

Chapter 2661 The Abyss of Confusion

Upon hearing the Profound Divine Metal's words, the Chaos Divine Flame remained silent.

The Profound Divine Metal continued to say, "If I'm not mistaken, you can't maintain your consciousness for long either... Are you planning to stay here and wait for your next host to appear? Who knows how long that will take? Moreover, can you guarantee that you won't be absorbed by another Chaos Divine Flame's host? Once you're absorbed, you'll disappear. Is that what you want?"

The Profound Divine Metal continued to persuade the Chaos Divine Flame. "I know Chaos Divine Flames are proud, but so are the Profound Divine Metals. If I weren't afraid of being absorbed by another Profound Divine Metal's host, do you think I'll persuade you to serve my master? If we serve the same master, we won't have to worry even if we encounter the host of a third form Profound Divine Metal or Chaos Divine Flame. Moreover, together we can easily absorb other second form Profound Divine Metals and Chaos Divine Flames." Its voice grew softer and softer as it spoke. "Think about it... I'm going to lose my consciousness..." The moment the voice died away, the mysterious light surrounding the defective metal piece slightly dimmed. Then, the defective metal piece transformed into a streak of light that shot inside Duan Ling Tian's body. Following that, the mysterious light that shrouded his body slowly disappeared as well.

Thud!

As soon as the mysterious light disappeared, Duan Ling Tian who was still unconscious fell to the ground with a thud.

The grey flame in the middle of the cave surged up a few times before it heaved a long sigh. "Well... the Profound Divine Metal has a point." The moment the ancient voice died away, the grey flame seemed to turn into a bolt of lightning before it entered Duan Ling Tian's body as well.

At this moment, the unconscious Duan Ling Tian was the only one in the cave. The stones and pebbles had disappeared as soon as the grey flame entered Duan Ling Tian's body.

The cave was peaceful and quiet as time passed by silently.

After a day and a night had passed, Duan Ling Tian who seemed like he was asleep began to show signs of movements.

"Mmm..." Duan Ling Tian slowly regained his consciousness. Although he was still bleary, he could not help the exhilaration that coursed through his body. "I-I'm not dead? I'm still alive!"

'So I was dreaming...' A bitter smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face as disappointment welled in his heart. When he woke up, he discovered the stones and pebbles had disappeared. Most importantly, the grey Celestial Flame had disappeared as well. He recalled exerting all his strength but still failed to obtain the Celestial Fire before he lost consciousness. At that time, he thought he would die. Now that he had woken up, everything had disappeared. What happened? Was it just a dream?

“Hm?” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian suddenly felt a jolt in his body, causing his hair to stand on end. He had suddenly felt a burning sensation in his soul.

“This is...” Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded when he looked inside his body with his internal vision. He could clearly see a wisp of grey flame that was contained in the defective metal piece at the side of his soul. Although it was just a small wisp of flame, its destructive aura seemed to indicate it could burn through everything in this world! The aura was familiar as well. “This aura... belongs to the grey Celestial Flame!”

Duan Ling Tian gasped in excitement upon discovering this. He was 100% certain the small wisp of flame in the defective metal at the side of his soul was the Celestial Fire he had intended to retrieve before he passed out.

‘There’s no doubt the small wisp of flame is the Celestial Fire. Am I dreaming? Did I die? If I didn’t die, how did it enter my body?’ Duan Ling Tian had many unanswered questions in his mind. In a daze, he lifted his hand to pinch his face. His hand was only a hair’s breadth away from his face, but it seemed to be a world away to Duan Ling Tian. His hand trembled as it neared his face. Even after ten breaths had passed, his hand still did not touch his face. If someone else were here, they would be able to see his hand trembling violently. ‘It’s fine if it’s just a dream. If it’s not, does it really mean that I died?’ At this moment, he feared the truth.

Finally, Duan Ling Tian mustered up his courage and pinched his cheek with all his might. “Ouch!” he cried out when he felt the sharp sting on his face. His eyebrows rose up as an expression of happiness appeared on his face. ‘I’m alive! It’s not a dream! I survived!’ No words could describe the happiness he felt after he confirmed that he was alive. It was as though he had just been given another lease on life.

It took 15 minutes before Duan Ling Tian finally calmed down. “I was so sure I would die before I passed out. It’s strange that the Celestial Fire has already entered my body when I regained consciousness. The energy guarding the Celestial Fire had disappeared at some point. I’m certain I didn’t retrieve the Celestial Fire before I passed out. I could hardly repel the attack, let alone retrieve the Celestial Fire. Moreover, it seemed like the Celestial Fire is also contained in the defective metal piece.” He calmly analyzed the situation before coming to the conclusion that the defective metal piece was the reason he was alive and the Celestial Fire was in him!

“What in the heavens is it?” Duan Ling Tian knew the defective metal piece could function as a soul defense Celestial Weapon and that it was extraordinary, but he had no idea what it was. What was its true function? In any case, he discovered it could even help him to retrieve the Celestial Fire! Most importantly, it had also saved his life!

Duan Ling Tian’s attention was solely focused on the defective metal piece at this moment. ‘W-what are you? Back when Xia Jie gave the jade token to me, he only said it was extraordinary, and he didn’t know its origins as well. Strangely, it led me to the weird stone near my hometown in the mundane realm before it merged with the weird stone and transformed into this defective metal piece. Where did the jade token come from? What’s that weird-looking stone? Why is it near Fresh Breeze Town? Is there such a coincidence in life? This is truly strange...’ The more he thought about it, the more confused he became. It felt as though he had fallen into the abyss of confusion.

2662 Preparing To Refine Pills

‘Whatever... Based on the current situation, it seems like the defective metal piece is only beneficial to me and doesn’t pose any harm to me! If it weren’t for it, I would’ve died!’ Duan Ling Tian shook his head, dismissing all the confusing thoughts in his mind. There was no point dwelling on the questions, it only brought him a headache. After all, for now, it seemed like the defective metal piece was beneficial toward him.

