

Chapter 2281 Playing Dirty

Young Mansion Master Duan Ling Tian of Azure Cloud Mansion? Isn't he a weakling? How did he suddenly become so powerful?"

"Didn't they say that the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, was taken away from him by an Upper Province powerhouse? How did he reclaim it?"

"It has merely been a few years since he left the Lower Province for the Upper Province of Dao Martial Saint Land. Back then, he hadn't even broken through to the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, right? Currently, he's as strong as a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!"

After confirming that the human powerhouse they saw killing their Boar Devil clan's three Great Guardian Warriors in the mirror image was the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, the chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Thunder Boar Tribe took a while to regain their senses.

The three Patriarchs were in the Lower Province after all, it was only natural that they did not know about the happenings in the Upper Province. Otherwise, they would not be in the dark.

Tales of Duan Ling Tian killing Xie Zong, an elder from Black Kshetra Sect, to reclaim the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, was well-known in the Upper Province!

"I thought long and hard about this before I came to a shocking conclusion..." The chief of the Red Boar Tribe said with a frown.

"What is it?"

The chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Thunder Boar Tribe turned to look at the chief of the Red Boar Tribe in curiosity when they heard his words.

"My guess is news about the Devilseal Tablet being snatched from Duan Ling Tian by someone from the Upper Province is fake information that the Azure Cloud Mansion released. They must have done it to divert attention away from Duan Ling Tian! After all, he has a target on his back as long as people know he has the Devilseal Tablet. The Azure Cloud Mansion might not be afraid of the people from the Lower Province, but there's quite a number of powerhouses from the Upper Province who came to the Lower Province in search of the Devilseal Tablet."

The chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Thunder Boar Tribe nodded in agreement since the chief of the Red Boar Tribe's words were reasonable.

"That's possible!"

"That must be it!"

After a moment, the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe seemed to have recalled something. He frowned before he cried out, "No! If I'm not mistaken, it has been less than ten years since news of the Devilseal Tablet being taken away from Duan Ling Tian by a powerhouse from the Upper Province appeared.

How's it possible that Duan Ling Tian's strength has increased to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in less than ten years? Could he have hidden his true strength?" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe posted one question after another.

When the chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Red Boar Tribe heard this, they frowned immediately.

"I'm confused."

"Me too."

Eventually, both of them shook their heads and expressed their confusion.

With a glint in his eyes, the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe said, "The Azure Cloud Mansion is strange... From what I know, when the vanguard from the Human-Devil clan arrived at the Azure Cloud Mansion, more than half of the Human-Devils were killed. They only managed to deal with the Azure Cloud Mansion when their full troop arrived."

The chief of the Red Boar Tribe nodded. "I heard that as well... Moreover, it seems like the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion and another powerhouse single-handedly killed most of the vanguard from the Human-Devil clan. Even the direct disciple of the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace from the Three Palaces and Six Halls was killed!"

"All of us assumed there are no strong human powerhouses in the Lower Province of Dao Martial Saint Land..."

However, it seems like there are quite a few of them in the Azure Cloud Mansion! Even if it is our Boar-Devil clan, I'm not certain we would be able to take the Azure Cloud Mansion down back then!" The chief of the Black Boar Tribe said, "With Duan Ling Tian around, I'm afraid the Boar-Devil clan would have a hard time dealing with the Azure Cloud Mansion since the Old Patriarch is not with us!"

The chiefs from the Thunder Boar Tribe and the Red Boar Tribe strongly agreed with this statement from the chief of the Black Boar Tribe.

Three of them would never expect that Duan Ling Tian was also unaware of the whereabouts of the people from the Azure Cloud Mansion. He would not be able to help the Azure Cloud Mansion even if he wanted to.

"Should we reveal the fact that the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ling Tian, is in the Lower Province and possesses the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet?" The chief of the Red Boar Tribe asked the chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Thunder Boar Tribe for their opinion as he looked at them.

The chiefs of the Black Boar Tribe and the Thunder Boar Tribe exchanged a look before the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe shook his head and finally said with a hint of wariness, "There's no need to rush. Duan Ling Tian seems to have vanished after he killed our Boar-Devil clan's three Great Guardian Warriors a year ago. If he didn't attack the other Devil Clans, it's not wise for us to expose him since he would be able to trace it back to us. It might attract his attention and he might vent his anger on us! This wouldn't be good for the Boar-Devil clan!"

"It seems like we're back to square one," the chief of the Red Boar Tribe said with a bitter smile.

Previously, although they did not know the human powerhouse was the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, they had kept this matter close to their chests because they were afraid. Now that they discovered Duan Ling Tian's identity, things still did not change. They were still afraid. After all, he was not just an ordinary powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he possessed the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, that was able to suppress Devils.

All of a sudden, the chief of the Black Boar Tribe steered the conversation in a different direction. "Recently, I heard some rumors about the Wandering Saint Palace, one of the Human-Devil clan's Three Palaces and Six Halls, acquiring a new Vice Palace Master who's at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! Most importantly, the Vice Palace Master's name is also Duan Ling Tian!"

Although the Boar-Devil clan's territory neighbored the Human-Devil clan's territory, they rarely interacted since they belonged to different clans. The interaction between the clans had only increased recently due to their search for materials to repair the Inter-province Transportation Formation.

"The Human-devil clan's Wandering Saint Palace has a new Vice Palace Master at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage who's also called Duan Ling Tian? Could there be such a coincidence?" The chief of the Red Boar Tribe was stunned.

"I'm afraid it's not a coincidence!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe had lived the longest among the three, it was not a surprise that he was far wiser than the other two chiefs. He looked at the chief of the Black Boar Tribe and asked, "Do you know anything about the new Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace? Was he an elder before he was appointed as a Vice Palace Master or did he just join the Wandering Saint Palace?"

The chief of the Black Boar Tribe replied, "He only joined the Wandering Saint Palace a year ago."

"He only joined the Wandering Saint Palace a year ago?" The expression of the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe changed dramatically. His eyes widened as something appeared in his mind. "People from the Wandering Saint Palace are pure humans. They're Devil Cultivators. If he's not pure human, the Wandering Saint Palace won't let him join even if he's an Eminent Celestial!"

The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe began to say, "A human whose name is Duan Ling Tian... I think..."

However, before the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe finished speaking, the chief of the Red Boar Tribe interrupted him. "Do you suspect that the new Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion and the person who killed the three Great Guardian Warriors?"

Yes!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe nodded and said solemnly, "A year ago, he killed our Boar-Devil clan's three Great Guardian Warriors...At the same time, the Wandering Saint Palace gained a new Vice Palace Master! Do you honestly think this is a coincidence?"

After a while, the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe spoke again. He became more and more convinced as he said, "I think the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ling Tian, appeared a year ago to infiltrate the Human-Devil clan's Wandering Saint Palace! He must have passed by our Boar-Devil clan during his journey there and killed the three Great Guardian Warriors!"

The chief of the Black Boar Tribe's eyes turned cold as he said in a low voice, "Now that I listened to you, this seems very likely!"

"However, how did Duan Ling Tian join the Wandering Saint Palace? Based on his attacks that we saw from the mirror image, it's obvious that he's not a Devil Cultivator," the chief of the Red Boar Tribe asked in confusion.

The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe replied, "Do you think it's hard for a human powerhouse whose strength is at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage to disguise themselves as a Devil Cultivator?"

The chief of the Red Boar Tribe was speechless as realization dawned on him. Since he was at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he knew what powerhouses at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage were capable of.

"I'm fairly certain the new Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ling Tian! Moreover, those in Wandering Saint Palace are probably still unaware of this!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe said with conviction as his eyes shone.

"I've also heard the new Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace has entered closed-door cultivation not long after he joined the Wandering Saint Palace a year ago. For this reason, not many people have seen him. It's not a surprise that no one from the Wandering Saint Palace has found out about his true identity. Only a handful of people from Wandering Saint Palace have seen him."

A sinister smile crept onto the face of the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe as he said, "If that's the case, let's give the Wandering Saint Palace a hand! Let's think of a way to let the people from the Wandering Saint Palace see the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion."

The chief of the Red Boar Tribe applauded when he heard this. "Good one!"

"Amazing!" The eyes of Black Boar Tribe's chief lit up as he said, "Let's do this!"

Chapter 2282 The Portrait Is Revealed

A year ago, the three Patriarchs from the Boar-Devil clan did not dare to spread the news about the human powerhouse because they were afraid of him since he was able to kill their three Great Guardian Warriors. Although they did not spread the news, they had been nursing a grudge ever since then. After a while, they discovered the powerhouse was actually the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ling Tian. However, they were still afraid so they did not spread the news. Thus, their grudge grew stronger! Finally, at this time, they found the perfect chance to deal with Duan Ling Tian by using the Human-Devil clan.

The three Patriarchs of the Boar-Devil clan felt as though they had been thrown a lifebuoy just as they were drowning. They finally managed to secure this 'lifebuoy' after much agony.

"I really can't wait to see Yuwen Hao Chen's expression when he finds out that he trusted a wolf to watch over his sheep," the chief of the Red Boar Tribe, one of the Patriarchs of the Boar-Devil clan, said gleefully.

"Among the three Palace Masters from the Human-Devil clan, the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace is the only one who's close to becoming an Eminent Celestial. His Celestial Ascension Tribulation

should be near... If we leave those old geezers out, he's the second strongest person in the Human-Devil Clan after the Patriarch of the Human- Devil clan!"

