

SOVEREIGN 1993

Chapter 1993: Fire Worship Sect's First Silver Flame Elder

Yang Wen who was in the lead entered the Palace of Death first followed by Duan Ling Tian.

After they entered the Palace Of Death, Duan Ling Tian saw an arena in the distance.

The arena was huge. Apart from where Duan Ling Tian was standing, the remaining areas were all seats for spectators in forms of steps. At this moment, it was completely vacant.

One could faintly see dried blood stains on the arena. It was obvious it was from previous Death Duels.

"This is the Death Arena?" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes.

The Death Arena was the venue the Palace Of Death provided for Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land disciples who had signed the Death Pact. Once they stepped into the arena, one of them was destined to die,

"Both of you want to sign a Death Pact?" A voice rang in Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wen's ears when both of them were staring at the arena.

The hoarse voice seemed as though it came from far away, but in just a blink of an eye, it sounded right by their ears.

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wen instantly regained their senses and saw an old man had appeared next to them.

The old man was skinny and had an ordinary appearance. He was wearing the exclusive uniform of a Silver Flame Elder.

'The custodian of the Palace Of Death?' During Duan Ling Tian's journey here, he had learned a little about the Palace of Death from the many Saint Land disciples. He knew there were one Silver Flame Elder and three Bronze Flame Elders in the Palace of Death. The only Silver Flame Elder was also the custodian of the Palace of Death.

The custodian of the Palace of Death was called Nie Zui. A First Silver Flame Elder that was widely acknowledged in the Fire Worship Sect.

If Li An was the First Silver Flame Elder in the Four Symbols Sanctums' Black Turtle Sanctum, then Nie Zui was the First Silver Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect!

'This is the custodian of the Palace Of Death? The powerhouse who's ranked in the top 100 on the Supreme Saint Ranking?' Duan Ling Tian was surprised when he saw this inconspicuous-looking old man.

During Duan Ling Tian's journey here, the Saint Land disciples did not forget to mention the custodian of the Palace of Death. For this reason, apart from knowing he's the custodian of the Palace of Death, he also knew he was a powerhouse ranked at the 78th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking!

Rumor had it that only two people among all the Silver Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect were ranked in the top 100 of the Supreme Saint Ranking.

Nie Zui was ranked at the 78th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking while the other Silver Flame Elder was ranked at the 99th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking was far inferior compared to Nie Zui,

“I’m true disciple Yang Wen. Good day, Elder Nie Zui!” Yang Wen greeted the old man and bowed respectfully while Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts about Nie Zui.

Although Yang Wen was arrogant, he still bowed before Elder Nie Zui.

“I’m Duan Ling Tian. Good day, Elder Nie Zui,” Duan Ling Tian greeted the old man as well as soon as Yang Wen’s voice caused him to regain his senses.

Duan Ling Tian noticed the old man was studying him and Yang Wen calmly. Although he was just looking at them, it pressured them immensely on a spiritual level.

“Did both of you come here to sign the Death Pact to engage in a Death Duel?” The old man finally asked them.

He was the custodian of the Palace Of Death after all. Naturally, he knew Saint Land disciples would not come looking for him unless they planned to engage in a Death Duel.

If Duan Ling Tian said yes now but changed his mind later even though the custodian of the Death Palace would not force him if he changed his mind, he would still teach Duan Ling Tian a lesson.

This was because that kind of conduct was equivalent to making a mockery out of the custodian of the Palace of Death and tarnishing its sanctity. It was not wrong for the custodian of the Palace of Death to teach Duan Ling Tian a lesson.

The Saint Land Enforcement Hall would not take any actions as well as long as Duan Ling Tian did not die and was not crippled.

“Yes,” Duan Ling Tian replied without any hesitation. When he saw Yang Wen did not reply but had turned to look at him instead, he could guess what Yang Wen was thinking.

Duan Ling Tian’s reply caused Yang Wen’s expression to turn slightly grave before it was replaced with an expression of delight. It was obvious the delight came from what he perceived would be Duan Ling Tian’s misfortune since he did not think Duan Ling Tian would dare to sign the Death Pact.

“Follow me,” Nie Zui said as he walked to the side.

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wen obediently followed after him.

Soon after, under Nie Zui’s instructions, one of the three Bronze Flame Elders from the Palace of Death took a Death Pact and a writing brush and a bowl of special ink out.

“Who’s going to sign first?” Nie Zui asked indifferently as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wen.

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wen looked at each other and answered almost simultaneously, “Him!”