“I wonder if I’ll be able to use the Celestial Fire since it’s contained in the defective metal piece?” Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to the grey flame in the defective metal piece. He took a deep breath and tried to activate the Celestial Fire using the method that was recorded in the Memory Celestial Talisman.

“Why is only part of the flames coming out?” Duan Ling Tian tried to draw the flames out, but he only managed to draw a small part of it out. He was confused again.

After trying for half an hour, there were still no improvements. It seemed like he could only use a small part of the flame for now. He finally decided to give up trying. “Will I be able to refine pills or forge weapons with such a small flame? Moreover, I can’t figure out the characteristics of the Celestial Fire so I can’t tell if it’s more suited for refining pills or forging weapons...”

With these thoughts in mind, Duan Ling Tian retraced his steps and left the place. After a short while, he arrived at the foot of the mountain.

“It’s time for me to return to the capital.” Duan Ling Tian decided to return to the County City of Nine Specters County to look for the ingredients to refine Spirit Nourishing Pill with the small flame he managed to draw out.

Spirit Nourishing Pills were fairly common primitive Celestial Pills. The formula was widely known, and the ingredients needed to refine them were fairly common medicinal herbs. Naturally, these herbs were common in Devata Realms, but they probably did not exist in the mundane realms.

When Duan Ling Tian arrived in the County City of Nine Specters County, he surveyed his surroundings and muttered to himself, ‘It looks like I’ll have to stay here for another year...’

The Martial Competition for the 16 Counties would take place after a year. Duan Ling Tian would be participating with the Golden Celestials below the age of 100 in the County Governor’s estate. However, he did not plan to return to this place after going to King Qing’s Mansion. After all, in terms of cultivation environment and resources, King Qing’s Mansion was definitely superior to the Nine Specters County. He would be able to improve his cultivation base quickly in King Qing’s Mansion. Moreover, there would be many opportunities for him to obtain higher grade cultivation methods as well.

“Anyway, I should get the medicinal herbs first.” He remembered some of the shops that Qin Yu had brought him to during their previous trip to the city.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian entered the shop, the shopkeeper greeted him respectfully, “Welcome, how may I assist you?”

Duan Ling Tian glanced at the shopkeeper and said, “Bring me the medicinal herbs needed to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills.”

“How many sets would you like?” The shopkeeper’s eyes lit up. Most people came to the shop to look for medicinal herbs to increase the efficacy of Celestial Pills. It was rare for someone to look for medicinal herbs to refine Celestial Pills. After all, Celestial Alchemists were rare here. In the entire Nine Specters County, only the County Governor’s estate and one of the major sects had Celestial Alchemists. The County Governor’s estate had two primitive Celestial Alchemists while one of the major sects had one primitive Celestial Alchemist. Since the Celestial Alchemists from the County Governor’s estate would send errand boys to the shop to place an order for medicinal herbs to be delivered to the estate, the shopkeeper was certain Duan Ling Tian was the Celestial Alchemist from one of the major sects in Nine Specters County.

Upon hearing the shopkeeper’s question, he frowned, deep in thought. Finally, he replied, “I’ll take everything you have.” This was his first time refining pills in a Devata Realm after all. He was not even sure if he could refine pills with his grey Celestial Fire. It was better if he had more ingredients to spare. With the money he had, it was not a problem for him to buy all the ingredients required to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills in this shop.

The shopkeeper gasped when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. He asked in shock, “My lord... A-are you serious?”

Although the shop was not the largest in the county city, it was still a well-known shop. No ordinary person would be able to afford all the ingredients needed to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills that they had in stock.

“Of course. Please get me the ingredients,” Duan Ling Tian responded impatiently when the shopkeeper questioned him skeptically.

When the shopkeeper was about to get the ingredients, a loud scoff rang in the air. Soon after, a middle-aged man with a medium built who was dressed in fine clothes walked into the shop. An old man with a dark expression on his face stood behind the middle-aged man.

“Young Master Liu!” The shopkeeper’s eyes brightened as soon as he saw the middle-aged man. After all, he knew this man, Liu Zuo Lin, was from the Liu clan, the only major force in Nine Specters County with a Celestial Alchemist in their ranks. Moreover, he was also the only son of the current clan leader.

Liu Zuo Lin did not even spare Duan Ling Tian a glance as he said to the shopkeeper, “I want ten sets of medicinal herbs required to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills.”

“Young Master Liu.” The shopkeeper smiled as he glanced at Duan Ling Tian. “This customer has requested to buy all the medicinal herbs we have in stock... He should also be from the Liu Clan?” Up until now, he was still under the impression that Duan Ling Tian was from the Liu clan. After all, apart from the City Governor’s estate, the Liu Clan was the only force that had a Celestial Alchemist in Nine Specters County.

“How dare you impersonate someone from the Liu Clan!” Liu Zuo Lin glared at Duan Ling Tian. His eyes were cold as he stared at Duan Ling Tian like a venomous snake that was about to strike.

“Liu Clan?” Duan Ling Tian was baffled, but he replied indifferently, “Sorry, I’ve never heard of the Liu Clan...” He disregarded the angry expression on Liu Zuo Lin’s face and said to the shopkeeper impatiently, “Are you going to get the ingredients for me? If you’re not, there are other shops I can go to. Your shop isn’t the only one that carries ingredients to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills.”

At this point, the shopkeeper finally realized Duan Ling Tian was not from the Liu Clan. If he still did not realize this, he would have lived so long in vain. “Sorry, sorry. I’ll get to it immediately...” he quickly said to appease Duan Ling Tian before turning to Liu Zuo Lin and apologetically said. “I’m sorry, Young Master Liu. I was mistaken... This customer didn’t say he’s from the Liu Clan. I just assumed he’s from the Liu Clan when he said he wanted to buy the medicinal herbs to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills. All the medicinal herbs we have are already taken. I’m afraid you’ll have to look for them in another shop.” After he finished speaking, he hurried to the back of the shop to prepare the medicinal herbs Duan Ling Tian had requested.