"It's unfortunate that he's not an Eminent Celestial yet. I'm not certain if he and the Patriarch of the Human-Devil clan would succeed in killing Duan Ling Tian!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe said.

"That's right." The chief of the Black Boar tribe nodded in agreement. "That Duan Ling Tian has the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet. Moreover, his strength is comparable to a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!"

"With his strength and the Devilseal Tablet, even an Eminent Devil might be caught off-guard and die!" The chief of the Black Boar Tribe said fearfully.

The chiefs of the Thunder Boar Tribe and Red Boar Tribe felt a jolt of fear as well when they thought about this.

"If those old geezers don't come out, it seems like nobody in the Human-Devil clan will be able to deal with Duan Ling Tian!" The chief of the Red Boar Tribe said with a frown.

"Hum! Even if nobody in the Human-Devil clan can deal with Duan Ling Tian, those old geezers wouldn't let him get away if he poses a threat to the Human-Devil clan! At that time, he'll definitely die!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe retorted.

"You're right. Those old geezers from the Human-Devil clan are like our old Patriarchs. They're not afraid of the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, at all!" The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe nodded.

"What we need to do now is send this portrait to the Wandering Saint Palace in the Human-Devil Saint City. Those who have seen their new Vice Palace Master will definitely recognize the person in this portrait!"

The eyes of the chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe shone brightly as he said eagerly, "At that time, everyone will know that their Vice Palace Master Duan Ling Tian is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. They'll find out he's human and not a Devil Cultivator!"

"How exciting!" Both chiefs of the Red Boar Tribe and Black Boar Tribe's eyes glittered with excitement.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of what was happening in the Boar-Devil clan. Currently, he had gone into closed-door cultivation in the Wandering Saint Palace's estate in the Human-Devil Saint City. He was completely focused on his cultivation. Since his cultivation base had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage two weeks ago, he was determined to continue cultivating to quickly raise his cultivation base to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He did not think much of the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage and thought he could only further increase his strength once he broke through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

Meanwhile, Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, and Gan Ru Yan who came with him to the Wandering Saint Palace were also cultivating.

Since everyone in the independent mansion they were staying in was cultivating, the atmosphere was tranquil.

At the same time, many figures could be seen outside of Duan Ling Tian's mansion. These people were patrolling disciples who were sent by Elder Peng Lai to protect Duan Ling Tian and his family.

Time passed quickly. In just a blink of an eye, a year had passed.

At this time, there were three patrolling disciples outside the Wandering Saint Palace's estate.

One of them was bored and he looked at his companions as he said conspiratorially with a smile, "By the way, both of you should've heard of the Azure Cloud Mansion, right?"

"Of course." One of the two patrolling disciples nodded. "The current territory of the Human-Devil clan used to belong to the Azure Cloud Mansion. In fact, the Human-Devil clan can be considered to be reaping the fruits of their labor!"

"Why did you suddenly bring this up?" The last patrolling disciple asked as he raised an eyebrow.

The patrolling disciple who had started the conversation laughed before he said, "I'm just bored. Recently, when I went out, I managed to obtain the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion."

"The Young Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion?" The two patrolling disciples were stunned.

After a while, one of them asked in surprise, "The Young Mansion Master shares the same name as our Vice Palace Master, right?"

"Yes!" The patrolling disciple who started the conversation nodded.

"I heard about the Young Mansion Master as well... Rumor has it that he managed to obtain the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, once it appeared. Then, a powerhouse from the Upper Province came and snatched it from him."

"He's indeed unlucky," the other patrolling disciple said.

"You're right," the patrolling disciple who started the conversation smiled and put on a mysterious air as he said, "So... Are you interested in seeing what that unlucky person looks like?"

"Since we have nothing better to do now, you might as well show it to us. I want to see the person who managed to obtain the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, even though it was taken away from him later! He used to own it after all," the other patrolling disciple said eagerly.

"Don't dawdle! Quickly take it out for us to see!" The last disciple stared at the patrolling disciple who started the conversation and urged him to show them the portrait. However, when he saw the person in the portrait he was thoroughly shocked. He had seen the person in the portrait before.

Meanwhile, the patrolling disciple who started the conversation and the other patrolling disciple continued to converse among themselves.

"This is the Young Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion?"

"Yes."

“He looks quite handsome...Unfortunately, he’s unlucky.”

You’re right. Anyway, I don’t think we would even be able to see the Devilseal Tablet, let alone owning it or letting it get taken away!”

“That’s true.”

The last patrolling disciple paid no heed to the two disciples’ conversation at all. He stood motionless, dumbstruck.

How...How’s this possible? Apart from sharing the same name, how’s it possible that they look identical? Impossible! Absolutely impossible! The patrolling disciple was confused.

“Hey! Huang Zheng, what’re you doing?”

“Wake up! Why are you in a daze?”

The other two had ended their conversation and saw their companion, Huang Zheng, had fallen into a daze.

Huang Zheng trembled for a moment before he regained his senses. With a solemn expression on his face, he questioned the patrolling disciple who started the conversation, “Where did you get this portrait? What makes you think that’s the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion?”

“Huang Zheng, are you alright? Why are you being so serious?” The patrolling disciple who started the conversation was bewildered.

“Quickly answer my question!” Huang Zheng ignored his question and urged him to give him an answer. This was an important matter after all.

“I found this portrait somewhere outside... I’m not sure if everyone in the Human-Devil clan has seen this portrait,” the patrolling disciple who started the conversation said in confusion, “I heard people said that this is the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion.”

Another patrolling disciple asked curiously as he stared at Huang Zheng and asked, “Huang Zheng, don’t...don’t you tell me you’ve seen the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion before?”

“Huang Zheng, you...you’ve seen the Young Mansion Master before?” The patrolling disciple who started the conversation stared at Huang Zheng with glittering eyes. “If there’s something you know about the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, you have to inform the Great Spirit Palace immediately... You’ll definitely be heavily rewarded!”

“The last disciple of the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace was killed by the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion and another powerhouse. That disciple was extremely favored by the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace!” The patrolling disciple said excitedly.

Huang Zheng said hesitantly, “The person in this portrait... I’ve seen him before...”

Huang Zheng’s words instantly attracted the attention of the two patrolling disciples, and their eyes shone brightly like the stars in the night sky.

Chapter 2283 Yun Fu Ye

“Did you really see the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion before?”

“Where did you see him? Do you have any clues? If you do, you can inform the Great Spirit Palace about it. They’ll definitely reward you handsomely!”

The other two patrolling disciples looked at Huang Zheng and questioned him one after another.

“I’ve seen the person in the image before, but...” One of the two disciples continued to speak before Huang Zheng could reply, “Are you sure you don’t have any clues about his whereabouts? It’s really too bad. It would be great if you have clues. Otherwise, there’s nothing we can do even if you’ve seen him before.”

Yes...” The other patrolling disciple nodded in agreement.

Huang Zheng seemed to have not heard the other two patrolling disciples’ words as he asked, “Do you think that two people with similar names and appearances exist in this world?”

One of the patrolling disciples asked in confusion, “Two people with similar names and appearances?”

“How’s it possible!” The other patrolling disciples replied, “There may be people with similar looks, and there must be more people with the same name... However, it’s extremely rare for two people to share the same name and look identical at the same time.”

“However, there’s a possibility the two are twins and they’re using the same name. Apart from this, I can’t think of a second possibility.” This patrolling disciple’s words sounded rational.

“What if the two people are a human and a Human-Devil respectively?” Huang Zheng asked with a wry smile on his face.

“A human and a Human-Devil? Huang Zheng, what are you trying to say?” The two patrolling disciples were baffled.

Suddenly, one of them seemed to have thought of something as his eyes widened in shock. He inhaled sharply and quickly turned to look at Huang Zheng. He asked, “Huang Zheng, the reason you’re asking all these questions... Could it be that our new Vice Palace Master who shares the same name with the Young Mansion Master look alike?”

“What?” The other patrolling disciple was stunned.

“Yes.” Huang Zheng nodded bitterly. “Both of you must have heard that I was there when our new Vice Palace Master killed Elder Lin Yuan. For this reason, I know what he looks like. His appearance is identical to the person in the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion that you showed us earlier. It wouldn’t be alarming if they only look identical... The problem is that they share the same name as well!” Huang Zheng was bewildered.

“This...” The other two patrolling disciples were shocked. Not only did their new Vice Palace Master share the same name with the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, but they looked alike as well! This was too much of a coincidence!

After a while, the patrolling disciple who had the portrait said with conviction, "If this is not a coincidence... There's only one possibility left... Our Vice Palace Master and the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion are the same person!"

"Our Vice Palace Master is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion! He must have an ulterior motive for joining our Wandering Saint Palace!" The other patrolling disciple continued saying.

"If this is the case, doesn't this mean the Wandering Saint Palace has a spy in its midst?" The patrolling disciple gasped as fear jolted his body.

"That's possible!" Huang Zheng's expression darkened and his eyes were narrowed as he said wryly, "What should we do now? Although it's very likely he's the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, he's currently our Vice Palace Master. With just the three of us, I'm afraid no one will believe our words."

"This concerns the safety of Wandering Saint Palace. We must inform someone of this or spread news of this even if it's just the three of us!" The other patrolling disciple insisted.

The patrolling disciple said in support of his companion's words, "Of course. We must inform someone about this! Hopefully, word about this will reach our Palace Master. Currently, it seems that only our Palace Master is capable of dealing with Vice Palace Master Duan!"