“Hurmph!” Nie Zui snorted coldly when he saw how both of them seemed to be stalling for time. Then, he looked at Yang Wen and said indifferently, “When I asked if both of you are here to sign the Death Pact, you didn’t reply. For this reason, you’ll be the first to sign the Death Pact!”

Yang Wen did not expect he would land himself in such a situation just because he did not reply earlier.

He instantly recalled his younger brother’s, Yang Wu, death. A hint of dread rose in his heart. For this reason, he looked at Nie Zui and asked, “Elder Nie Zui, can you let him sign the Death Pact first? As long as he signs the Death Pact, I’ll definitely sign the Death Pact as well!”

“Yang Wen, you’re a true disciple. Don’t tell me you’re actually scared of an ordinary elite disciple like me?” Duan Ling Tian mocked Yang Wen as he laughed.

On the other hand, Nie Zui’s expression turned solemn immediately when he heard Yang Wen’s words.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian would not sign the Death Pact first. What if Yang Wen changed his mind? He had come here today to kill Yang Wen after all.

This was not only because Yang Wen wanted to kill him. It was in parts because of Yang Wen’s father, Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, had threatened him with the safety of his family and friends!

To Duan Ling Tian, when Yang Chong had threatened him using his family, he had regarded him as his mortal enemy. He would not rest until one of them was dead.

Since Yang Chong wanted to attack Duan Ling Tian’s family, he was going to kill Yang Chong’s son! He had already killed his youngest son, he was going to kill his eldest son as well!

‘Yang Chong, I’d really like to see the expression on your face when you find out I’ve killed your eldest son as well,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

When Yang Wen heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, his expression turned extremely grave as he glared at Duan Ling Tian.

“Yang Wen? You’re the son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect?” Nie Zui asked nonchalantly as he looked at Yang Wen.

“Yes,” Yang Wen answered politely and looked away from Duan Ling Tian.

“No matter what, your father’s a powerhouse ranked at the 146th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking! As his son, and as our Fire Worship Sect’s true disciple, since you’ve already stepped into the Palace of Death, don’t tell me you’re afraid of signing the Death Pact first? If that’s the case, then get the hell out of here now!” Nie Zui rebuked Yang Wen as an expression of anger appeared on his face. His voice was harsh when he spoke.

At the same time, the domineering aura that emitted from Nie Zui’s body shrouded Yang Wen, pressuring him until he paled.

Duan Ling Tian clicked his tongue as though he was watching a show. "I wonder if Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, will throw up three liters of blood in anger when he finds out that his eldest son gave up the chance to avenge his youngest son?"

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Yang Wen narrowed his eyes immediately.

On the other hand, Nie Zui looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of surprise in his eyes. "You're Duan Ling Tian?"

Despite being in the Saint Land of the Fire Worship Sect, Nie Zui had also heard of the news where Yang Wu, the youngest son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, was killed by a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple called Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, he had also heard of various news regarding Duan Ling Tian after that.

He even knew that Duan Ling Tian had come to their Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land to be a disciple in advance for being able to successfully comprehend the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier.

However, despite hearing news about Duan Ling Tian, he had not seen him before. Therefore, he did not recognize him when he saw him today.

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian quickly responded to Nie Zui as he quickly erased the mocking expression on his face that was directed at Yang Wen.

At the moment when Nie Zui was about to say something to Duan Ling Tian, Yang Wen suddenly said, "I'll sign!"

Then, Yang Wen stepped out. His eyes were bloodshot as he took the writing brush from the Palace Of Death's Bronze Flame Elder before signing his name on the Death Pact with a few strokes of the brush.

Slap!

A light sound echoed in the air. Yang Wen' had used his right hand to imprint his handprint with the special ink on the Death Pact.

After signing the Death Pact, Yang Wen turned to look at Duan Ling Tian as he said coldly, "Duan Ling Tian, if you don't dare to sign the Death Pact, it means you're making a fool out of Elder Nie Zui and tarnishing the sanctity of the Palace Of Death!" Yang Wen said. His words clearly put Duan Ling Tian at odds with the Palace Of Death.

As soon as he finished speaking, apart from Nie Zui, the custodian of the Palace of Death, who remained calm, the other three Bronze Flame Elders were looking at Duan Ling Tian with an unfriendly expression.

Upon hearing Yang Wen's words, Duan Ling Tian shrugged lazily and said, "You don't have to worry about this."

Chapter 1994: A Bet

The moment Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, under Yang Wen's gaze that was filled with disbelief, Duan Ling Tian signed his name and left his handprint on the Death Pact.