Although Liu Zuo Lin’s status was remarkable, the clan that owned this shop was on par with the Liu Clan. For this reason, the shopkeeper did not pander to Liu Zuo Lin. The most important thing was to make money. Liu Zuo Lin only wanted to buy ten sets of the medicinal herbs needed to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills whereas Duan Ling Tian had requested for everything they had in stock. Their shop had 300 sets of the medicinal herbs Duan Ling Tian needed. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had arrived first. It was only natural that the shopkeeper would sell the medicinal herbs to Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing the shopkeeper’s words, Liu Zuo Lin’s expression darkened immediately. Although the shopkeeper was just like an ant to him, he was still an employee of the people who owned this shop. He could not afford to offend those people. As long as the shopkeeper did not act out of bound, he did not dare to retaliate at all. As the saying went, ‘Before one beat a dog, one would have to see who its master was’.

For this reason, Liu Zuo Lin focused all his anger on Duan Ling Tian instead. “Brat, did you say you’ve never heard of the Liu Clan? Are you trying to challenge the dignity of the Liu clan?”

2663 Interception

Since Liu Zuo Lin had entered the shop, Duan Ling Tian had only spared him a glance before ignoring him. He did not bother with Liu Zuo Lin at all, not afraid even if Liu Zuo Lin threatened him with the Liu clan. Although he had no interactions with the Liu clan in Nine Specters County, he had heard of the clan before. He knew the clan was one of the most powerful forces in Nine Specters County. The Qiu clan, where Zheng Qiu the inner-estate elder in the County Governor’s estate was from, was almost as famous as the Liu clan. Due to Zheng Qiu, the Qiu clan’s overall strength was stronger. He was not afraid of the Qiu clan, let alone the Liu clan. To him, Liu Zuo Lin who thought he could act as he pleased just because he was from the Liu clan was like a joke.

“Y-you dare ignore me?” Liu Zuo Lin was enraged when he saw Duan Ling Tian ignoring him. Celestial Origin Energy began to surge out of his body.

Just as Liu Zuo Lin was about to make a move, the old man with a blank expression who was standing behind him suddenly stepped forward and stopped Liu Zuo Lin. He asked Duan Ling Tian in a deep voice, “Who are you?”

At this moment, the old man was no longer expressionless. He looked at Duan Ling Tian solemnly with a hint of wariness in his eyes. Although he did not know Duan Ling Tian, since Duan Ling Tian was buying medicinal herbs to refine Spirit Nourishing Pills, it meant that Duan Ling Tian was a primitive Celestial Alchemist at least or he had the support of a Celestial Alchemist. Naturally, he thought it was more likely that Duan Ling Tian had the support of a Celestial Alchemist. This was because he could sense Duan Ling Tian's aura and could tell that Duan Ling Tian was less than 100 years of age. He had never heard of someone becoming a Celestial Alchemist in less than 100 years old, let alone a Celestial Alchemist who was younger than 100 years of age. He would not find it surprising if someone younger than 100 years old managed to obtain a Celestial Fire. However, becoming a Celestial Alchemist and refining pills were much more than just owning a Celestial Fire. Although it could not be considered as extremely difficult, a lot of experience and practice were needed. He was also well aware that even if he had not heard of or seen a Celestial Alchemist under 100 years old, it did not mean they did not exist. It was just that he was certain there was no such person in the places under the rule of King Qing's Mansion.

Duan Ling Tian stared at the old man and said with a straight face, "Someone you can't afford to offend." He had sensed Liu Zuo Lin's killing intent earlier, he did not expect the old man to stop Liu Zuo Lin before Liu Zuo Lin could make a move. For this reason, he responded to the old man. He turned away as soon as he finished speaking.

At this moment, the shopkeeper emerged from the back with a Spatial Ring in hand. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "All the medicinal herbs you requested are inside... There's a total of 373 sets of medicinal herbs. Generally, our shop sells one set for one prominent Celestial Stone. Since you're buying so many sets, we're giving you a discount. It'll cost you 370 prominent Celestial Stones in total." He was very respectful. Since he discovered Duan Ling Tian was not from the Liu clan, and he was certain Duan Ling Tian was not one of the primitive Celestial Alchemists from the County Governor's estate, he assumed Duan Ling Tian was a Celestial Alchemist from other places. To come to the Nine Specters County, he thought Duan Ling Tian must have business to attend to here. Regardless, he knew Duan Ling Tian was not someone he or the clan behind him could offend.

Upon hearing this, Liu Zuo Lin who felt humiliated by Duan Ling Tian said with a sneer, "370 prominent Celestial Stones... Will you be able to afford it?" After all, 370 prominent Celestial Stones were not a small number. Even in the Liu clan, apart from the high-ranking officials, not many of them could afford to spend so much in a go.

Duan Ling Tian passed an unclaimed Spatial Ring to the shopkeeper and said indifferently, "There are 400 prominent Celestial Stones in there. You can keep the change. I'm very pleased with your service." After he finished speaking, he looked at Liu Zuo Lin and the old man behind him.

"Thank you, thank you!" The shopkeeper's eyes lit up upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. A hint of excitement could be seen on his face. After all, this was his first time meeting such a generous customer. He was given 30 prominent Celestial Stones just for this sale. After he verified the correct number of Celestial Stones was in the Spatial Ring, he nodded and claimed ownership of the ring before he passed the Spatial Ring that contained medicinal herbs to Duan Ling Tian.

After Duan Ling Tian put the Spatial Ring away, he asked the shopkeeper, "Do you know where I can buy a cauldron to refine pills?"

Everyone, including Liu Zuo Lin and the old man, was shocked.

"I-I... Are you planning to refine the pills yourself?" The shopkeeper looked at Duan Ling Tian with disbelief before he quickly said, "Or could it be that the Celestial Alchemist you serve doesn't have a cauldron at the moment?"