The three disciples discussed among themselves and agreed to inform someone about their discovery in hopes that it would reach the ears of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. After that, they quickly went to a place that was closest to the mansion of Yuwen Hao Chen, the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. However, this place was not very close to Yuwen Hao Chen's mansion. It was only the closest place that the three disciples had access to.

The three patrolling disciples were stopped by a patrolling elder as soon as they arrived. Naturally, the patrolling elder was familiar with the three patrolling disciples. He asked, "Huang Zheng, why did the three of you rush here?"

"Elder Hou Feng, we came to see Lord Palace Master because of an emergency!" Huang Zheng blurted out impatiently since he knew the importance of their discovery.

"Lord Palace Master is in closed-door cultivation..." The patrolling elder waved them away dismissively as he said with a frown, "Regardless of the emergency, come again after Lord Palace Master is out of closed-door cultivation!"

"Elder Hou Feng, this news concerns the safety of our Wandering Saint Palace. I must speak to the Palace Master as soon as possible!" Huang Zheng said impatiently since he was worried.

"It concerns the safety of our Wandering Saint Palace?" The patrolling elder from Wandering Saint Palace asked skeptically.

The two patrolling disciples who came with Huang Zheng chimed in one after another in support of Huang Zheng.

"Elder Hou Feng, Huang Zheng is not joking! The information he wants to convey to Lord Palace Master indeed concerns the safety of the Wandering Saint Palace!"

Yes, Elder Hou Feng. This incident must be dealt with properly!”

When the patrolling elder heard their words, he raised an eyebrow before he asked in a low voice, “What’s happening? If you don’t tell me about it, I can’t let you see Lord Palace Master and potentially disturb his cultivation. After all, I’ll be the one to bear the consequences if Lord Palace Master gets angry!”

“Elder Hou Feng, the news is...” Huang Zheng quickly revealed his discovery to the patrolling elder. He knew if he did not, he would not be able to alert the Palace Master.

At the same time, the other patrolling disciples took out Duan Ling Tian’s portrait.

The patrolling elder’s expression darkened now that he realized the severity of the matter. However, he still questioned the three patrolling disciples to be certain. “I saw this portrait a few days ago when I went out. I know rumor has it that it’s the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion... However, are you certain our Vice Palace Master looks identical to the person in the portrait?”

“Elder Hou Feng, I was there two years ago when our new Vice Palace Master killed Elder Lin Yuan... I remember his appearance vividly, and he resembles the person in this portrait! If you don’t believe me, you can summon the others who were present at that time, such as Ding Jian Hong, to verify the matter. They’ve seen the Vice Palace Master as well. In fact, if you think that’s too troublesome, I’m willing to swear on the lightning penalty oath to prove that I’m not lying.” Huang Zheng was getting more worried and more impatient. As soon as he finished speaking, he quickly pricked his finger and swore on the lightning penalty oath. “I, Huang Zheng, willingly swear on the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation. I’m willing to be killed by the lightning penalty oath if I’m lying about the identical appearance of our Vice Palace Master Duan and the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!”

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nine claps of thunder that seemed capable of shaking heaven and earth sounded in accordance with the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath as soon as Huang Zheng finished swearing.

Seeing that Huang Zheng was not killed by the lightning penalty, the patrolling elder finally believed Huang Zheng’s words.

Suddenly, a thunderous voice rang in the air, sending a jolt of fear to Hou Feng, the patrolling elder of Wandering Saint Palace. “Who’s so bold as to swear on the lightning penalty oath here and disturb my master’s cultivation?!”

Swoosh!

A figure appeared like a gust of wind before the group of people as soon as the thunderous voice ceased talking. The figure belonged to a blue-clad young man. He was handsome, and his body was muscular. His aura completely suppressed Huang Zheng and the others.

“My Lord, Vice Palace Master!”

“My Lord, Vice Palace Master!”

When Hou Feng, Huang Zheng, and the others saw this man, they immediately bowed respectfully and greeted him.

“Who swore on the lightning penalty oath earlier?” The young man asked as he looked at the others pointedly, causing shivers to run up their spines.

However, they could not afford to be afraid at this important moment. This blue-clad young man was Yun Fu Ye, the first Vice Palace Master and the direct disciple of their Palace Master!

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“Lord Vice... Vice Palace Master... It was... It was me...” Huang Zheng stammered with his head lowered. His body trembled as he broke out in cold sweat. He knew that the place where their Palace Master had gone into closed-door cultivation was nearby, therefore, the claps of thunder might have disturbed his cultivation.

At the same time, Yun Fu Ye looked over Huang Zheng’s shoulder. In the next moment...

Swoosh!

Yun Fu Ye lifted his hand and a solidified saber ray appeared before Hou Feng’s eyes and slashed through the air. Hou Feng shut his eyes immediately due to the blinding saber ray.

That saber ray seemed to have turned into the sickle of death as it effortlessly sliced through Huang Zheng’s neck, beheading him.

Before the blood even gushed out, the saber ray suddenly shone even more brilliantly. It seemed as though it could cut through anything!

Bang!

The sound of an explosion rang in the air as Huang Zheng’s corpse was turned into dust. Nothing could be seen apart from a falling Spatial Ring.

Hou Feng was the first one to recover from the shock and gasped. His eyes were filled with awe as he looked at Yun Fu Ye.

It did not take long before the sight of the falling Spatial Ring reminded them of Huang Zheng’s death. They quickly lowered their heads as their bodies trembled in fear. They were afraid Yun Fu Ye might kill them as well!

On the other hand, Yun Fu Ye looked calm as though killing Huang Zheng was of no importance. Indeed, he did not put much thought into killing Huang Zheng.

Yun Fu Ye turned to look at Hou Feng and asked, “Why did he swear on the lightning penalty oath here?”

A disciple of the Wandering Saint Palace must have his reason to swear on the lightning penalty oath at this place.

“Lord Vice Palace Master, it’s like this...” Hou Feng immediately revealed everything that he was told in detail. “Therefore, Huang Zheng swore on the lightning penalty oath to prove that the new Vice Palace Master looks identical to the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!”

“They share the same name and look identical?” Yun Fu Ye raised his brows in shock, realizing the severity of the matter.

Would there be such a coincidence in this world where their new Vice Palace Master shared the same name and appearance with the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion?

Yun Fu Ye shifted his focus to the other two patrolling disciples and questioned in a low voice, “Do you have the portrait of Duan Ling Tian, the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion?”

“Lord Vice Palace Master, here’s the portrait of the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!” The patrolling disciple in possession of the portrait quickly handed the portrait over respectfully as though any delay might cause him to be killed like Huang Zheng.

Whoosh!

Yun Fu Ye did not seem like he had moved when an invisible force took the portrait from the patrolling disciple. He unrolled the scroll and glanced at it before he asked in a low voice, “Are you certain this is the portrait of Duan Ling Tian, the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion?”

“According to word outside, it is,” the patrolling disciple replied rather anxiously.

“Lord Vice Palace Master, that’s what people outside the palace have been saying... There were many Human-Devils who performed the Soul Searching Secret Tactics on humans who had seen the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. Therefore, we have reason to believe the person in the portrait is Duan Ling Tian, the Young Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion!” Hou Feng said with conviction.

Yun Fu Ye narrowed his eyes and nodded slightly. After that, he left like a gust of wind.

Hou Feng heaved a sigh of relief after Yun Fu Ye left. He was at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, it was only natural he was pressured by Yun Fu Ye who was at the peak of the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

As for the other two patrolling disciples, they were in a worse state. They had sweat so profusely that it seemed as though they were drenched in water, looking completely exhausted.

When the three sighed in relief, Yun Fu Ye’s thunderous voice rang in the air again, causing their hearts to beat in trepidation. “You must not breathe a word about this to anyone else. Otherwise, you’ll die!” They took his words to heart.

Meanwhile, Yun Fu Ye who had left like a gust of wind returned to the mansion his master was staying in after he warned Hou Feng and the two patrolling disciples. After a while, he thought to himself, ‘Little Junior Sister seems to have seen our new Vice Palace Master before!’

Yun Fu Ye was one of the direct disciples of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. Based on his words, it was not difficult to guess that the junior sister he had thought about was Huang Wen Jing, the last direct disciple of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace.

I'll have to verify this matter with little Junior Sister! If we can confirm that our new Vice Palace Master is Duan Ling Tian, the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, we'll have to come up with a countermeasure with the other Vice Palace Masters!' Yun Fu Ye thought to himself as his eyes glinted fiercely.

Yun Fu Ye disappeared like a gust of wind again before he reappeared at the other end of the mansion where Huang Wen Jing, his junior sister, was cultivating.

"Great Senior Brother." Huang Wen Jing, a lady with a cold demeanor who was dressed in white, walked out of her cultivation place when she was alerted to Yun Fu Ye's arrival.

Yun Fu Ye beckoned Huang Wen Jing over. He raised his hand, and a scroll unfurled and hovered in the air before her, allowing her to see it clearly. "Junior Sister... Please take a look at this portrait. Do you know the person in the image?"

Huang Wen Jing trembled imperceptibly as her eyes shone. "He..." Two years ago, when she found out this man already had two wives, she had forced herself to forget him. She had been focusing on her cultivation to forget about this man. She did not expect she would feel anxious like she did two years ago when she saw the portrait. She took a deep breath to prevent Yun Fu Ye from noticing the shift in her emotions and said skeptically, "Great Senior Brother, why are you showing me Vice Palace Master Duan's portrait?"