"The Death Pact is done!" As soon as Duan Ling Tian signed the Death Pact, the Bronze Flame Elder from the Palace Of Death cried out, "Yang Wen and Duan Ling Tian will enter the Death Arena and engage in a Death Duel in an hour!"

'In an hour?' Duan Ling Tian was stunned and baffled. He did not understand why they had to wait an hour before engaging in a Death Duel.

Was there a need to wait this long?

"In the next hour, our Palace Of Death will become the banker and set up a place to bet for the Death Duel between you and Yang Wen! If you're confident, you can bet all your Contribution Points on yourself. Naturally, if you die, you'll still lose all your Contributions Points!" Nie Zui said indifferently as though he could read Duan Ling Tian's mind, "For this reason, usually those who enter the Death Arena will bet all of their Contribution Points on themselves!"

Duan Ling Tian finally understood. He did not expect a serious place like the Palace of Death had such a tradition.

"The Palace Of Death won't earn any Contribution Points from this. We're merely acting as the middle person. We'll calculate the odds based on the situation. Naturally, the elders from the Palace of Death are allowed to place a bet as well if they want to," Nie Zui continued to add.

"This means other Saint Land disciples are allowed to bet, Elder Nie Zui?" Duan Ling Tian asked in surprise.

"Of course!" Nie Zui nodded. "Otherwise, what do you think the seats in the Death Arena are for? If you want to place a bet, you can look for any of the Bronze Flame Elders. After you place your bet and enter the Death Arena, the other Saint Land disciples will then be allowed to enter the Death Arena to place their bets before taking their seats. Before I give an order, both of you are not allowed to make a move even if you've already entered the Death Arena! Otherwise, the person who makes the first move will be severely punished by the Palace of Death!" His voice became stern when he reached this part of the sentence. "Any disruption of the tradition of the Palace of Death is strictly forbidden!"

Duan Ling Tian nodded before he walked away to look for the Bronze Flame Elders to place his bet.

'Unfortunately, I only have 100 Contribution Points.' When Duan Ling Tian was placing his bet, he could not help but sigh. He thought to himself, 'I can only hope the others place their bets on Yang Wen. In that case, I'll be able to win quite a number of Contribution Points!'

After Duan Ling Tian finished placing his bet, he entered the Death Arena.

Meanwhile, Nie Zui looked at Yang Wen who stood rooted to the ground with a solemn expression. He fiercely prompted Yang Wen and caused him to regain his senses. After he regained his senses, he quickly placed his bet as well. After that, he entered the Death Arena, standing opposite of Duan Ling Tian, and glared at him.

“Duan Ling Tian, although I don’t know where you get your courage from to sign the Death Pact, I have to tell you that I’ll definitely kill you today to avenge my younger brother and relieve my father of his hatred!” Yang Wen said with a grave expression.

Unlike Yang Wen, Duan Ling Tian’s expression remained calm. When he heard Yang Wen’s words, he replied in a speed that was neither fast nor slow, “Everybody can boast. It remains to be seen if you have the capability to kill me!”

“I’d like to see if you’ll still be able to maintain your composure after an hour!” Yang Wen smirked.

“Then I suppose you’ll have to wait and see,” Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently. At the same time, he turned to look outside the Palace of Death.

When Duan Ling Tian looked outside, he saw the Saint Land disciples being given some sort of instruction. They all swarmed to one place, causing the Palace Of Death to look like a bustling market.

“Duan Ling Tian actually signed the Death Pact?” Many of the Saint Land disciples had a baffled and disbelieving expression on their faces. Even after a long while, they did not regain their senses.

“I really don’t know where he gets his courage from! To think he actually signed the Death Pact! He’s just seeking death!” Some Saint Land disciples snorted disdainfully. They thought Duan Ling Tian had overestimated his own strength when he signed the Death Pact!

“I think Duan Ling Tian is just lucky. Since he had arrived in the Fire Worship Sect, he had offended the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An, but he didn’t suffer any losses so far. Based on the following incidents, he doesn’t seem like a person who would do something that would make him suffer losses!” A Saint Land disciple recalled the incidents that had happened to Duan Ling Tian after he arrived at the Fire Worship Sect.

However, this Saint Land disciple’s words made many people mock him.

“What? Don’t tell me you think he’s stronger than Senior Brother Yang Wen? You think he’ll be able to kill Senior Brother Yang Wen in this Death Duel?”