"I'm refining it myself," Duan Ling Tian said, "So, do you know where I can get a cauldron? Tell me if you know. Otherwise, I'll look for them on my own."

"I do, I do." The shopkeeper was, naturally, eager to disclose everything he knew to this generous customer who had given him 30 prominent Celestial Stones as tips. He listed out the shops nearby that carried cauldrons.

"Thanks." Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time and left the shop after that.

After Duan Ling Tian left, Liu Zuo Lin glared at the shopkeeper before he left with the old man in tow. His eyes flashed as he said, "Uncle Li... Should we do something? This guy might have a lot of prominent Celestial Stones, but he seems fairly young. This means his cultivation base is probably low as well."

The old man said, "He should be less than 100 years old."

"Less than 100 years old?" Although Liu Zuo Lin could tell Duan Ling Tian was young, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be less than 100 years old. Upon discovering this, the cogs in his mind began to turn.

"Young master, he may not be older than 100 years old, but based on how he had easily spent 400 prominent Celestial Stones, he must have an extraordinary background. Moreover, his aura isn't simple as well." The old man was slightly hesitant. "Wouldn't it be risky for us to act?" Although this was not his first rodeo, he felt slightly uneasy this time around. The purple-clad young man seemed like a tough nut to crack.

"Don't worry." Liu Zuo Lin looked at the old man meaningfully. "Don't forget, we've never failed before!"

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian walked on the major street and made his way to the shop that sold cauldrons.

"Hm?" Suddenly, he seemed to have sensed something as he narrowed his eyes that were flashing coldly. "They're following me... What do they want?"

Duan Ling Tian who was initially rushing to buy a cauldron suddenly changed direction and walked into a small alley.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian entered the small alley, Liu Zuo Lin and the old man appeared in front of him, blocking his path.

“What do you want?” Duan Ling Tian asked indifferently, clearly not bothered by their sudden appearance.

Liu Zuo Lin’s expression turned unsightly when he saw Duan Ling Tian was still able to maintain his composure. He glared at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Brat, blame your rotten luck for running into me today. I don’t know where you came from, but you won’t be leaving this place today.”

“Why? You’re planning to keep me here?” Duan Ling Tian still sounded indifferent.

“Not only that, but we’re going to kill you. If there’s a next life, remember not to openly flaunt your wealth!” Liu Zuo Lin sneered. As soon as he finished speaking, he turned to the old man and said, “Uncle Li, do it!”

Bang!

A loud bang sounded in the air as the old man moved at lightning speed and struck with his palm.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes were cold as he scoffed loudly.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Tens of thousands of sword rays shot out from Duan Ling Tian’s body, making him look as bright as the sun.

Chapter 2664 An Outrageous Offer

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The palm prints from the old man’s strike seemed to fill the void and fell on Duan Ling Tian as tens of thousands of sword rays shot out from his body to defend against the attack.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The earth quaked as waves and waves of shockwave rippled outward.

Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!

It did not take long before the sound of sword cries drowned out the sound of explosions.

“How’s this possible?!” In the distance, the old man whom Liu Zuo Lin addressed as Uncle Li could not believe what he had just seen. The sword rays surging out from the purple-clad young man had easily deflected his attack. His eyes seemed to clear up at this moment, a hint of fear and regret could be seen in his eyes. If he still did not realize he had offended someone whom he could not afford to offend, he would have lived his life in vain.

“Seeking death!” Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly.

These words sounded like a tolling bell that signified death in the old man’s ears. He began to panic and opened his mouth in an attempt to speak...

However, before words could leave the old man's mouth, the tens of thousands of sword rays merged into a sword Formation that fell on the old man like a cluster of meteors. Blood splattered everywhere, dying the small alley red. Then, the sword Formation disappeared into the air without a trace.

Liu Zuo Lin who had just regained his senses paled immediately. He was trembling violently as he looked at the blood-stained alley. The smell of blood in the air caused his legs to weaken and sent chills running up his spine. He felt something cool trickling down his legs.

Thud!

Liu Zuo Lin fell to the ground, sitting in a puddle of urine. The stench of urine mixed with the smell of blood wafted in the air.

"Didn't you plan on killing me after robbing me?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Liu Zuo Lin who had peed in his pants in disgust as he coldly said, "Since your henchman is dead, you should do the deed."

"You... You..." Liu Zuo Lin looked at Duan Ling Tian and stuttered, "Y-you.. You can't kill me! If... If you do, the Liu clan will not let you go! My father is the Clan Leader of Liu clan!" He quickly revealed his identity in hopes of saving his life. After all, his father was the clan leader of one of the five major clans in Nine Specters City.

"Liu clan?" Duan Ling Tian laughed after hearing Liu Zuo Lin's words. "It seems you have a lot of confidence in your clan... Since that's that case, I'll give you a chance and let you return home."

Duan Ling Tian's words stunned Liu Zuo Lin. His eyes brightened for a moment before he asked fearfully, "You... You'll allow me to return to the Liu clan?"

"Not only will I allow you to return to the Liu clan, but I'll follow you back as well!" Duan Ling Tian said.

Liu Zuo Lin's expression changed as he asked in a trembling voice, "Y-you... Who are you?" Although he was not particularly smart, he was not hopelessly stupid. Since the purple-clad young man allowed him to return and was even planning to follow him back, it was clear the purple-clad young man was confident and unafraid of the Liu clan! At this moment, it dawned on him that he might have picked on the wrong target.

"If you don't want to return to the Liu clan, I don't mind sending you off to accompany that old man in the netherworld." Duan Ling Tian's tone was cold.

These words startled Liu Zuo Lin into action. His body shook as he left the small alley in a hurry, making his way to the Liu clan's mansion. He turned a few heads as he sped toward the mansion.

"Isn't that Liu Zuo Lin, the young master of the Liu clan?"

"What happened? Why does he look like he's in a panic?"

"Who knows? However, I'm sure I smelled the stench of urine when he ran past me."

