more valuable it was.

A forbidden pill that could raise one’s cultivation base from the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage to the Peak Quintessential Saint Stage would be a rarity in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

‘Eh? He... he wants to kill me?!’ Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian finally realized that Hong Xu intended to kill him. Hong Xu was emitting a killing intent from his body. It was as though he would not rest until Duan Ling Tian was dead!

In the next moment, Hong Xu made his move.

Sou!

As Duan Ling Tian watched Hong Xu, Hong Xu was charging toward him at an outrageously fast speed. He was giving off an extremely dangerous vibe.

Golden Crow’s Wings!

Duan Ling Tian instantly mobilized the Sun Saint Energy and transformed it into the Golden Crow’s Wings. As he flapped his wings, he shot away at an extremely fast speed. He was trying to widen the gap between him and Hong Xu.

However, even after he used the Golden Crow’s Wings to fly as fast and as far away as he could, he discovered Hong Xu who was emitting killing intent was even faster than he had imagined. In fact, he was even a little faster than Duan Ling Tian.

As time passed, the gap between Hong Xu and Duan Ling Tian began to shorten.

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples who were present had naturally noticed that as well.

“God! What’s Senior Brother Hong Xu doing? Is he trying to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian?”

“Such a terrifying killing intent! When did Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian offend Senior Brother Hong Xu to the point that Senior Brother Hong Xu would go so far as to consume a forbidden pill just to kill him!”

“That’s why Senior Brother Hong Xu had asked where Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian was and not where the Primus house was. As it turns out, we’ve misunderstood his intention. What he wanted was not the Primus house but Senior Brother Ling Tian’s life!”

“Didn’t I say so? It’s impossible Senior Brother Hong Xu would consume a forbidden pill just for the sake of a Primus House... As it turns out, he wants to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian!”

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples present finally realized Hong Xu was trying to kill Duan Ling Tian! Several disciples left in a hurry to notify the elders in the First Mine’s Punishment Zone since there were no elders stationed in the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples in the Punishment Zone.

“Duan Ling Tian, you can stop running... Your strongest point is your speed! If you compare your attack to your speed, your attack is much weaker. I can finally catch up to you now. Do you think you can block my offensive Divine Ability?” Hong Xu said coldly as the distance between him and Duan Ling Tian grew closer and closer.

“My current strength is very close to the Saint Celestial Stage. It can be considered as invincible among those below the Saint Celestial Stage. Unless your cultivation base is at the Saint Celestial Stage, you will die today!” Hong Xu said indifferently.

“Hong Xu, you consumed a forbidden pill just to kill me?” Duan Ling Tian asked in his deep voice. He was extremely shocked.

Although he knew the increase in Hong Xu’s strength was significant after he consumed the forbidden pill, he did not think it was anywhere close to being at the Saint Celestial Stage! That was the reason why Hong Xu’s speed was faster than him even after he had cast the Golden Crow’s Wings.

“What forbidden pill did Senior Brother Hong Xu consume? The effects are outrageous!”

“He’s merely a Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, and yet, his strength has increased to such a terrifying stage. The forbidden pill he consumed couldn’t be an ordinary forbidden pill!”

“You’re right. An ordinary forbidden pill wouldn’t have such an outrageous effect!”

Upon hearing Hong Xu’s words, the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were in shock and disbelief.

“Senior Brother Hong Xu shouldn’t be able to possess a valuable forbidden pill such as that, right?”

“That’s true. In the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, such a forbidden pill is scarce. Generally, only quasi Celestial-grade Saint Refinement Master who are proficient in medicinal refinement can refine a pill like that!”

“I heard Senior Brother Hong Xu comes from a third-rate clan. It’s impossible for him to possess such a pill.”

While most of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were shocked, they did not forget to gossip among themselves.

“Since things have escalated to this stage, I’ll just admit it. You’re right. I consumed the forbidden pill just to kill you, Duan Ling Tian!” Hong Xu growled.

“If I’m not mistaken, this is my first time meeting you! There’s no enmity between us, why do you want to kill me?” Duan Ling Tian asked again.

“I’ll explain it to you when you’re on your way to hell!” Hong Xu growled.

Sha!

Duan Ling Tian’s expression changed drastically at this moment. It was obvious Hong Xu was planning to die along with him.

How much did Hong Xu hate him to the extent that he would give up his life just to kill him?

Upon hearing Hong Xu’s words, the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were shocked again. They all understood the underlying meaning in Hong Xu’s words.

“Goodness! Did Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian kill Senior Brother Hong Xu’s father or his wife? Senior Brother Hong Xu would die just to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian.”

“Yes... Only this kind of enmity will drive someone insane.”

Many Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples discussed among themselves.

“Saber King Ingress!” Hong Xu cried out suddenly when he was still quite a distance away from Duan Ling Tian. He had cast his medium-grade offensive Divine Ability, the Saber King Ingress again.

Instantly, a Saber King as large as a mountain appeared. The size of the Saber King was twice the size of the one from earlier. Moreover, the aura from this Saber King and the saber in his hand was a lot more terrifying as well. It seemed like the two were on completely different levels.