“Stop joking! The reason Duan Ling Tian has never suffered from any losses since he came to the Fire Worship Sect is due to his strength. He has yet to encounter a tough opponent! As for Elder Li An, that’s just because it’s not convenient for him to make a move due to his position. Otherwise, how do you think he’s able to survive up until now?”

“That’s right! If you think Duan Ling Tian will win today, you can place your bet on him. However, I’m afraid your Contribution Points will only go down the drain!”

“That’s right! Since you have so much faith in Duan Ling Tian, you might as well place your bet on him. We’ll earn more Contribution Points as well that way!”

Even this Saint Land disciple did not expect his words would bring about so much mockery from the other Saint Land disciples. He immediately fell silent.

As for placing his bet on Duan Ling Tian, he was not that stupid to do so!

Earlier, he had just casually made a remark without much thought. In his opinion, the chances of Yang Wen winning the Death Duel was much higher. After all, Yang Wen was a true disciple of their Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land and was even a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!

As for Duan Ling Tian, although he had mastered a few high-grade Divine Abilities and was quite strong, due to his yellow Innate Spiritual Root, it would be difficult for him to surpass Yang Wen, let alone kill him.

"I'll bet 300 Contribution Points that Senior Brother Yang Wen will win!"

"I'll bet 500 Contribution Points on Senior Brother Yang Wen!"

"I'll go all out and bet everything I have. I'll bet 3,300 Contribution Points on Senior Brother Yang Wen!"

As the group of Saint Land disciples swarmed in to place their bets, the two Palace Of Death's Bronze Flame Elders began to get busy accepting the bets and recording the betting information of all the Saint Land disciples.

Even after 15 minutes went by, none of the Saint Land disciples had bet on Duan Ling Tian! Based on this, one could see much they looked down on Duan Ling Tian.

"Nobody bet on Duan Ling Tian?" This matter soon gained the attention of some Saint Land disciples. "In that case, how are we going to earn Contribution Points?"

"That's right! The final odds of the bet made by the Palace Of Death is calculated based on the number of bets placed on both sides. If everybody bets on Senior Brother Yang Wen, in the end, we'll only receive the number of Contribution Points we have bet and not a single point more!"

"Is there anyone who wants to bet on Duan Ling Tian? If this continues on, we won't be able to earn anything at all!"

"Do you think we're idiots that we'll place our bets on Duan Ling Tian? That's like giving away our Contribution Points!"

The group of Saint Land disciples burst into a commotion again. Nobody regarded Duan Ling Tian highly, and all of them were certain he would die today!

"Although Duan Ling Tian's pretty strong, he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. With the limit his Innate Spiritual Root imposes on him, he won't be able to achieve anything great even if he has mastered a few high-grade Divine Abilities!"

"That's right! In this situation, only an idiot would bet on him!"

"It can't go on like this! If all of us bet on Senior Brother Yang Wen, we won't be able to earn a single Contribution Point."

"What to do? Why don't you bet on Duan Ling Tian instead?"

"I'm not an idiot okay?!"

The Saint Land disciples were snapping at one another since nobody was willing to bet on Duan Ling Tian when a voice resonated in the air, attracting the other Saint Land disciples' attention.

"I'll bet 100 Contribution Points on Duan Ling Tian!" A Saint Land disciple took the lead and bet on Duan Ling Tian.

Although it was only 100 Contribution Points, the eyes of the other Saint Land disciples brightened up immediately. It was fine as long as someone took the lead to bet on Duan Ling Tian. Eventually, there would be more people who follow suit. If that happened, they no longer had to worry about not earning any Contribution Points!

It did not matter even if they only earned a little Contribution Points. It was a sure win anyway.

As the saying went, 'No matter how small it is, it is still a piece of meat'.

"Isn't he Sun De?"

"Sun De? The Saint Land disciple who successfully comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier before Duan Ling Tian?"

"That's him! I heard the reason he successfully comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier was due to Duan Ling Tian unknowingly helping him. No wonder he would bet on Duan Ling Tian. As it turns out, he's just returning the favor!"

"He's smart. He probably knows this is the last chance he'll get to repay Duan Ling Tian's favor. After today, he won't be able to do so anymore even if he wants to."

Many Saint Land disciples recognized the Saint Land disciple, Sun De, who placed his bet on Duan Ling Tian.

Sun De looked at Duan Ling Tian who was in the Death Arena and smiled wryly as he said through Voice Transmission, "Junior Brother Ling Tian, I've just arrived at the Saint Land, and this is all of the Contribution Points that I have."

It was Duan Ling Tian who told him to place a bet on him.