"The stench of urine? Are you joking?"

Similar discussions could be heard along the way. People were so engrossed in their conversation that they failed to notice a purple figure tailing Liu Zuo Lin in the sky.

“Young master... You... What happened to you?” The guards stationed at the gates of the Liu clan’s mansion were shocked when they saw the state Liu Zuo Lin was in and smelled the stench of urine. This was their first time seeing their young master in such a state.

However, Liu Zuo Lin did not deign to reply to the guards. He charged inside frantically in search of his father, the Clan Leader of Liu Clan.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian said through Voice Transmission, “I’ll wait for you outside the main hall...”

This frightened Liu Zuo Lin even more. “He... Who’s he?!” Although he had always been assured of the Liu clan’s strength, he became more and more anxious as he faced Duan Ling Tian who seemed unafraid of the Liu clan.

Duan Ling Tian who was hovering in the air above the main hall in the Liu clan’s mansion muttered to himself, “Since the Liu clan is one of the five major clans in Nine Specters County, the Liu clan should be quite wealthy, right?” He clearly intended to demand money from these people. He did not feel bad. After all, as the saying went, ‘The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree’. Otherwise, he would not have followed Liu Zuo Lin here.

About fifteen minutes later.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two gusts of wind blew into the main hall, and two figures appeared near Duan Ling Tian in just a blink of an eye.

“Father... That’s him.”

Duan Ling Tian who was resting opened his eyes when he heard Liu Zuo Lin’s voice. He saw Liu Zuo Lin and a middle-aged man who bore resemblance to Liu Zuo Lin. However, the middle-aged man had a steady air about him, unlike Liu Zuo Lin.

“Sir, I hope you can be the bigger man and forgive my son for his transgression. As long as you’re willing to spare my son’s life, I, Liu Dong Ping, am willing to offer you 1,000 primitive Celestial Stones as compensation. Is this an acceptable offer?” The middle-aged was very respectful when he spoke.

“Liu Dong Ping? You’re the Clan Leader of Liu clan?” Duan Ling Tian asked calmly.

“Yes.” Liu Dong Ping nodded.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Liu Dong Ping for a moment before he said, “You’re smarter than your son.”

Liu Dong Ping forced himself to laugh before he said, “Thank you for the compliment, sir.”

Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to Liu Zuo Lin before he said, “Well, if your son only intended to rob me of my money and medicinal herbs, 1,000 prominent Celestial Stones would’ve sufficed. Unfortunately, he wanted to kill me as well... I’ve always had the habit of not letting those who intend to

kill me live.” He paused for a moment before he slowly said, “Clan Leader Liu... Is your son’s life only worth 1,000 prominent Celestial Stones?”

“How many Celestial Stones do you want, sir?” Liu Dong Ping asked as his face slightly twitched. It was obvious he was suppressing his anger. Based on the state his son was in, the purple-clad young man had to have an extraordinary background. However, it crossed his mind that the purple-clad young man might be bluffing as well.

However, as the Clan Leader of Liu Clan, Liu Dong Ping was, naturally, more farsighted. He could not take the risk so he preferred to think the purple-clad young man had an extraordinary background.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Liu Zuo Lin as he said without any inflection in his tone, “100,000 prominent Celestial Stones. If you give me 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, I’ll consider sparing his life.”

100,000 prominent Celestial Stones!

Duan Ling Tian had come up with this number after taking into account the number of prominent Celestial Stones he found in the spatial ring of Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder in the County Governor’s estate in Nine Specters County. He had found 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones in Zhou Tong’s Spatial Ring.

“100,000 prominent Celestial Stones?”

Liu Zuo Lin and Liu Dong Ping were stunned upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s demand. Liu Dong Ping’s expression changed drastically as well as he cried out, “Sir!”

Liu clan was one of the five major clans in Nine Specters County City, and Liu Dong Ping was its clan leader. It was only natural that he had his pride as well. He could no longer suppress his anger when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s outrageous demand. He glared at Duan Ling Tian as he said, “You’re demanding too much! 2,000 prominent Celestial Stones. This is the best I can offer you. If you’re unwilling, I...” He paused, swallowing the threatening words that hung on the tip of his tongue.

Chapter 2665 Killing the Celestial Alchemist!

Liu Dong Ping could not produce 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones. It would still be impossible to come up with this number of Celestial Stones even if all the clan members contributed. Well, not unless he sold off some of their more lucrative businesses. However, how could he be willing to do something like this?

Duan Ling Tian asked with a faint smile on his face, “If I refuse, what are you going to do, Clan Leader Liu?”

Upon hearing this, Liu Dong Ping felt an ominous feeling rise in his heart. He thought to himself, ‘It really seems like I can’t afford to offend this young man...’ Feeling uneasy, he decided to compromise. “Sir, what about 3,000 prominent Celestial Stones? I only have 3,000 prominent Celestial Stones! I can’t give you any more.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Liu Zuo Lin with killing intent as he said flippantly, “Well, if that’s the case, you leave me with no choice but to kill your son...”

“Father!” Liu Zuo Lin cried out fearfully. He quickly scrambled and hid behind Liu Dong Ping as though Liu Dong Ping was his last lifeline. “Father, I don’t want to die... I don’t want to die!”

Liu Dong Ping glared at Duan Ling Tian and harshly said, “Sir, don’t push your luck!” Although he was disappointed in his son, he, naturally, did not want his son to come to harm. Moreover, Liu Zuo Lin was his only son.

“Don’t push my luck?” Duan Ling Tian smirked. “Clan Leader Liu, for your own sake and for the clan’s sake, I advise you to hand your son over. I have unfinished business with him.”

Liu Dong Ping snorted coldly. He raised his hand that was filled with jade tokens and injected Celestial Origin Energy into them. The jade tokens then flew in all directions in the mansion.