Duan Ling Tian’s expression changed dramatically when he saw this. He knew that not only was Hong Xu faster than him, but his attack could completely destroy his strongest attack. Even if he had mastered the third stage of the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the Sovereign Heart Sword, he might not necessarily be a match for Hong Xu!

“Ghastly Shadow Thousand Strike!” Hong Xu cried out again as the Hundred Saint Inscription Saint Saber in Hong Xu’s shone as bright as the moon as it slashed down at Duan Ling Tian.

Simultaneously, the Saber King made its move as well. He mimicked Hong Xu and swung his saber at Duan Ling Tian.

The sky seemed to change color in the wake of the saber. Even the sun did not seem as bright.

“Oh no!” Duan Ling Tian who was being targeted could only watch as the Saber Ray that seemed capable of cutting through anything formed a web. He felt suffocated as though there was a huge rock on his chest. It was excruciatingly painful!

**Chapter 1977: Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!**



The saber web moved toward Duan Ling Tian thunderously. One could imagine if Duan Ling Tian was shrouded by the saber web, he would definitely die!

“It’s impossible for me to block Hong Xu’s strike with my current strength... It seems that I have no choice but to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!”

Faced with the immensely powerful saber web, Duan Ling Tian mobilized the Sun Saint Energy in his body and activated the Dragon Energy hidden in his body. As the Dragon Energy passed Duan Ling Tian’s body, there would be an earth-shattering change to his appearance. Both his hands and legs had transformed into that of a dragon’s claws. Glistening scales also appeared all over his body.

Duan Ling Tian’s gaze turned colder as he held on to the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Sword after he stretched his dragon’s claws and felt the explosive power in his body. He turned to face the saber web that was charging toward him at an incredibly fast speed. This was the only thing he could do at this moment.

After transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, his speed did not increase significantly. Most of the improvements were on his defense and physical strength. His physical strength worked well with his Sun Saint Energy, enabling him to cast more powerful attacks.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian no longer bothered to hide that he could transform into Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior since there was no way for him to hide it anymore.

Faced with Hong Xu whose strength had improved greatly due to the forbidden pill, he only had two options left. He could either transform into Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior or he could use the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword! He had to make a choice quickly. Otherwise, he would die.

With his current Sun Saint Energy, he was confident he could kill a powerhouse at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage if he used the Jasper Celestial Sword, let alone Hong Xu whose strength was merely close to the Saint Celestial Stage! However, in his opinion, exposing the Jasper Celestial Sword would lead to more trouble. It was better for him to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. If he took the Jasper Celestial Sword out, even the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect would covet it. That was why he decided to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

After transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, Duan Ling Tian’s defense and brute strength had improved a level!

‘If Hong Xu had come seven or eight days later, I wouldn’t even have to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior to defeat him!’ Duan Ling Tian thought as he transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

This was because at that time he would be able to master the Black Turtle’s Barrier since seven or eight days outside were equivalent to 80 or 90 days in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. He was confident he would be able to master the Black Turtle’s Barrier in that amount of time!

It was unfortunate that Hong Xu came so quickly to the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

“That’s...”

After Duan Ling Tian transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he took his sword and slashed at Hong Xu's saber web.

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples present widened their eyes in horror as they stared at Duan Ling Tian. At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was a completely different man in their eyes! He had transformed from a human to a humanoid dragon!

"He has transformed into a Dragon Warrior!"

Among the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples present, there were some who had seen and experienced enough to know what happened to Duan Ling Tian.

"Dragon Warrior?"

"According to the rumors, Dragon Warriors are humans who are gifted the gift of Dragonization by a Divine Dragon with more than seven claws. These Divine Dragons can only bestow Dragonization once in their lives!"

"It didn't even cross my mind that Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is a Dragon Warrior. I wonder which Seven-clawed Divine Dragon from the dragon clan gave him the gift of Dragonization?"

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples continued to discuss among themselves in shock.

All of their attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian's body that they neglected to notice the nine claws that he possessed. They would have been even more shocked if they had noticed this since a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was like a mythical creature to them.

"Otherworldly Celestial!" After Duan Ling Tian transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he split himself into five as he advanced toward the saber web.

All four of his clones were so alike. Even the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords in their hands were identical.

The Otherworldly Celestial was a sword type high-grade offensive Divine Ability. It did not require much to cast it.

With the Golden Crow's Wings, Duan Ling Tian who had split into five collided with the saber web at an extremely fast speed.

Previously, Duan Ling Tian seemed like five celestials when he cast the Otherworldly Celestial. However, after transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he looked like five devils from hell with his humanoid dragon appearance.

Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!

The sound of swords whistled in the air as all five Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords collided with the saber web.

At this moment, not only did Duan Ling Tian use the Sun Saint Energy unreservedly to cast the Elementary Devouring Tactic, but he even used all the brute force that a Nine-clawed Dragon's body granted him.