Vice Palace Master Duan?" Yun Fu Ye's eyes narrowed when he heard this and he muttered to himself, "It seems like they aren't lying... Indeed. There's something wrong with Vice Palace Master Duan!"

"Hmm?" Huang Wen Jing furrowed her brows when she heard Yun Fu Ye's words. "Great Senior Brother, what do you mean? What's wrong with Vice Palace Master Duan?"

"Little Junior Sister, you might not know this... The portrait I just showed you is supposed to be of Duan Ling Tian, the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, not Vice Palace Master Duan!" Yun Fu Ye did not hide the matter from his junior sister.

"What?!" Huang Wen Jing was shocked. "Senior Brother, what you mean is... Vice Palace Master Duan not only shares a name with the Young Mansion Master from an influential human group, the Azure Cloud Mansion, but they also look identical?!"

Yun Fu Ye said with a sneer, "I think it's more apt to say that they're the same person!"

"The same person?" Huang Wen Jing was shocked. When she regained her senses, she shook her head vehemently. She said, "How's it possible? The Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion only left to the Upper Province less than ten years ago. Before he left, he hadn't even broken through to the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. How could he have broken through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in less than ten years?" Her voice grew fainter when she recalled that Duan Ling Tian had the ability to improve one's Innate Spiritual Root.

Huang Wen Jing felt worried as she thought to herself, 'If he's able to help me improve my Innate Spiritual Root, this means he's able to improve his Innate Spiritual Root as well... If he improved his Innate Spiritual Root to a dark violet one and went to the Upper Province, it's possible for him to grow so strong in less than ten years!'

Yun Fu Ye frowned when he heard Huang Wen Jing's words. He muttered to himself, "That's true. I didn't think about this earlier. Even if the cultivation environment in the Upper Province is really good, how could someone who hasn't even broken through to the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage break through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in less than ten years?!"

2285 The News Has Spread!

"However, why do they share the same name and appearance? It's possible that he has grown so strong due to a fortuitous encounter in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!" Yun Fu Ye muttered under his breath, still convinced that the new Vice Palace Master was most likely the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion! He continued thinking about it, growing more and more convinced, 'If he's not the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, why is it that we haven't heard of someone like him in the Human-Devil clan? It seems as though he had appeared out of nowhere. How could it be a coincidence that he shares the same name and appearance with the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion?'

Before Huang Wen Jing could react, Yun Fu Ye excused himself and left like a gust of wind. His eyes were glinting coldly. "Little Junior Sister, please excuse me. I have to go now."

Yun Fu Ye left because he felt it was imperative that he gathered all the Vice Palace Masters, excluding Duan Ling Tian, to come up with a solution. He should have let his master, Yuwen Hao Chen, the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, who was in closed-door cultivation know about this so that he could solve this.

However, Yuwen Hao Chen's current closed-door cultivation was different from his previous ones. He was presented with a golden opportunity and decided to seize the chance to comprehend heaven and earth to attract the Celestial Ascension Tribulation. This would allow him to overcome the bottleneck and become an Eminent Celestial! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Who knew how long he would have to wait before an opportunity presented itself again?

Yun Fu Ye knew all this very well so he decided not to disturb Yuwen Hao Chen's cultivation. This was also why he had callously killed Huang Zheng, the patrolling disciple, who had sworn on the lightning penalty oath that could affect his master's cultivation. Fortunately, he was able to set up a noise-canceling formation due to his lightning-fast reflex. If his master was disturbed, who knew if he would lose the chance to become an Eminent Celestial?

Since Yun Fu Ye was a Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, it did not take long for him to gather all the Vice Palace Masters. When everyone arrived, he did not beat around the bush and quickly explained what he had discovered to everyone.

"This..."

The few Vice Palace Masters were stunned. Their new Vice Palace Master was not a Devil Cultivator? Most importantly, he was the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion! Although they found the matter hard to believe, they could not refute the evidence that Yun Fu Ye presented them.

One of the Vice Palace Masters asked grimly, "Vice Palace Master Yun, does Lord Palace Master know about this?"

"No, not yet." Yun Fu Ye shook his head. "Master has gone into closed-door cultivation due to an opportunity for him to attract the Celestial Ascension Tribulation... If I disturb master now, who knows how long before an opportunity would present itself again? For this reason, I decided not to disturb him for the time being."

"Lord Sect Leader actually found an opportunity to attract the Celestial Ascension Tribulation?"

The other few Vice Palace Masters were delighted when they heard this. How could they not feel delighted? They knew what it meant if a powerhouse at the peak of the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage attracted the Celestial Ascension Tribulation! If their Palace Master managed to overcome the tribulation, he would become an Eminent Celestial! Moreover, they had no doubts that their Palace Master would successfully overcome the tribulation. After all, in the history of Wandering Saint Palace, none of the Palace Masters had failed the tribulation. This was because they all had a special method to deal with the Celestial Ascension Tribulation.

"Master told me it might take him a year before he comes out of closed-door cultivation," Yun Fu Ye said to the other Vice Palace Master, "Therefore, in this coming year, we must not act rashly and alert our enemy. This news can't be leaked. We must stall for time until master comes out!"

The few other Vice Palace Masters agreed with Yun Fu Ye's words. After all, apart from the Palace Master, none of them was a match for the new Vice Palace Master.

Although the others from the Three Palaces and Six Halls would definitely help them deal with their new Vice Palace Master, they did not want this matter to be made known because they did not want to tarnish the Wandering Saint Palace's reputation! When all was said and done, this was a matter of their palace anyway.

"To play it safe, I'd like all of you to swear on the lightning penalty oath that you wouldn't breathe a word of this to anyone else!" Yun Fu Ye looked at one of the Vice Palace Masters pointedly. The Vice Palace Master was none other than Huang Qi Ling's father.

When Huang Qi Ling's father saw Yun Fu Ye staring at him, he knew that Yun Fu Ye was aware of his son's close relationship with Duan LingTian. He sighed inwardly. 'Ling'er, you've indeed made a 'good' friend!'

After Yun Fu Ye set up a simple noise-canceling Formation, the other Vice Palace Masters swore on the lightning penalty one after another that they would not spread word about what they had heard.

Curiously, a month after the Vice Palace Masters of Wandering Saint Palace swore on the lightning penalty oath, news about Vice Palace Master Duan Ling Tian being the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion spread like a wildfire overnight in Wandering Saint Palace.

Before Yun Fu Ye could take measures to stop the news from spreading, it had spread through the entire Wandering Saint Palace before spreading out.

“Damn it!” Yun Fu Ye was so furious that he had killed Hou Feng and the other two patrolling disciples. He suspected the news was spread by these three people. He did not suspect the other few Vice Palace Masters because they had sworn on the lightning penalty oath.

A cold and lonely figure was seen standing in the sky above the Wandering Saint Palace. She was staring in the direction where Duan Ling Tian was staying and murmured, “I hope he receives news about this and leaves the Wandering Saint Palace and Human-Devil Saint City...”

Yun Fu Ye would not have thought that Huang Wen Jing, his little Junior Sister, was the one who had spread the news since she wanted to warn Duan Ling Tian in time so that he could make an escape. She knew he would be killed once her master came out of closed-door cultivation. She could not bear to see him die even though she knew he was not a Devil Cultivator.

“These are the only things I can do for you... The rest will have to depend on your luck,” Huang Wen Jing said with a sigh before her figure disappeared.

Apart from the people in Wandering Saint Palace, Huang Qi Ling was shocked as well. “Brother Ling Tian is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion? He’s not a Devil Cultivator? How can it be?” Even after he regained his senses, he still found it hard to believe.

The news spread out of the Wandering Saint Palace to the Human-Devil Saint City.

Meanwhile, in the Boar-Devil clan’s territory...

The three Patriarchs had gathered again when they received news about the Human-Devil clan.

“After a year, Duan Ling Tian’s identity as the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion is finally exposed!” The chief of the Red Boar Tribe said with a smirk.

“The Human-Devil clan must be in chaos now. With Duan Ling Tian’s strength and the Super Saint Weapon, the Deviseal Tablet, he would definitely wreak havoc on the Human-Devil clan!” The chief of the Black Boar Tribe said.

“Let alone the leaders of the Three Palaces and Six Halls, even the Patriarch of the Human-Devil clan who’s an Eminent Celestial might not be able to deal with Duan Ling Tian who has the Deviseal Tablet!” The chief of the Thunder Boar Tribe sneered and said scornfully, “Once the Human-Devil clan is in trouble, those few old geezers would definitely make an appearance. At that time, Duan Ling Tian will definitely die even if he has the Deviseal Tablet!”

The three Patriarchs thought that Duan Ling Tian could deal with the Human-Devil clan with his Super Saint Weapon, the Deviseal Tablet, but they were unaware that the Deviseal Tablet was incomplete! A whole Deviseal Tablet might have easily killed an Eminent Devil, but an incomplete Deviseal Tablet could not even kill a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

2286 The Bird Protector

In the Wandering Saint Palace.

When Elder Peng Lai, who had sworn to be loyal to Duan Ling Tian on the lightning penalty oath, heard the news, he was astounded. "Master is... not a Devil Cultivator? He's an ordinary human?"

Naturally, Peng Lai was unaware that Duan Ling Tian was a human from the Dao Martial Saint Land and the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion when he swore on the lightning penalty oath.

"I... I really didn't expect this..." Peng Lai smiled bitterly when he verified the truth of the matter. He knew he had no other options now other than to continue on the path he had chosen since he had sworn on the lightning penalty oath. He could only be loyal to Duan Ling Tian no matter what.