“Communication Celestial Talismans?” Duan Ling Tian could have easily intercepted all of the talismans, but he did not think it was necessary to do so. He stared at Liu Dong Ping and said, “I thought you’re a wise man. However, it looks like you’re just an overprotective fool. Prepare to die with your son and your entire clan!”

“If I were you I would leave immediately and stop talking nonsense here. When the clan’s powerhouses arrive, it’ll be too late for you to leave!” Liu Dong Ping replied calmly as killing intent surged from his body. Although he was the clan leader, he was not the strongest in the clan. There were three Supreme Elders who were stronger than him in the clan. One of them was also an inner-estate elder in the County Governor’s estate. He was ranked third among the inner-estate elders in the estate.

“Such confidence... I’d love to see how your people are going to stop me!” Duan Ling Tian grinned when he heard Liu Dong Ping’s words, disregarding the threats.

They waited for the powerhouses to come, and it felt like years to the father and son.

Liu Dong Ping asked angrily through Voice Transmission, “You unfilial son! Who the hell did you offend?”

“I have no idea, father...” Liu Zuo Lin replied. An idea suddenly appeared in his mind, and he said, “Should I... tell mother about this? Although the Pang family is weak, their ancestor is the strongest powerhouse below Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County. He’s mother’s uncle, and he loves her dearly and treats her like his biological daughter. He won’t refuse her request, right?” His eyes gleamed brightly now that he had found another lifeline.

“Fine, tell her about this. Hopefully, he’s willing to teach this brat a lesson!” Liu Dong Ping replied. His fear seemed to have subsided as he looked at Duan Ling Tian again.

Liu Zuo Lin raised his hand and produced another Communication Celestial Talisman.

Similar to earlier, Duan Ling Tian did not stop Liu Zuo Lin from calling for help. He was not afraid.

After a few seconds, many figures from all over the mansion began to make their way toward Liu Dong Ping.

The figures consisted of men of varying ages. There were old men, middle-aged men, and young men. Regardless, all of them were stronger than the ordinary Golden Celestial.

“What’s going on, clan leader?”

“Who dares to come and look for trouble?”

Most of them looked at Duan Ling Tian with hostility brimming in their eyes as though he had murdered their family.

Liu Dong Ping answered solemnly, “This person murdered Elder Liu Li, and he’s now after my son’s life!”

“He killed Elder Liu Li? Damn it! You’re not leaving here alive, brat!”

“You must pay with your life!”

The elders of the Liu Clan were filled with self-righteous indignation. However, none of them made a move. They were no fools. Since the purple-clad young man was still alive, and the clan leader had summoned them, it meant the clan leader could not deal with him. Since they were weaker than Liu Dong Ping, it would only be suicidal if they were to make a move now.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Two people arrived on the scene. One was an old man with grey hair, and the other was a middle-aged man with an average built.

“Greetings, Supreme Elders!” The people from the Liu clan greeted the two newcomers in unison.

“What’s going on, Dong Ping?” the old man asked. He was dressed in a grey robe and looked exceptionally young for his age.

“Second uncle, it’s like this...” Liu Dong Ping recounted what happened in a respectful tone. He had spoken honestly so everyone knew it was Liu Zuo Lin who caused this trouble.

“This purple-clad young man isn’t a simple person. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have waited for us to arrive. Moreover, he doesn’t seem to care even after the Supreme Elders have arrived. He doesn’t seem afraid.” The elders felt uneasy.

The middle-aged man, a Supreme Elder in the Liu clan, glanced at Duan Ling Tian coldly and said, “I don’t care who you are or where you came from. The Nine Specters County is our territory. If you know what’s good for you, you’d leave.”

“Well, what if I don’t know what’s good for me?” Duan Ling Tian retorted.

“Then, you can only die here!” The middle-aged man’s expression darkened as he looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was looking at a dead man walking. Not only was he a Supreme Elder in the Liu clan, but he was also a primitive Celestial Alchemist. Even Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, would give him a measure of respect as a Celestial Alchemist. After all, if he went all out, he was capable of dying together with a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. He could detonate his Celestial Fire after all. For this reason, he was very arrogant.

“Is that so?” Duan Ling Tian replied coldly. His eyes flashed with killing intent as he made his move.

Whoosh!

Thousands of sword rays surged out from Duan Ling Tian's body and converged into a sword Formation. The sword Formation swept toward the middle-aged man. This time Duan Ling Tian did not use the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. He only used a primitive Celestial Sword. Even then, his speed was lightning fast. Those weaker than Great Overarching Golden Celestials were no match for him at all.

In just a blink of an eye, the middle-aged man, a Supreme Elder and Celestial Alchemist in the Liu clan, who was an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial was shrouded by the sword Formation, leaving his body riddled with holes. Let alone detonating his Celestial Fire, he did not even have time to react.

Chapter 2666 Liu Qian, the Inner-estate Elder

The Liu Clan's primitive Celestial Alchemist did not expect Duan Ling Tian to make such a sudden move. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian's speed was too fast. Otherwise, he would not have been killed so quickly even if he was no match for Duan Ling Tian.

"Hm?" As soon as Duan Ling Tian killed the middle-aged man, he discovered the grey flame in his body had shot out of the defective metal piece next to his soul. It turned into a streak of grey light that could not be seen with naked eyes as it shot out of his body into the middle-aged man's body.

'What does it want?' Duan Ling Tian who was curious used his Divine Consciousness to track the grey flame. He discovered the grey flame absorbing a blue flame in the middle-aged man's body.

Realization dawned on him. 'Is... Is that a Celestial Fire? The Supreme Elder whom I killed is a primitive Celestial Alchemist?' He felt a pang of fear when he thought about this. After all, there was a risk of Celestial Alchemists detonating their Celestial Fires.

After a while, he sighed in relief. 'Fortunately, I managed to kill him with a strike...'

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian discovered the grey flame had returned to his body and entered the defective metal piece after it had devoured the middle-aged man's Celestial Fire. He was confused, 'What's going on? If I'm not mistaken, a Celestial Alchemist's Celestial Fire would disappear once the alchemist dies. If I've never heard of a Celestial Fire being able to absorb another Celestial Fire.'