The saber webs formed from hundreds and thousands of saber rays were being destroyed in the wake of the five solidified sword rays.

Duan Ling Tian's strength after transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was also very close to the Saint Celestial Stage. He was certainly not afraid when faced with the hundreds and thousands of saber rays from Hong Xu's Saber King Ingress.

Weng! Weng! Weng! Weng! Weng!

However, there were too many saber rays that formed the saber web. Although Duan Ling Tian managed to destroy some of it, they still landed on Duan Ling Tian.

After a few moments, all four of Duan Ling Tian's clones could no longer endure the damage and disappeared.

Roar!

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian let out an animalistic roar.

Sou!

A sharp and strong dragon tail appeared behind him on his back. He whipped it around, effectively destroying some of the saber rays. Even then, there was still quite a number of saber rays that landed on Duan Ling Tian.

Qiang! Qiang! Qiang! Qiang! Qiang!

The sound of metal colliding reverberated in the air as saber rays landed on Duan Ling Tian. His scales helped him to deflect the saber rays. However, it still left marks on his dragon scales. If it was any deeper, it would have sliced through his dragon scales.

"Hong Xu!" Duan Ling Tian cried out after he cleared his throat. He managed to destroy Hong Xu's saber web after all.

At the same time, the Golden Crow's Wings began to flap rapidly.

In the next moment...

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of explosions rang in the air. Duan Ling Tian in his dragon humanoid form, coupled with his Golden Crow's Wings, charged at Hong Xu at lightning speed.

Hong Xu's face turned pale immediately. This was because he had exerted all his strength in the earlier attack after he consumed the Kismet Rejoining Pill!

Initially, Hong Xu thought Duan Ling Tian would definitely die under the onslaught of such a powerful attack. Although Duan Ling Tian had surprised him by transforming into a Dragon Warrior, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to resist the attack from his Divine Ability, the Saber King Ingress, and the Ghostly Shadow Thousand Strike Saber Technique.

Naturally, he only had these thoughts, similar to the other Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples, because he thought Duan Ling Tian was merely a Seven-clawed Dragon Warrior!

If Duan Ling Tian was merely a Seven-clawed Dragon Warrior, then naturally, it was impossible for him to fight Hong Xu directly, let alone destroying his attack.

'How could a Seven-clawed Dragon Warrior be so strong?!' Hong Xu thought to himself as he instinctively looked at Duan Ling Tian's dragon claws.

The sight of his dragon claws nearly scared him to death!

"Nine... Nine-claws?!"

He could clearly see nine sharp claws on each of what used to be Duan Ling Tian's hands and legs.

A Nine-clawed Divine Dragon was a legendary existence even in the dragon clan. They were known as Nine-clawed Ancestral Dragons or Nine-clawed Winged Dragons!

'This Duan Ling Tian... He's actually a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?!'

Hong Xiu's face was deathly pale. He no longer moved when faced with Duan Ling Tian who was charging at him at an extremely fast speed. This was due to the aftereffects of the forbidden pill he had consumed. The effects of the Kismet Rejoining Pill had disappeared. Currently, it was impossible for him to make an attack like he did earlier! Due to this reason, he had lost all motivation to fight Duan Ling Tian.

"That... Nine claws?!"

At the same time, after seeing Duan Ling Tian destroying Hong Xu's saber web that consisted of hundreds and thousands of saber rays before charging toward Hong Xu at an extremely fast speed, a number of Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples finally noticed the number of claws Duan Ling Tian possessed.

"That's... He's a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon's claws?"

"A Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?! Goodness! Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian, he's... He's actually a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!!"

"Incredible! Incredible!"

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples gradually regained their senses before they were shocked again. However, their eyes never left Duan Ling Tian.

"How's that possible?!" The expression of the person sent by Black Turtle Sanctum's Great Silver Flame Elder Li An to monitor Hong Xu had changed drastically as his eyes widened in disbelief.

## **Chapter 1978: The Finale**

A Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!

A Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was a legendary figure to most of Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples, including Hong Xu. Many Four Symbols Sanctum's disciples felt as though they were dreaming. They could hardly believe they had witnessed a legendary figure with their own eyes. They even pinched themselves to make sure they were not dreaming.

It was real! Duan Ling Tian was really a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!

"Who would've thought Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior... Senior Brother Hong Xu is not a match for Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian who has transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior even after his strength has increased almost to the Saint Celestial Stage after he had taken the forbidden pill!"

"Yes, Senior Brother Hong Xu's attack earlier is the strongest he could muster after taking the forbidden pill ... The effects of the forbidden pill must have worn off by now. It's impossible for Senior Brother Hong Xu to cast such an attack again!"

"Senior Brother Hong Xu's going to lose!"

"Lose? Do you think it is possible Senior Brother Hong Xu is just going to lose? He

tried to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian just a moment ago... Even if Senior

Brother Duan Ling Tian kills him, it'll be regarded as self-defense. It won't be considered as violating the rules of the Fire Worship Sect! Do you think Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian will let him off the hook?"