For this reason, soon after Peng Lai heard the news, he instantly rushed to the mansion where his master, Duan Ling Tian, was staying to call him out of closed-door cultivation so Duan Ling Tian would be able to escape the Wandering Saint Palace in time. He cried out, "Master!"

Although Peng Lai knew his master was extremely strong, he did not think his master was a match for the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. His master would definitely die if the Palace Master attacked him. He was, naturally, concerned about Duan Ling Tian due to the lightning penalty oath that he had sworn.

Peng Lai managed to wake Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, and Gan Ru Yan up except for Duan Ling Tian.

Gan Ru Yan looked at Peng Lai with a frown as she said irritably, "What's happening?" This person had just disturbed her cultivation after all. However, she became worried when Peng Lai told her that Duan Ling Tian's identity had been exposed!

Ke'er was also shocked by Peng Lai's words. She asked anxiously, "Brother Tian's identity has been exposed?" She knew very well that not only would her man become the enemy of Wandering Saint Palace, but the Human-Devil clan as well once his identity as the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion was exposed. Although her man was strong, she knew he might not be able to deal with the Palace Master of the Wandering Saint Palace, let alone the entire Human-Devil clan.

I remember Brother Tian telling me that there's no way he can defeat the Palace Master without using the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet! Even if he uses it, he's not certain he would be able to defeat him! After all, the Devilseal Tablet is incomplete. He won't be able to wield the full power of the Devilseal Tablet.' Since Ke'er was Duan Ling Tian's woman, he did not bother with hiding things from her, she was privy to a lot of matters. Since she knew a lot, how could she not feel worried and anxious?

Gan Ru Yan looked at Peng Lai and asked urgently, "Where's he?"

"I called master earlier, but it seems like he has entered a deep state of cultivation. I can't seem to wake him up," Peng Lai said wryly.

"Regardless of what state he's in, he would die if he doesn't escape now!" Gan Ru Yan replied impatiently. She quickly rushed to Duan Ling Tian's room to wake him up. Unfortunately, no matter how many times or how loudly she called out, she received no response at all.

Bang!

Gan Ru Yan could not suppress her impatience and broke the door before Ke'er could stop her. She entered the room as quick as lightning. Furious, she began to raise her voice and said, "Stop cultivating! Do you know your identity has been exposed? Don't implicate Ke'er and Si Ling even if you have a death wish!"

Boom!

As soon as Gan Ru Yan finished speaking, a thunderous sound rang in the air and she was thrown out at lightning speed. She immediately spat out blood, looking extremely miserable.

However, as soon as Gan Ru Yan finished her words.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

When Gan Ru Yan was thrown out of the room, the sounds of explosions rang in the air again before Duan Ling Tian's room collapsed, dust flying up.

When Gan Ru Yan managed to stabilize her body, she threw up blood again. Indeed. She looked miserable.

"Auntie!" The adorable Duan Si Ling looked at Gan Ru Yan anxiously. She was clearly worried. Apart from her parents, her aunt was the most important person in her life after all.

"Are you alright, sister?" Ke'er was also staring at Gan Ru Yan with a worried expression on her face. She did not wait for her sister to reply as she turned to look at the collapsed room. Her worry intensified when she thought of her man trapped in the collapsed room.

Gan Ru Yan shook her head and said, "I'm alright." She glared at the collapsed room angrily, thinking that Duan Ling Tian had attacked her.

Duan Si Ling who was next to Ke'er regained her senses and quickly reminded her mother impatiently as she pointed at the collapsed room. "Mommy, daddy's still in there!"

"I know." Ke'er nodded. Her face was filled with anxiety.

"That's..." Peng Lai suddenly exclaimed in shock.

As the dust settled down, a figure the size of a small mountain could be seen. The figure seemed to be formed from golden flames and its shape resembled that of a bird. Its huge figure was blocking the door, making it difficult for people to see inside the room.

Peng Lai was stunned. "What bird is this?" He was not familiar with this bird that was formed from golden flames.

Ke'er and Gan Ru Yan were at a loss as well. They did not know what the bird was.

Duan Si Ling's attention was focused on the bird as she asked her mother, "Mommy what bird is this?"

"I don't know." Ke'er shook her head. This was also her first time seeing such a bird.

“Auntie...do you know what it is?” Duan Si Ling shifted her focus to Gan Ru Yan, but Gan Ru Yan also shook her.

“It would be great if daddy is here... He’ll definitely know what that is,” Duan Si Ling murmured to herself. Her face was filled with admiration for her father whom she thought of as omnipotent and omniscient. However, she suddenly cried out, “Oh no! Daddy is still in there!” Duan Si Ling became even more worried. She did not think as she moved toward the bird formed from golden flames.

“Be careful!” Gan Ru Yan was shocked by Duan Si Ling’s action. At this moment, she had realized it was not Duan Ling Tian who had attacked her, but this bird. Therefore, how could she not feel anxious when her niece rushed toward the bird?

Gan Ru Yan was still stunned and Ke’er had not reacted when Peng Lai lunged toward Duan Si Ling to prevent her from approaching the bird. “Be careful, miss!”

When Peng Lai reached Duan Si Ling, he was just a few feet away from the bird.

Boom!

The bird seemed to have noticed Peng Lai as a restless power radiated from its body. It released a shockwave that hit his back and sent him flying out. Although his face was pale, he still protected Duan Si Ling and pulled her out of harm’s way. Similar to Gan Ru Yan, he threw up blood after he stabilized his body. When he looked at the bird, his eyes were shining with fear. “What the hell is this? What kind of cultivation method is this? He actually has a strange animal protecting him!”

Peng Lai had come to the conclusion that the bird formed from golden flames was his master’s protector. It would attack anyone who came close to his master.

“However, it seems like this bird is not sentient... And it seems like master’s energy is in the bird’s body!” As a powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, Peng Lai was more sensitive to things compared to Gan Ru Yan. Needless to say, Ke’er and Duan Si Ling who were weaker than Gan Ru Yan would not be able to sense this at all.

Don’t worry, madam and miss. Master’s aura is stable, and he should be fine... As for this bird that’s formed from golden flames, it should be a technique that master had cast to protect himself. As long as we don’t go near it, we won’t be attacked.” Peng Lai comforted Ke’er and Duan Si Ling when he saw how worried they were.

Meanwhile, Gan Ru Yan used Saint Origin to speak to Duan Ling Tian in an attempt to bypass the bird. “Duan Ling Tian!” Unfortunately, her voice was blocked as soon as it arrived near the bird.

“It’s useless to use your Saint Origin to speak. I’ve tried it before...” Peng Lai said with a bitter smile.

“Can’t you defeat this bird?” Gan Ru Yan questioned urgently. She felt as though they were running out of time.

“No. It’s as powerful as a powerhouse at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!” Peng Lai shook his head. Naturally, based on the bird’s attack, he knew the bird was stronger than him.

“What technique is this anyway?” Gan Ru Yan had an anxious and grim expression on her face.

What everyone did not know was that Duan Ling Tian himself was unaware of the bird's existence.

2287 The Palace Master of the Great Spirit Palace, Shi Nan Feng

The bird that hovered in the collapsed room was as big as a small mountain, and its golden flames were burning brightly. It looked like an invincible guardian that was protecting Duan Ling Tian from external disturbances.

If Duan Ling Tian was awake, he would have instantly recognized the bird formed from golden flames that acted as his guardian was the Three-legged Golden Crow. It was a character in ancient mythology in his previous life.

Elder Huo, a pagoda spirit of the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, that Duan Ling Tian used to have was, in fact, a Three-legged Golden Crow. He was the only Three-legged Golden Crow in the Jade Emperor Heaven, one of the Devata Realms!

It was only natural that Ke'er, Gan Ru Yan, and Peng Lai did not know about the Three-legged Golden Crow, let alone Duan Si Ling who was much younger than the three.

"Madam, what should we do now?" Peng Lai smiled bitterly at Ke'er. "We can no longer waste any more time... Otherwise, Lord Palace Master will arrive soon. Once he's here, all of us, including master, won't be able to escape!"

"Bring both of them away for now... I'll figure out how to wake him up!" Gan Ru Yan chimed in as she looked at Peng Lai before Ke'er could reply. She put her sister and Duan Si Ling's lives above her own that was why she wanted Peng Lai to bring them away.

"Sister, I won't leave if Brother Tian doesn't come out from his cultivation!" Ke'er said resolutely. Their separation in the past had caused her to cherish what she had even more. No matter what, she would never willingly leave her man's side.

"Elder Peng Lai, please take my sister and daughter away...I'll stay here to wake Brother Tian up," Ke'er demanded. She had made up her mind to stay next to her man even if it meant she would die. She would not regret her decision. After all, she thought it was a blessing if she could die together with her man. Naturally, she wished for her elder sister and daughter to survive.

"Mom! I'm not leaving! I want to wait for daddy!" Duan Si Ling was no longer an ignorant and innocent girl. As a twelve-year-old, she had become a thoughtful and rather stubborn girl.

"Be a good girl, Si Ling. Leave with your aunt for now, we'll come look for you as soon as we can," Ke'er said fondly. A hint of reluctance to separate with her daughter could be seen in her eyes because she knew it was highly likely that she would die. She might not be able to see her daughter again and see her growing up.

"No! I'm not leaving! Since both you and dad are staying, I'm not going to leave!" Duan Si Ling became even more stubborn than usual since it seemed like she knew what was going on.