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was not aware that the grey flame in his body was not a Celestial Fire, but a Chaos Divine flame that was superior to Celestial Fires. His Chaos Divine Flame was only in the Second Form, incomparable to Chaos Divine Flames in the Ninth Form, the perfect form. The Second Form of a Chaos Divine Flame was comparable to a mediocre Celestial Fire.

While Duan Ling Tian was preoccupied with his thoughts about the grey flame, the people from the Liu Clan were stunned speechless when they witnessed their Supreme Elder being killed. It took a long time before they gradually regained their senses.

"Elder Liu Qing is dead?"

"Not only was Elder Liu Qing a Celestial Alchemist, but he was also an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial! And yet, this purple-clad young man killed him with just a strike?"

“Even if the purple-clad young man had launched a sneak attack... He has to be an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial at least!”

“In our clan, we only have two Indigo Sun Golden Celestials...”

The Liu Clan Elders were thoroughly shocked by the death of their Supreme Elder. They looked at Duan Ling Tian in fear and panic.

“H-he killed Elder Liu Qing?” Liu Zuo Lin was filled with disbelief. Not even in his wildest dreams did he imagine the purple-clad young man was capable of killing one of their Supreme Elders. Not only was Liu Qing a Celestial Alchemist, but he was also an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial who was much stronger than his father!

“He must be an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial at least since he easily killed Elder Liu Qing. But, how’s this possible? He’s not even 100 years old!” Liu Zuo Lin recalled Liu Li’s words to him earlier. He found it difficult to believe that someone below the age of 100 who was an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial would come to Nine Specters County.

Liu Dong Ping’s body shook in anger as he said, “Y-you... How dare you kill Elder Liu Qing!”

There were only three primitive Celestial Alchemists in Nine Specters County. Liu Qing was one of them. He was irreplaceable. There was no doubt that Liu Qing’s death was a huge loss to the Liu Clan.

The grey-clad old man, another Supreme Elder in the Liu clan, looked at Duan Ling Tian fearfully. He no longer dared to underestimate Duan Ling Tian. “Who’re you?!”

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, a loud and arrogant voice rang in the air, seemingly able to shake the Liu clan’s mansion. “Who dares to act so brazenly here?”

“This voice... Isn’t it Elder Liu Qian?”

“Doesn’t he usually live in the County Governor’s estate? Why did he suddenly come back?”

“Is Elder Liu Qian talking about us or that young man?”

“In any case, there must be a reason for his sudden return!”

Liu Qian was one of the three Supreme Elders in the Liu Clan. Among the three of them, he was also the strongest. In the County Governor’s estate, he was ranked third among all the inner-estate elders.

“It’s Elder Liu Qian!”

“He’s back!”

Upon confirming it was Liu Qian, the eyes of many people from the Liu Clan brightened up.

“Second uncle!” Liu Zuo Lin greeted Liu Qian. His voice carried a hint of hope.

Whoosh!

A gust of wind heralded the appearance of a tall figure. A middle-aged man dressed in a light green robe with a strong build appeared in everyone's sight. He had big eyes, thick brows, and a square face. He looked rough around the edges, but his eyes shone with wisdom.

"Greetings, Elder Liu Qian," the clan members from the Liu clan greeted Liu Qian in unison as they bowed respectfully.

"Second Uncle!" Liu Zuo Lin cried out excitedly.

"Second brother, you're finally home." Liu Dong Ping sighed in relief.

"Hm?" Liu Qian's eyes landed on Liu Qing's corpse that was riddled with holes on the roof of the great hall. His eyes widened in shock before his expression darkened. "Liu Qing?"

Not only was Liu Qing a Celestial Alchemist in the Liu clan, but Liu Qing was Liu Qian's childhood playmate as well. They shared a close relationship. Moreover, Liu Qing had contributed greatly to his achievements today. The endless bottles of Celestial Pills that Liu Qing supplied him had helped him improve his strength greatly. In fact, Liu Qing held a higher position in his heart compared to his eldest biological brother, Liu Dong Ping.

"Who did this?!" Liu Qian roared. His eyes looked around before they finally landed on Duan Ling Tian, the only stranger present on the scene.

"Is it you?!" Liu Qian stared at Duan Ling Tian fiercely. He was eager to shred him into pieces!

Duan Ling Tian ignored Liu Qian. His attention was on two figures who were coming from the east. One of the figures belonged to an anxious-looking woman while the other figure belonged to a robust old man who was not very tall. The old man wore a green robe. He had white hair and a face full of beard. Paired with his bushy brows, he had an intimidating air about him, not unlike that of a king of beasts in his territory.

"Lin'er! Lin'er! Are you alright?" The woman cried out as soon as she arrived.

"Mother, I'm fine!" Liu Zuo Lin waved his hand excitedly at the woman.

The woman hurried to Lin Zuo Lin and studied him from head to toe. After she made sure her son was fine, she sighed in relief. In just a split second, her eyes were filled with killing intent, making her look like a female Asura. She asked, "Lin'er... Who wants to kill you?"

Chapter 2667 A Hundred Foot Golden Body

"Mother, it's him!" Liu Zuo Lin replied to his mother as he glared at Duan Ling Tian. All of a sudden, he was no longer timid as before. He was now like a rabid dog that could not wait to pounce at Duan Ling Tian and sink his teeth into Duan Ling Tian.

Liu Zuo Lin's mother, Pang Yuan, turned to look at Duan Ling Tian with killing intent shining in her eyes as soon as she heard Liu Zuo Lin's words. The angry expression on her face turned pitiful when she turned to look at the old man who had come with her. "Eldest uncle."

At this moment, Liu Qian greeted the old man, "Elder Pang Bing." He was not surprised by the old man's presence since his sister-in-law was the old man's niece.