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples whispered among themselves in shock when they saw Duan Ling Tian had transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. Soon after, they all concluded that Duan Ling Tian would kill Hong Xu.

Duan Ling Tian flapped his Golden Crow's Wings and charged toward Hong Xu at his fastest speed. He was not worried Hong Xu would escape because he knew the effects of the forbidden pill would not last long. When the effects of the forbidden pill wore off, he would be like a sitting duck.

Duan Ling Tian thought Hong Xu would try and escape when he saw Duan Ling Tian charging at him. However, he discovered Hong Xu seemed to have no intention of running away. He stood in his spot motionlessly as though he was a statue.

"What does he intend to do?" Hong Xu's strange behavior made Duan Ling Tian feel uneasy, causing him to stop a distance away to study Hong Xu. Although he wanted to kill Hong Xu, Hong Xu's strange behavior caused him to feel wary.

"Duan Ling Tian!" A Voice Transmission rang clearly in Duan Ling Tian's ears. He could tell it was Hong Xu. Duan Ling Tian frowned immediately.

What was Hong Xu trying to do? Was he going to beg for mercy?

“Duan Ling Tian, I know there’s nothing you want more than to kill me now... It’s only natural since I came to kill you today!” Hong Xu said, “I’m transmitting my voice to you because of my family, not for anything else. I know now that I’m no match for you even after consuming the forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill, since you’re a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. Moreover, the effects of your assist-type Divine Ability is a lot longer than the Kismet Rejoining Pill. It’s impossible for me to kill you!”

The frown on Duan Ling Tian’s face eased a little when he heard this. It seemed like Hong Xu was aware of his own capability.

“The Kismet Rejoining Pill is a renowned forbidden pill in the Upper Province of Dao Martial Saint Land... The Kismet Rejoining Pill I consumed is just a low-grade Kismet Rejoining Pill. A high-grade Kismet Rejoining Pill can even boost the strength of a Saint Celestial Stage cultivator for a short period of time! A Kismet Rejoining Pill is a very precious pill as only a Quasi Celestial Grade Saint Refinement Master who’s focused on medicine refinement is able to refine a precious pill such as the Kismet Rejoining Pill,” Hong Xu continued to say.

Duan Ling Tian who had no knowledge of the Kismet Rejoining Pill finally gained some understanding about it. When he heard Hong Xu’s explanation, he could not help but ask, “A pill that only a Quasi Celestial Grade Saint Refinement Master can refine?”

“I’m telling you all these things because I hope you’ll do me a favor. I hope that after I die, you’ll inform my family to move away as quickly as possible!” Hong Xu’s Voice Transmission continued to ring in Duan Ling Tian’s ears, “I will tell you a secret to repay your kindness... I came here to kill you because our Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An threatened me with my family! The forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill, I consumed was also given by him.”

Hong Xu gritted his teeth when he mentioned Li An’s name.

Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned grim when he heard Hong Xu’s words. He did not doubt his words because he remembered the hint of helplessness in Hong Xu’s eyes when he first arrived. Duan Ling Tian was confused at that time, but now he finally understood the look in Hong Xu’s eyes then.

Hong Xu had no other choice with Li An threatening him. Duan Ling Tian’s intention of killing Hong Xu began to gradually fade. He became calmer as well. It seemed like Li An was the mastermind behind this.

“You can find an Enforcement Elder to report Li An!” Duan Ling Tian looked at Hong Xu and said using Voice Transmission, “If you feel that the Enforcement Elders are useless, you can report him in the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall after you’ve passed the Saint Land Assessment and become a Saint Land disciple.

“It is useless,” Hong Xu replied using Voice Transmission with a forced smile on his face.

“Even if I succeed in reporting him, Li An will only be lightly punished. He’ll definitely seek revenge after the punishment. He probably won’t dare to seek revenge from me due to the rules in the sect, but he’ll definitely kill my family. If it’s not for my family, I wouldn’t have done as he told me to since he wouldn’t dare to recklessly attack me in the Fire Worship Sect.” Hong Xu paused for a moment before he said in an agonized voice, “Li An told me before I came here that regardless of the reason, if I fail to kill you, he won’t spare my family. I beg you, Duan Ling Tian. Please try and inform my family to leave as soon as possible to avoid Li An. I’m willing to do anything in my next life to repay your kindness if you’re willing

to help me!” Hong Xu quickly hit his forehead with his palm to commit suicide as soon as he ended his Voice Transmission.

Boom!

All the Four Symbols Sanctum’s disciples, including Duan Ling Tian, only regained their senses when Hong Xu’s body fell to the ground. Duan Ling Tian looked at Hong Xu’s body with a complex look in his eyes before he reverted to his human form.

The Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were shocked by what they saw.

“Senior Brother Hong Xu... committed suicide?”

“It seems like he’s worried Duan Ling Tian would torture him. Otherwise, there’s no reason for him to commit suicide.”

“It is better to commit suicide since death is unavoidable.” Although the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples were surprised by Hong Xu’s suicide, they understood his decision.