Ke'er was going to continue persuading Duan Si Ling when Gan Ru Yan suddenly chimed in, "In that case, let's try waking him up with another method." Naturally, her words also indicated that she did not want to leave.

Ke'er could only smile bitterly since she knew her elder sister's temperament.

Following that, Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, Gan Ru Yan, and Peng Lai tried their best to wake Duan Ling Tian up. They had used Saint Origin in their voices, secret Voice Transmissions, Voice Transmission Jade Token, and other methods to no avail. None of them could get past the bird made from golden flames, the Three-legged Golden Crow!

The more time they spent here, the more dangerous the situation was.

The Three-legged Golden Crow hovered in the air like a stalwart guardian, protecting Duan Ling Tian from external disturbances.

In fact, this Three-legged Golden Crow was formed from Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Origin. His Saint Origin was different from those in the mundane realms since it had fused with the Sun Force, the force from Elder Huo. That was why it was called Sun Saint Origin.

Although Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Origin had reached its limit for the time being, it was still a unique force formed from the Three-legged Golden Crow's energy. Saint Origin could not compare to it at all.

When Duan Ling Tian cultivation base had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Eight Form and mastered the Soul Detaching Technique, he did not realize that part of his Sun Saint Origin had formed a Three-legged Golden Crow that acted as his guardian while he was cultivating. Moreover, the strength of this Three-legged Golden Crow was as strong as a powerhouse at the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

All this time, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the commotion in his room. He was fully focused on his cultivation, trying hard to break through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, the Celestial Ascension Form, as quickly as he could.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

A gust of wind began to blow in Duan Ling Tian's mansion, alerting Peng Lai.

"It seems like there's no way for us to leave now." Peng Lai smiled bitterly when he sensed a few Divine Consciousness he was familiar with.

Those Divine Consciousness belonged to the few Vice Palace Masters of Wandering Saint Palace and a few elders at the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

Outside the mansion, Yun Fu Ye, one of the Vice Palace Masters of Wandering Saint Palace, stood at the lead.

"He hasn't left yet." Although Yun Fu Ye did not manage to find Duan Ling Tian with his Divine Consciousness, he had detected the golden flames Three-legged Golden Crow. Apart from that, he had also detected Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, and Gan Ru Yan who were staying in the mansion as well. For this reason, he was certain Duan Ling Tian had not left yet.

“Peng Lai must have already heard that Duan Ling Tian is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion. It seems like he has switched alliances and betrayed the Wandering Saint Palace!” Another Vice Palace Master said with a growl.

This is not important. What’s important is that Duan Ling Tian hasn’t left yet.”

Yun Fu Ye shook his head. “It seems like these people are trying to wake Duan Ling Tian up. However, he’s being guarded by his bird protector so he wouldn’t be disturbed.”

Yun Fu Ye was knowledgeable since he was the eldest direct disciple of the Palace Master and also a Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. It was not difficult for him to figure out the situation. A hint of fear could be seen in his eyes as he said, “This is advantageous to us. After all, we might not be able to stop Duan Ling Tian if he comes out from closed-door cultivation!”

Although Yun Fu Ye had not met Duan Ling Tian yet, he had heard from his master that Duan Ling Tian was a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! He might be widely acknowledged as the strongest person under the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, but he knew he would not be able to contend with a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage...

The other few Vice Palace Masters and elders nodded in agreement when they heard Yun Fu Ye’s words.

All of a sudden...

A thunderous and piercing voice rang from outside, permeating the Wandering Saint Palace.

“Palace Master Yuwen, I’m Shi, and I’d like to visit you!”

“It’s Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace!” Yun Fu Ye’s expression darkened.

The other Vice Palace Masters and elders’ expressions darkened as well.

They knew what they were most worried about had come to life. They knew they could no longer hide the news that their Vice Palace Master Duan Ling Tian was the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion since news about it had spread out of the palace. They knew it would not take long for news to spread to the entire Human-Devil Saint City and the territory of the Human-Devil clan! However, they did not think the news would spread so quickly.

In such a short time, Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, had already come to the Wandering Saint Palace.

Yun Fu Ye and his comrades were not surprised that Shi Nan Feng was the first to show up. After all, they knew Shi Nan Feng hated the Azure Cloud Mansion more than any other Human-Devils in the Human-Devil clan. This was because Shi Nan Feng’s last direct disciple whom he favored the most was killed by the Mansion Master and a powerhouse of Azure Cloud Mansion! How could Shi Nan Feng give up on this opportunity to seek revenge when he found out the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion was in the Wandering Saint Palace?

Fortunately, I have set up multiple noise-canceling Formations for my master...Otherwise, my master would've been disturbed by all these commotions!' Yun Fu Ye thought to himself with a grim expression on his face.

Whoosh!

Yun Fu Ye was suddenly enraged. He cried out, "Bastard!" This was because he had sensed an extremely strong Divine Consciousness unscrupulously scanning the entire Wandering Saint Palace, clearly invading their privacy. It was a sign of disrespect!

In Duan Ling Tian's mansion...

"Impossible! Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, is here!" Peng Lai was shocked by the sudden appearance of Shi Nan Feng when he sensed Shi Nan Feng's Divine Consciousness.

2288 Captivity

"The Palace Master of the Great Spirit Palace?" Gan Ru Yan's eyes sparkled with hope when she heard Peng Lai's words. She knew about the nine strongest forces in the Human-Devil clan, the Three Palaces and Six Halls. She understood the strength of the Palace Masters of Wandering Saint Palace and the Great Spirit Palace was almost on even ground. Based on the hostility in the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace's voice, he obviously did not come with good intentions. Perhaps, they would be able to stall for time to wake Duan Ling Tian up if the Palace Masters of Wandering Saint Palace and Great Spirit Palace fought. Unfortunately, this was just her wishful thinking.

Peng Lai shook his head. He explained, "Palace Master Shi Nan Feng is here for master..."

Gan Ru Yan's expression turned grim when she learned of the enmity between Shi Nan Feng and the Azure Cloud Mansion.

They were already in trouble with the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace. However, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace came to look for trouble with them as well?

Outside the mansion...

Swoosh!

Like a gust of wind, a figure suddenly appeared in front of Yun Fu Ye who was standing in the lead and the other Vice Palace Masters and elders from Wandering Saint Palace.

The figure was two meters tall and had a muscular build. He was dressed in a golden robe. His long hair was tied casually behind his back. His face looked pleasant with his arching brows.

The golden-clad middle-aged man did not greet Yun Fu Ye and the others and bluntly asked as he stared at the mansion, "Is the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion inside this mansion?" Killing intent shone brightly in his eyes when he spoke.

"Palace Master Shi!" Yun Fu Ye growled as he glared at the golden-clad middle-aged. "How can you trespass into the Wandering Saint Palace without an invitation... Isn't this inappropriate?"

“Inappropriate? This doesn’t seem like something appropriate for you to say unless you’re a Palace Master!” The golden-clad middle-aged man, Shi Nan Feng, said as he looked at Yun Fu Ye dismissively.

“Master Palace Shi, don’t tell me you’re unaware that my master is currently in closed-door cultivation!” Yun Fu Ye’s expression turned grim. He knew very well that Shi Nan Feng must have known his master was in closed-door cultivation. Therefore, Shi Nan Feng was so bold as to enter the Wandering Saint Palace without an invitation.

“I understand that you hate the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion very much... However, please remember that this is the Wandering Saint Palace, not the Great Spirit Palace! And the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion is currently our Vice Palace Master. Even if he’s to be killed, it’s my master’s responsibility to kill him, not yours!” Yun Fu Ye’s tone was stern when he rebuked Shi Nan Feng.

What a joke!

Yun Fu Ye honestly did not care who personally killed Duan Ling Tian. However, if Shi Nan Feng killed him, people might think that the Wandering Saint Palace was incompetent and that they could not even deal with a spy. For this reason, he did not want Shi Nan Feng to kill Duan Ling Tian for the sake of Wandering Saint Palace.

“Since Palace Master Yuwen is cultivating now, I won’t disturb him... When he comes out, I’ll definitely come and personally apologize to him!” Shi Nan Feng said calmly. As soon as he finished speaking, his aura turned intense as he stared at the mansion that housed the person he yearned to kill.

“Duan Ru Feng, since you managed to escape that day... I’ll avenge my disciple by killing your son!” Shi Nan Feng muttered under his breath as he radiated killing intent from his body.

“Palace Master Shi, my master will most likely attract the tribulation within a year and become an Eminent Celestial after he comes out of closed-door cultivation. I advise you to think twice before you recklessly make a move,” Yun Fu Ye warned Shi Nan Feng when he saw Shi Nan Feng was about to make a move.

As soon as Yun Fu Ye finished speaking...

Whoosh!

Shi Nan Feng was shocked. His killing intent had disappeared as well.

“Palace Master Yuwen has found a chance to attract the tribulation?” Shi Nan Feng asked as he looked at Yun Fu Ye. A hint of fear could be seen in his eyes. He was not afraid of Yuwen Hao Chen even though he’s only slightly weaker than Yuwen Hao Chen. In fact, their strength could be considered as evenly matched. However, if Yuwen Chao had become an Eminent Celestial, it was definitely a cause for fear. After all, once Yuwen Chao became an Eminent Celestial, it would not be difficult at all for him to kill him.

Yun Fu Ye only grunted in reply as though he was too lazy to repeat his words again.

Shi Nan Feng's face turned red with anger, but ultimately, he did not dare to enter the mansion. He mulled over it for a moment, and finally, decided to compromise. "Since Palace Master Yuwen will come out in a year, I'll respect his wishes. I won't kill him. However, you have to guarantee that the Young Mansion Master stays in the palace. I'll wait for Palace Master Yuwen to come out and watch as he kills the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!"

Although Shi Nan Feng could interrupt the cultivation of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, he did not dare to do so. Even if he could delay Yuwen Hao Chen from becoming an Eminent Celestial, but due to his weaker strength, there was no doubt Yuwen Hao Chen would become an Eminent Celestial before him. If he had disrupted Yuwen Hao Chen's cultivation now, there was no doubt he would be harmed or killed once Yuwen Hao Chen became an Eminent Celestial. After a while, he added coldly, "However, if you're not capable of guarding Duan Ling Tian and he escapes before Palace Master Yuwen comes out, don't blame me for killing him!"

"Palace Master Shi, you can do whatever you want if Duan Ling Tian leaves our palace!" Yun Fu Ye assured Shi Nan Feng. As a matter of fact, he was, indeed, worried that Duan Ling Tian would escape before his master came out from closed-door cultivation since none of them would be able to stop Duan Ling Tian.

"Remember your words," Shi Nan Feng said quietly. Then, he sat cross-legged in the air and closed his eyes. It was as though he was planning to wait here for a year!

Yun Fu Ye was not surprised by Shi Nan Feng's action. After all, if he was in Shi Nan Feng's shoes, he would not give up until he watched the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion die.

After Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, arrived. Many others, including the Crimson Blaze Palace and the others from the Three Palaces and Six Halls, came to the Wandering Saint Palace as well. All of them came with the same reason, and it all concerned the notorious Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion.

"I didn't expect the new Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace to be the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!"

"It doesn't matter... He'll die for sure!"

"Rumor has it that this news spread from the Wandering Saint Palace... He should have time to escape so why didn't he? Does he have a death wish?"

"Although Palace Master Yuwen is in closed-door cultivation, and the others can't deal with Duan Ling Tian, Palace Master Shi is guarding this place. Even if Duan Ling Tian manages to leave, he'll still die!"

"He would die if he leaves the Wandering Saint Palace, and he would die even if he leaves the Wandering Saint Palace!"

Similar remarks could be heard from the people of the Three Palaces and Six Halls.

Due to the number of people who had come, the Wandering Saint Palace became very lively.

“Initially, I was overjoyed when I found out we have another powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. Who knew he would be the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion!”

Damn it! Although he’s just a human from the Dao Martial Saint Land, he managed to infiltrate our palace!”

“Don’t worry... He’ll surely die once Lord Palace Master comes out!”

“Even if he escapes before Lord Palace Master comes out, he would still die since Palace Master Shi is standing watch outside his mansion!”

Most people were unaware that their Palace Master would probably become an Eminent Celestial when he came out of closed-door cultivation. Otherwise, it would be even more lively in the Wandering Saint Palace!

As time went by, more people came to join the members of the Wandering Saint Palace and Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, outside the mansion Duan Ling Tian was staying in. The fact was most of these people had only come to watch a show since they knew they would not have a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian at all.

Currently, the general consensus was Duan Ling Tian would definitely die.

Inside the mansion...

“We’re done for! Finished!” Peng Lai muttered as he paced back and forth in the mansion. He roughly knew the situation outside. He looked extremely upset as though it was the end of the world.

The mansion where Duan Ling Tian was staying in seemed to be isolated, none could enter or leave the mansion.

“He’s still here?” Huang Wen Jing, the last direct disciple of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, furrowed her brows when she learned about what happened. She was anxious. She knew there was nothing she could now even if she wanted to help that man. After all, she had already done everything that she could to help him. She sighed as she mumbled to herself with a hint of helplessness, “Even if I successfully beg master not to kill you when he comes out after a year, it’ll still be difficult for you to escape Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace!”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was still immersed in his cultivation. He was completely unaware that he was currently in captivity!

2289 Duan Ling Tian Ended His Closed-Door Cultivation!

Time passed by quietly and many months passed by in just a blink of an eye.

The atmosphere was tranquil in the Wandering Saint Palace’s estate.

However, the people that came with Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, who had been standing guard outside Duan Ling Tian’s mansion knew that it was only the calm before the storm.

Duan Ling Tian was not the only one who had become a captive in his mansion. Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, Gan Ru Yan, and Peng Lai had also become captives in Duan Ling Tian's mansion. They were well aware of the situation outside and knew their chances of survival were slim.

Initially, they felt anxious. However, as time passed, they came to terms with their fates. They knew there was nothing they could do.

"When Palace Master Yuwen Hao Chen comes out of his closed-door cultivation, it'll be the end of us... Ke'er, do you have any regrets?" Gan Ru Yan asked Ke'er after she sighed.

"Regrets? What do you mean, sister?" Ke'er asked in confusion.

"I'm asking if you regret meeting him? If you didn't meet him, you won't be so unlucky. You definitely won't have to face the danger today if you don't know him!" Gan Ru Yan replied.

As soon as Gan Ru Yan finished speaking, Ke'er shook her head and said vehemently, "Of course not!" She paused for a moment before she said with a bright smile on her face, "Meeting Brother Tian is one of the best things to have happened to me. To me, getting to meet Brother Tian is like a gift from God... I feel content being able to be with him for such a long time. Even if I die now, I have no regrets." It could be seen from her bright smile that she meant what she said from the bottom of her heart.

Although Gan Ru Yan had anticipated this kind of answer from Ke'er, she still felt touched when she heard her sister speaking about her feelings for Duan Ling Tian. She wondered if Duan Ling Tian was really that good of a man. Unknowingly, her train of thoughts wandered elsewhere as she became misty-eyed...

Suddenly, Duan Si Ling's voice rang out in the air as though she had made a huge discovery. "Mother! Aunt! The bird moved! It moved!"

"That..." Peng Lai had come over as well, alerted by Duan Si Ling's cry. He instantly looked at the bird formed from golden flames.

Ke'er and Gan Ru Yan were looking at the bird as well.

In the distance, where Duan Ling Tian was in closed-door cultivation, the Three-legged Golden Crow the size of a small hill had unfurled its huge wings. Initially, it had stood guard motionlessly. Currently, it was flapping its wings. It flapped its wing faster and faster with each passing second. Brilliantly bright red flames had appeared in its eyes.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The wind began to howl as the Three-legged Golden Crow flapped its wings, sand and dust rose in the air, creating a sandstorm.

It did not take long before the Three-legged Golden Crow began to rise into the air.

When Duan Si Ling saw this, she cried out, "Fl...flying! It is flying!"

Although it had only flown ten meters high, it had surprised everyone. After all, this bird had remained lifeless and without sentience earlier.

“Is daddy okay?”

When the Three-legged Golden Crow flew up, Duan Si ling thought she would be able to see her father. However, even after the Three-legged Golden Crow had flown up, her father did not emerge from the ruin.

The room Duan Ling Tian was in remained the same after it had exploded. Apart from the shattered wall and bricks lying on the ground, the wooden bed still remained standing. However, the figure of a person dressed in a purple robe could not be seen at all.

Unlike Ke'er, Duan Si Ling, and Gan Ru Yan, Peng Lai could clearly sense Duan Ling Tian's aura. He said, “Master is in the bird's body! It seems like his aura is stronger than before. In fact, it seems like he has made a breakthrough!” After a while, he paused as he fell deep into his thoughts. ‘However, isn't master's cultivation base already at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?’ He was confused, unable to figure out what was happening.

It was obvious Peng Lai was unaware that Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was only at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He had assumed that Duan Ling Tian was at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. It was only natural since the strength that Duan Ling Tian had displayed rivaled a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. If Duan Ling Tian was not at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, how could he have killed Lin Yuan, an elder of Wandering Saint Palace who was at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, with just two strikes?

At this moment, when Duan Ling Tian who was in the body of the bird that was formed from golden flames caused a commotion in the mansion, the throng of people outside the mansion began to notice the movements in the mansion as well.

“That...”

“What's that?”

Naturally, Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, was the first one to notice the Three-legged Golden Crow that had flown up into the sky since his attention was solely focused on the mansion. A frown and a hint of confusion could be seen on his face. He was not sure what was happening. However, one thing was for sure; he could not wait to kill the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion who was hiding inside the mansion.

After a while, Shi Nan Feng was baffled. “His aura... seems to be much stronger than before! His aura is similar to that of a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!” Based on what he knew, the Young Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion was already at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He thought to himself, ‘Could he have held back when he was cultivating earlier?’

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Peng Lai and Shi Nan Feng were still confused when the deafening sound of thunder rumbled on the other side of the Wandering Saint Palace's estate, startling everyone in the estate.

“This is... the Celestial Ascension Tribulation!?”

In the residence of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, Yun Fu Ye, a Vice Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace, flew out of his room immediately. When he saw the Tribulation Clouds that were brewing in the sky, his eyes twinkled and he had an excited expression on his face. He knew his master was about to undergo the Heavenly Tribulation. Once his master had successfully passed the Heavenly Tribulation, his master would be able to make a breakthrough and become an Eminent Celestial. He had no doubts that his master would successfully pass the Heavenly Tribulation. In the history of Wandering Saint Palace, there were no Palace Masters who had failed the Heavenly Tribulation after all.

I didn't expect master to attract the Celestial Ascension Tribulation a month earlier than expected... This means, in just a few days, master will become an Eminent Celestial!” Yun Fu Ye thought to himself excitedly.