“Hong Xu is really useless!” The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple that was sent by Li An to monitor Hong Xu frowned after he saw Hong Xu had committed suicide. However, when his eyes shifted to Duan Ling Tian’s figure in the distance, an expression of fear appeared on his face. “I need to inform Elder Li An that Duan Ling Tian is a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior as soon as possible!” He knew what it meant to be a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

Soon after, four Bronze Flame Elders in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine arrived. The Bronze Flame Elders were from the Azure Dragon Sanctum, White Tiger Sanctum, Vermillion Bird Sanctum, and the Black Turtle Sanctum respectively. They were very anxious when they heard this news and had rushed here immediately. They did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to survive. Under normal circumstances, Hong Xu might not be able to kill Duan Ling Tian. However, it would not be difficult for him to kill Duan Ling Tian after consuming the forbidden pill.

They were worried Duan Ling Tian would die. Although they were not certain about Duan Ling Tian’s background, based on the way the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall protected him, they felt his background had to be extraordinary. Otherwise, how did Duan Ling Tian gain the protection of the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall with a mere yellow Innate Spiritual Root?

They were very worried that the Saint Land’s Enforcement Hall would blame them for Duan Ling Tian’s death, therefore they came as fast as they could.

However, they were shocked when they arrived at the scene. This was because they did not expect this.

“Hong Xu is dead?”

A Black Turtle Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder found Hong Xu’s body and his expression changed dramatically. He turned around to look before his gaze finally fell on Duan Ling Tian.

“He’s Duan Ling Tian?”

At the same time, the Bronze Flame Elders of the from the other three Sanctums also looked at Duan Ling Tian. Their eyes were filled with disbelief and surprise.

### **Chapter 1979: Commotion**

“Hong Xu...” Duan Ling Tian paid no attention to the appearance of the elders of the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine. His attention was solely on Hong Xu. To be more precise, Hong Xu’s dead body. As Duan Ling Tian looked at Hong Xu, his voice kept resonating in his mind as well.

He could feel the rage and dissatisfaction Hong Xu had felt when he spoke about Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An. He could feel his grievance and helplessness when he mentioned how Li An had threatened him. Hong Xu’s emotions had affected Duan Ling Tian as well.

Hong Xu was originally the Great Senior Brother of the Black Turtle Sanctum. His potential was limitless, and he was going to the Saint Land soon to become a disciple there. However, just because Li An wanted to use him to deal with Duan Ling Tian, he had forced Hong Xu to a dead end instead.

Duan Ling Tian’s emotions were a little complex when he looked at Hong Xu’s body.

‘Don’t worry. I’ll help you inform your clan,’ Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath and promised Hong Xu inwardly.

Naturally, he could not leave the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine now, but he had to inform Hong Xu’s clan as soon as possible. For this reason, he could only ask somebody for help. He already had someone in mind.

“Duan Ling Tian transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?”

“Faced with Hong Xu whose strength was raised close to the Saint Celestial Stage after he consumed the forbidden pill, Duan Ling Tian had easily blocked his attack?”

“Hong Xu chose to kill himself faced with the pressure from Duan Ling Tian?”

While Duan Ling Tian was staring at Hong Xu’s body in a daze, the elders from the Punishment Zone learned about what had transpired from the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples present on the scene. Their hearts were in turmoil after learning about everything that had happened.

Hong Xu did not hesitate to consume the forbidden pill to kill Duan Ling Tian. However, in the end, he still could not kill Duan Ling Tian! This was because it did not cross his mind that Duan Ling Tian was able to transform into the legendary Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior! If that was not the case, he would have completed his objective of coming here.

The eyes of the elders from the Punishment Zone changed completely when they looked at Duan Ling Tian. This person before their eyes could transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

Even in the dragon clan, someone like that would be placed on the pedestal! Naturally, the dragon clan they thought of referred to the one in the Upper Province, not the Lower Province.



'Could this be the reason the Saint Land Enforcement Hall protected him?' Many thoughts appeared in the elders of the Punishment Zone's mind.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian finally regained his senses and looked at the elders from the Punishment Zone before he greeted them. "Good day, elders."

Usually, they would have been dissatisfied if Duan Ling Tian had greeted them so casually. They would feel as though he did not respect them and treat them dismissively. However, now that they had found out Duan Ling Tian could transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, their behavior was not the same.

The Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was a legendary being. Its position was extraordinary in the dragon clan as well!

Duan Ling Tian did not forget the favor Hong Xu had asked of him. After greeting the elders, he quickly said, "Elders, I would like to meet Elder Peng Hua."

Peng Hua was an elder in the Black Turtle Sanctum whom he had met when he first arrived in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine with the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong.

He did not know anyone else in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine. He thought of Peng Hua now that he wanted to contact Guo Xiong.

Among the four elders from the Punishment Zone, the Bronze Flame Elder from the Black Turtle Sanctum stepped in and said, "You want to look for Elder Peng Hua? I'll bring you to him!"