Tribulation Clouds were clouds that heralded the Heavenly Tribulation. Apart from purple lightning bolts, bolts of multi-colored lighting could be seen flashing in the clouds like dragons as well. The lights from the bolts of multicolored lightning were blindingly bright!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of thunder continued to reverberate in the air. Initially, the Tribulation Clouds only converged over a small area. However, as time passed, the area it encompassed grew wider and wider.

“That's the direction of the Palace Master's residence, isn't it?”

In the Wandering Saint Palace's estate, groups of elders and disciples lifted their heads to look at the sky. They could tell the clouds were converging above the Palace Master's residence.

These dark clouds with purple and multi-colored lightning bolts are the sign of a Celestial Ascension Tribulation, right?” An elder from Wandering Saint Palace exclaimed with widened eyes as though he had made a huge discovery.

“Tribulation Clouds from the Celestial Ascension Tribulation?”

When the other elders and disciples from Wandering Saint Palace heard this, their eyes lit up immediately.

“Lord Palace Master is undergoing the Heavenly Tribulation?”

“It seems like it won't be long before our Wandering Saint Palace will gain an Eminent Celestial!”

“From today onward, there'll be a second Eminent Celestial in the Human-Devil clan... Moreover, the new Eminent Celestial is none other than our Lord Palace Master!”

There was uproar in the Wandering Saint Palace's estate. Everyone was delighted when they found out about this.

Meanwhile, outside of Duan LingTian's mansion...

The people from the remaining Two Palaces and Six Halls, including Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, were also looking in the direction of the residence of Yuwen Hao Chen.

While they were looking at the Tribulation Clouds that were converging above Yuwen Hao Chen's residence, they failed to notice that the bird formed from golden flames that was hovering in the sky was changing as well. The flames seemed to disappear before it revealed a purple-clad young man who had been concealed in the body of the Three-legged Golden Crow.

"Daddy!" Duan Si Ling cried out.

The purple-clad young man who was hovering in the air opened his eyes immediately when he heard Duan Si Ling's voice.

It seemed like Duan Ling Tian had officially ended his closed-door cultivation!

2290 The Threat of an Eminent Celestial

"Daddy!"

Duan Ling Tian did not even have the chance to test his Sun Saint Origin that had broken through the last level without the help of the Elementary Devouring Tactic when he heard a familiar voice calling out to him. He opened his eyes immediately. He looked at the direction of the voice and saw a girl about twelve or thirteen years old standing in the distance.

"Si Ling. You've grown so much..." The moment Duan Ling Tian saw the girl, his body trembled involuntarily. "It should've been about three years since I went into closed-door cultivation."

Before Duan Ling Tian went into closed-door cultivation, he had estimated he would be able to break through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in three years. Since he had successfully broken through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage and he saw his daughter had transformed from a little girl to a teenage girl, he knew three years had really passed. He had been closed-door cultivation for a long time. At this moment, guilt rose in his heart. He felt guilty that he was not around to watch his daughter grow up.

"Daddy, you finally came out!" Although Si Ling had grown into a young lady, her temperament was still the same. When she saw Duan Ling Tian, she quickly rose up into the sky and flew into Duan Ling Tian's arms.

Duan Ling Tian instinctively caught Duan Si Ling in his arms and smiled. "Si Ling has grown so big in just a blink of an eye. I almost couldn't recognize you."

"Daddy, you were in closed-door cultivation for three years," Duan Si Ling said as she pursed her lips, looking at Duan Ling Tian dolefully.

"It's daddy's fault... Daddy shouldn't have gone into closed-door cultivation for so long," Duan Ling Tian said in a gentle tone as he laughed.

"Daddy, Mummy missed you a lot." Although Duan Si Ling still acted like a small child in front of Duan Ling Tian, she had matured into a thoughtful girl. For this reason, after she hugged him for a while, she

let him go and led him toward Ke'er. After that, she let go of his hand and stood obediently next to Gan Ru Yan.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes were filled with love as he looked at Ke'er. He called out softly, "Ke'er."

Ke'er looked at the man whom she worried about even when she was sleeping. In the next moment, she rushed into his arms and held him tightly as though she would never let him go again. "Brother Tian"

Duan Ling Tian had a guilty expression on his face as he gently held Ke'er in his arms. At this moment, silence was better than words. The hearts of these two people seemed to be one at this moment.

Peng Lai had a complicated expression on his face as he looked at Duan Ling Tian who had just come out of closed-door cultivation. "Master!" His master had helped him improve his Innate Spiritual Root into a dark blue one. During these three years, he had made a breakthrough as well, joining the ranks of elders at the Eight Form of the Saint Stage. Usually, this would be a cause for celebration. However, right now, he could not bring himself to feel happy about his achievement. Although he had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he was already regarded as a traitor by the Wandering Saint Palace. Not only would he be stripped of his position as an elder, but it was not certain if he could even stay alive at this point. He might have other options if he was not bound by the lighting penalty oath, but he had no other choice now other than to follow his master to the end of this dark road.

My only hope is that master will be able to create a miracle after coming out of closed-door cultivation!

Everyone was afraid to die, and Peng Lai was no exception. If he survived this calamity, he would willingly follow his master to the end of the world, leave the Wandering Saint Palace, and turn his back on the Human-Devil clan! Moreover, his instinct told him that if his master managed to survive this, his achievement would be higher if he followed his master rather than stay in the Wandering Saint Palace.

Gan Ru Yan looked at Duan Ling Tian. Her expression was complicated as she sensed his mysterious aura. "His aura has become so much stronger compared to three years ago. Three years ago, his cultivation base was still at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

Peng Lai might not know about Duan Ling Tian's real cultivation base three years ago, but as Ke'er's twin sister, Gan Ru Yan knew it very well. Although Duan Ling Tian's combat power was on par with an ordinary powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, she knew his cultivation base at that time was only at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

With his black Innate Spiritual Root, he should've broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, right?' Gan Ru Yan did not possess a black Innate Spiritual Root nor was her cultivation base that high so she could only come to this conclusion. She thought to herself, 'Currently, he should be a match for the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace...'

"Uncle Peng Lai, what's going on with those clouds that are brewing over there? It seems like it's glowing. It looks so mesmerizing!" Duan Si Ling asked Peng Lai when she saw the clouds converging in another area of the Wandering Saint Palace's estate.

When Peng Lai heard Duan Si Ling's question, he shifted his gaze to the sky. Only then did he notice the clouds converging in a single area. Moreover, he discovered a multi-colored light flashing intermittently

in the clouds. His eyes widened and his expression darkened as he exclaimed in a low voice, "This is the Celestial Ascension Tribulation!" He knew it was not appropriate to disturb the tender moment between his master and Ke'er, therefore, he had deliberately lowered his voice.

Gan Ru Yan who was standing next to Peng Lai, naturally, heard his words. She shifted her eyes to where the clouds were converging as well. "Celestial Ascension Tribulation? It's indeed the Tribulation Clouds from the Celestial Ascension Tribulation!"

As a former disciple of the Fire Worship Sect, Gan Ru Yan was, naturally, privy to matters regarding the Celestial Ascension Tribulation and the Tribulation Clouds. For this reason, when she saw the dark clouds that were flashing with purple and various color lights, she knew it was the Celestial Ascension Tribulation. Fear filled her heart as she looked at Peng Lai. She asked him to confirm her suspicion, "Where are the clouds converging?"

"It's converging above the residence of Lord Palace Master!" Peng Lai smiled bitterly. "Previously, I was confused why Shi Nan Feng, the Palace Master of Great Spirit Palace, didn't make a move on master even though he hates master so much. Moreover, Lord Palace Master hasn't come out from his closed-door cultivation, it's a good opportunity for him to act... However, he has only been guarding our mansion. I couldn't figure out his intention, but I finally understand now. As it turns out, Lord Palace Master had gone into closed-door cultivation to break through to become an Eminent Celestial! Shi Nan Feng must be afraid to offend Lord Palace Master since Lord Palace Master is about to become an Eminent Celestial! That must be why he didn't dare to recklessly charge into the mansion."

However, with this revelation, Peng Lai's heart was filled with trepidation again

Although Gan Ru Yan had prepared herself for the worst to happen, she could not help but ask again. "Are you sure it's the residence of the Palace Master of Wandering Saint Palace?!" She felt a little weak as she said, "This means Yuwen Hao Chen will be undergoing the Heavenly Tribulation and in a few days, he'll become an Eminent Celestial?" The slight ray of hope that had appeared in her heart was snuffed out instantly when she thought of this.

Earlier, Gan Ru Yan had thought that since Duan Ling Tian had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Eight Form, he would be a match for Yuwen Hao Chen. However, she was unaware of the limit of his Sun Saint Origin so she did not know that even if Duan Ling Tian had broken through to the Eighth of Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he still would not be a match for Yuwen Hao Chen. She did not even take the incomplete Devilseal Tablet into account. However, now she discovered that Yuwen Hao Chen was undergoing the Heavenly Tribulation and would become an Eminent Celestial soon. She felt like a drowning who had been given a life-saving buoy only to find out the buoy was damaged. It was as though she had ascended to heaven only to be pushed down to hell!

"No... There's a chance he might fail the Heavenly Tribulation and die," Gan Ru Yan murmured to herself. At this moment, the ray of hope appeared in her heart again as colors returned to her face. Based on what she knew, it was not certain that every powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage would successfully pass the Heavenly Tribulation.

Peng Lai instinctively shook his head when he heard Gan Ru Yan's words. He laughed bitterly as he said, "Fail the Heavenly Tribulation? That's impossible!"