Duan Ling Tian had also long noticed the exclusive uniform of a Bronze Flame Elder in the Black Turtle Sanctum that he was wearing. He nodded when he heard his response.

"Elders, I'll leave the matters here to you then," the Black Turtle Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder said to the other three elders as he flew out and led Duan Ling Tian away.

Only the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples and the three elders from the Punishment Zone were left on the scene.

All of them only looked away once Duan Ling Tian's figure had disappeared from their sight.

It was easy for the three elders from the Punishment Zone to deal with this matter.

Hong Xu had intended to kill Duan Ling Tian and spared no efforts in doing so. He even consumed a forbidden pill. Although he was not successful in doing so, his crime was not small. It was clear Duan Ling Tian was not in the wrong even if he had killed him, let alone the fact that Hong Xu had committed suicide.

After the three elders from the Punishment Zone cleared Hong Xu's body away, they left immediately.

The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples present on the scene who had fallen silent due to elders' presence finally broke into a commotion as soon as the elders left. They discussed and whispered among themselves. From the beginning until the end, their discussion revolved around Duan Ling Tian.

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At the same time, under the lead of the Black Turtle Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder, Duan Ling Tian finally met the Black Turtle Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder Peng Hua whom he encountered when he arrived at the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine's Punishment Zone.

"Duan Ling Tian?" Peng Hua greeted him with a smile when he saw him. He did not act arrogantly at all.

"Elder Peng Hua, there's a reason I came here today. Can you please invite Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong here now? There's a favor I have to ask from him!" Duan Ling Tian said without beating around the bush as he looked at Peng Hua.

"No problem!" Peng Hua immediately agreed to Duan Ling Tian's request. He seemed to realize the matter was urgent, and he quickly left for the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Soon after, he returned with Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong in tow.

"Duan Ling Tian, is there a reason you're looking for me?" Guo Xiong asked in confusion as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

If it was an ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple who sent someone to look for Guo Xiong, he would have dismissed it. No matter what, he was still the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder, how could he let someone order him around? However, when he heard the person looking for him was Duan Ling Tian, he came immediately without any hesitation.

This was due to Duan Ling Tian's Innate Spiritual Root and his boundless potential. As long as he did not die, his achievements would not be inferior to Guo Xiong in the future. Someone like that was worthy of his respect.

"Elder Guo Xiong!" When Duan Ling Tian saw Guo Xiong, he did not beat around the bush and recounted what happened with Hong Xu through Voice Transmission.

As Guo Xiong listened to Duan Ling Tian, his expression turned grimmer and grimmer.

A Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple had actually been forced by Li An to such an extent in broad daylight. This matter infuriated Guo Xiong as well!

"Don't worry. I'll seek justice for him!" Guo Xiong said in a deep voice.

"Elder Guo Xiong, seeking justice for him is not the most important matter now. I hope you can inform Hong Xu's family about this and ask them to leave as soon as possible. If we're too late, I'm afraid Li An would vent his anger on them!" Duan Ling Tian said to Guo Xiong solemnly, "Elder Guo Xiong, please help me with this matter. I'll owe you a favor!" Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate to owe Guo Xiong a favor over this matter.

This shocked Guo Xiong as well. “Based on your earlier words, this is your first encounter with Hong Xu, right? Although he had asked this favor from you, is there a need for you to be so concerned over it?”

“Please help me, Elder Guo Xiong!” Duan Ling Tian said solemnly.

Was there a need for him to be so concerned?

Maybe.

Even Duan Ling Tian did not know why he was so concerned about Hong Xu’s matter. Perhaps, he pitied Hong Xu. Or it could be that he subconsciously feel guilty since it was because of him that Li An had driven Hong Xu to a dead end.

“Don’t worry. I know Hong Xu’s clan. After I leave here, I’ll look for two friends and head to Hong Xu’s clan to ask them to relocate!” Guo Xiong promised solemnly when he saw how serious Duan Ling Tian was.

Perhaps, he could use Hong Xu’s death to lodge a complaint against the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder Li An. However, even if the truth was found out by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall, Li An would only be punished lightly, since he did not physically kill Li An.

As for Hong Xu’s clan, even if Li An annihilated his clan, it did not count as violating the rules in Fire Worship Sect.

“Thank you, Elder Guo Xiong. I, Duan Ling Tian, will remember this favor of yours!”

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Guo Xiong bade Duan Ling Tian farewell and left.

Duan Ling Tian felt more assured after he heard Guo Xiong’s promise. He instantly returned to the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples and entered the Primus house as the Four Symbols Sanctums’ disciples looked at him respectfully. He continued to comprehend the number one offensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, in the Fire Worship Sect!

At the same time, news of Duan Ling Tian being a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and how invincible he was to the extent that he forced his opponent, Hong Xu, to commit suicide, had spread to all four Sanctums and created a commotion.

“Duan Ling Tian’s a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?”

“My goodness! Why would a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior come to our Fire Worship Sect instead of enjoying all the benefits he would receive in the dragon clan?”

After finding out that Duan Ling Tian was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, the members from the four Sanctums were stunned.

As far as they knew, the position a Seven-clawed Dragon Warrior had in the dragon clan was equivalent to a Six-clawed Divine Dragon while the position an Eight-clawed Dragon Warrior was equivalent to a Seven-clawed Divine Dragon. The position a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior had in the dragon clan, on the other hand, was equivalent to an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon!

The current dragon clan did not even have one Eight-clawed Divine Dragon!

## Chapter 1980: Li An's Speculation

To a certain extent, a Dragon Warrior could be considered as an advocate for the Divine Dragon that gave him the gift of Dragonization.

For example, a Seven-clawed Dragon Warrior was the advocate for a Seven-clawed Divine Dragon, an Eight-clawed Dragon Warrior was the advocate for an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon, and a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was the advocate for a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon.

"To think that Duan Ling Tian is a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. It seems like a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon existed in our Dao Martial Land before!"

"That's right! A Nine-clawed Divine Dragon is a legendary and mythical creature to us. Prior to this, we weren't even sure if a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon existed in the Dao Martial Saint Land. However, since Duan Ling Tian's able to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, it's more than enough to prove that a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon had once existed in the Dao Martial Saint Land!"

"Duan Ling Tian must have obtained the legacy of a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon. That must be how he gained the ability to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior."

"I'm really envious of Duan Ling Tian's encounter!"

The news of Duan Ling Tian being a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior had spread to every nook and cranny in the Fire Worship Sect's Four Symbols Sanctums.

The news was too shocking.

After all, this meant that a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon once existed in the Dao Martial Saint Land before!

That was how Duan Ling Tian was able to obtain the legacy left behind by a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon and gain the ability to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

Apart from this, they could not come up with another plausible reason.

"Senior Brother Hong Xu is forced to commit suicide by Duan Ling Tian?" Meanwhile, it was not peaceful in the Black Turtle Sanctum. Many people could not accept it when they learned Hong Xu had been forced to commit suicide when faced with the pressure from Duan Ling Tian.

These people were the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples who had regarded the Black Turtle Sanctum's Great Senior Brother Hong Xu as their idol.

"Hurmph! What do you even mean by Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian forced Senior Brother Hong Xu to commit suicide? If Senior Brother Hong Xu did not intend to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian, would Senior Hong Xu commit suicide due to the pressure from Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian? What a joke!" Many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples who knew the details of what had transpired stood on Duan Ling Tian's side and defended him.

"That's right! Hong Xu even resorted to consuming a forbidden pill just to kill Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian. Tsk tsk... What an elaborate plan! What a pity he's not a match for Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian

even after consuming the forbidden pill.” Compared to those who stood up for Hong Xu, there were undoubtedly more Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples that stood on Duan Ling Tian’s side.

As the saying went, ‘In war, those who win become the ruler while the losers become bandits!’

Coupled with the fact that Duan Ling Tian was not in the wrong, it was only natural there were more people supporting him compared to the people supporting Hong Xu.

“Hurmph! To think that I regarded Hong Xu as the Great Senior Brother before this. I can’t believe he’s so ruthless that he intended to kill a fellow disciple that he didn’t even think twice before he consumed a forbidden pill. I was blind before this!”

“Me too! I regarded Hong Xu as my idol previously. Now that I think about it, I feel disgusted. How could I regard someone like that as my idol!”

Many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who originally respected Hong Xu a lot changed their minds about him one by one.

Hong Xu’s actions had hurt them.

Naturally, there was a minority of Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who found the incident of Hong Xu attempting to kill Duan Ling Tian strange.

“If I’m not mistaken, both of them are strangers. Why would Senior Brother Hong Xu try to kill Duan Ling Tian? Moreover, he did not even hesitate to consume a forbidden pill? How big is the enmity between them?”

“If they had enmity, Senior Brother Hong Xu would have long made his move on Duan Ling Tian. Why would he wait until Duan Ling Tian’s banished to the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine before he made his move?”

“Indeed! I also feel there’s something strange about this matter.”

“Does any of you remember that two days ago, Elder Li An came to the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples and looked for Senior Brother Hong Xu?!”

“You mean... Elder Li An is the one who instructed who Senior Brother Hong Xu to kill Duan Ling Tian?”

“Shhhh... Keep your voice down! Are you seeking death?!”

These Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples were smarter and immediately guessed the incident of Guo Xiong going to the Four Symbols Sanctum to kill Duan Ling Tian had something to do with their Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An.

After all, the dispute between Li An and Duan Ling Tian was not a secret in the Black Turtle Sanctum and the Four Symbols Sanctums.

Although they were aware of this, they did not dare to recklessly spread this news. If news of this spread out, and they were caught by Li An, they would be skinned alive if they were not killed.

They were not Duan Ling Tian and did not dare to offend Li An.

When the Black Turtle Sanctum was in an uproar over Duan Ling Tian and Hong Xu's matter, a travel-weary Li An finally returned.

As soon as he returned, before he even had time to rest, he learned about what happened in the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine. The person who told him about this was the person he sent to the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

"Useless trash!" After finding out Hong Xu had committed suicide and Duan Ling Tian was safe, Li An was so enraged that he began to curse loudly.

Bang!

An explosion sounded as the new stone table in the front courtyard of Li An's mansion was destroyed by him again with a slap.

The useless trash he was cursing was none other than Hong Xu!

Initially, he thought with the forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill, that he had given to Hong Xu, Hong Xu would be able to raise his strength close to the Saint Celestial Stage, and it would be easy for him to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Who knew God would play such a joke on him?!

Even after Hong Xu had consumed the forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill, he was no match for Duan Ling Tian. This was because Duan Ling Tian was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!

At the eleventh hour, at the brink of life and death, Duan Ling Tian had transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior that allowed him to withstand Hong Xu's strongest attack after consuming the forbidden pill, the Kismet Rejoining Pill! Once his attack missed, it also meant he no longer had a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian.

"And that Duan Ling Tian... To think he's actually a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior! What did he do to deserve obtaining the legacy of a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon? Damn it! Damn it!" The moment Li An thought about how Duan Ling Tian was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, his expression turned grave.

"I must get rid of Duan Ling Tian! I must get rid of him before he grows even stronger!" Li An said through clenched teeth after he took a deep breath.

The martial Dao and the Divine Abilities that Duan Ling Tian possessed were enough to make him feel wary. Now that he learned that Duan Ling Tian was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he became even warier of Duan Ling Tian.

If the dispute between him and Duan Ling Tian was a minor one, taking into account Duan Ling Tian's identity as a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he might have put his pride aside and take the initiative to make peace with Duan Ling Tian. After all, he was uncertain if Duan Ling Tian had any connections with the dragon clan.

Although the dragon clan currently only had a few Seven-clawed Divine Dragons at the garrison and was only slightly more powerful than the ordinary first-rate forces, the heritage of the dragon clan was enough to make him feel wary!

Although all of the three great sects were much stronger than the dragon clan, they did not dare to simply look for trouble with the dragon clan.

The dragon clan was an ancient and mysterious clan.

This clan had a long heritage in the Dao Martial Saint Land and even surpassed the three great sects too!

Who would believe it if somebody said that such an ancient and mysterious clan did not have any trump cards?

...

However, Li An knew very well that he and Duan Ling Tian had long reached a point where neither one would rest until one of them died. There was no room to turn back at this point.

What he wanted to do now was to kill Duan Ling Tian before Duan Ling Tian grew stronger! Otherwise, once Duan Ling Tian grew into his potential, Li An would definitely die!

“Before Hong Xu killed himself, he exchanged a look with Duan Ling Tian for a moment. I’m sure that in that time, he must have spoken to Duan Ling Tian using Voice Transmission and told him about many things!”

Although Li An was not present during the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Hong Xu, he learned about everything from the spy he sent to the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine. Even the minor details were not left out.

“Hurmph! Hong Xu has betrayed me! Not only that, but if I’m not mistaken, he must have begged Duan Ling Tian to help ask the Hong Clan to relocate! How unfortunate! Did he think I’ll leave the Hong Clan alone after he killed Duan Ling Tian? I, Li An, am not such a fool to the point that I don’t even know what it means to eliminate a problem by destroying its roots!” Li An snorted coldly as he narrowed his eyes. A sneer appeared on his face.

Two days ago, when Hong Xu entered the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine, he had already made a trip to the Hong Clan and annihilated all of them!

The Hong Clan was situated in the Western Region and was not far from the Fire Worship Sect. With his speed, it only took him about half a day to reach the Hong Clan. Similarly, it didn’t take him more than half a day to annihilate the Hong Clan! In fact, he had just returned from the Hong Clan.

“Hong Xu must not have expected that even if Duan Ling Tian manages to find someone to warn the Hong Clan to relocate, what awaited them is only a pile of ruins!” Li An muttered to himself as the smile on his face turned colder. “However, I must pass on the news about Duan Ling Tian being a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and that he had seemingly obtained the legacy of a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon to the Northern Plethora Sect and Yang Chong!”

Li An’s train of thoughts changed its course. He could not help but analyze the situation as he muttered under his breath, “I’m certain after the Dao Martial Saint Land was split into the Upper Province and the

Lower Province, there was no Nine-clawed Divine Dragon. In other words, Duan Ling Tian must not have obtained the Nine-clawed Divine Dragon's legacy from the Upper Province. He must have obtained it from the Lower Province! It's possible Duan Ling Tian may be from the Lower Province!"

The moment he thought of this, he took out an empty jade token and recorded his speculations on it before he sent someone to send it to the first-rate force, the Northern Plethora Sect, and to hand it over to their fifth elder, Yang Chong!

In the jade token, he had also given a suggestion to Yang Chong. If the search for Duan Ling Tian's background yielded no results in the Upper Province, he could search the Lower Province.

It would never cross Duan Ling Tian's mind, not even in his wildest dreams, that Li An was so smart. He could come to a conclusion that he might be from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land just based on the fact that he was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!