The old man was the head elder of the inner-estate elders in the County Governor's estate in Nine Specter County. He was widely regarded as the strongest powerhouse below Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County. His strength was, naturally, leaps and bounds ahead of Liu Qian and Zheng Qiu who were also inner-estate elders in the County Governor's estate.

"So, you're the brat who wants to kill my grandnephew?" Pang Bing looked at Duan Ling Tian. His eyes looked clear and calm, but upon closer inspection, one would be able to see the killing intent flashing in the depths of his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Pang Bing and said in a light tone, "Pang Bing, heed my advice. It's best that you don't interfere with this matter lest you get the Pang clan into trouble." His eyes were piercing when he spoke. As soon as Liu Qian greeted the old man, he had already known Pang Bing was the head elder in the County Governor's estate. Since Pang Bing was the head elder, he was definitely stronger than Zheng Qiu.

Pang Bing was taken aback by Duan Ling Tian's words. Soon after, his face flushed red in anger as he glared at Duan Ling Tian. "How dare you brag in front of me!" He looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a predator looking at its prey. An imposing energy surged from his body and swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Liu Qian, one of the Supreme Elders in Liu clan and an inner-estate elder in the County Governor's estate, asked in a deep voice, "Who are you?" His expression was dark when he spoke. He had spoken to Liu Dong Ping, his brother, through Voice Transmission and learned about the details of the matter. He had learned that his good friend, Liu Qing, a Supreme Elder of the Liu clan and a primitive Celestial Alchemist, had no time to react at all when the purple-clad young man had attacked. Based on this, he was quite certain the purple-clad young man was a peak Violet Sun Golden Celestial at the very least.

"Who I am isn't important," Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently, "As long as the Liu Clan kills Liu Zuo Lin and gives me 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, I'll let go of this matter. I believe you're a wise man, Elder Liu Qian,"

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, everyone fell silent. Their eyes were filled with shock and disbelief when they looked at Duan Ling Tian.

"This brat is too audacious!"

"Not only does he want us to give him 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, but he even wants Young Master Lin dead?"

"100,000 prominent Celestial Stones? I'm afraid even if we give up all the Celestial Stones we own, we still don't have that many Celestial Stones, right?"

"Yes. If we want to gather this many Celestial Stones, we would have to sell a few of our clan's businesses."

“Who is he? Even with Elder Liu Qian and Elder Pang Bing who’re inner-estate elders from the County Governor’s estate here, he still dares to act so boldly! Isn’t he afraid of the County Governor’s estate in Nine Specters County?”

The clan members from the Liu clan were puzzled. They could not figure out why the purple-clad young man was so bold.

“Y-you...” Liu Qin was furious upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. His Celestial Origin Energy began to surge from his body like a flame. A wailing sound similar to that of a ghost or wolf began to ring in the air.

“Elder Pang Bing, you’re free to meddle if that’s what you want. However, as soon as you make a move, you’ll also have to compensate me with 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones if you want me to let the matter go later... It’s best you think it over before you act,” Duan Ling Tian said with a pointed gaze.

Pang Bing who had recovered from his shock earlier managed to maintain his composure this time around. A hint of wariness and apprehension could be seen in his eyes as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. “Who are you?!”

Duan Ling Tian smiled and replied, “I’m a nobody in comparison to Elder Pang Bing...” Then, he turned to Liu Zuo Lin and said with a sinister smile on his face, “Liu Zuo Lin, do you think you’re safe just because Elder Pang Bing and Elder Liu Qian are here?”

Liu Zuo Lin’s expression darkened. He did not expect the purple-clad young man was still able to remain calm at this moment. Was it possible that the purple-clad young man really did have an extraordinary background?

At this moment, Pang Yuan glared at Duan Ling Tian before she said to Pang Bing, “Eldest uncle, this brat must be putting up a front and trying to call our bluff... He’s trying to fool you.”

“That’s possible.” Pang Bing nodded slightly and looked at Duan Ling Tian once again. “However, Yuan’er, this matter is the Liu clan’s matter after all. If they can resolve this, there’s no need for me to step in,” Based on his words, it was clear he would not act before the Liu clan took action.

Upon hearing Pang Bing’s words, Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘Sure enough, the more experience one has, the wiser one becomes...’ He knew Pang Bing only wanted to see if the Liu clan could handle him before Pang Bing made a move. Since Liu Qian had returned, Pang Bing would let Liu Qian deal with this matter. If Liu Qian could resolve this matter, then, there would be no need for Pang Bing to act. However, if Liu Qian failed, then, it would mean it would be beyond Pang Bing’s capability to solve this matter as well. This way, Pang Bing would be able to smoothly extricate himself out of this situation and avoid offending Duan Ling Tian.

Pang Yuan wanted to continue persuading Pang Bing, but she no longer continued when she saw Pang Bing shaking his head at her. Her eyes turned even colder when she turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian. It was only natural since Duan Ling Tian wanted to take her son’s life away. She did not care for the reason why Duan Ling Tian wanted her son’s life. Nothing was more important to her than her son. It did not matter if tens of millions of people died as long as her son lived.

“Very well!” Liu Qian glared at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Since you’re so confident, let me see your techniques. I hope your techniques and skills match your confidence!” He flew out as soon as he finished speaking.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Liu Qian took his Celestial Weapon out. It was a short sword that was as thin as a cicada’s wings. As it slashed out, a buzzing noise could be heard in the air.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Liu Qian seemed to have transformed into a gust of wind as he charged at Duan Ling Tian. Afterimages of his sword qi could be seen in his wake.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A deafening explosion rang in the air as Liu Qian’s Celestial Origin Energy increased rapidly. In just a second, a gigantic figure that was 100 feet tall appeared and charged out along with Liu Qian. Its footsteps made the ground quake.

“Hm?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback when he saw Liu Qian and his sword qi merging with the humanoid behemoth. It did not take long before the sword qi and behemoth suddenly disappeared. Following that, Liu Qian began to grow at a rapid speed. Liu Qian who was 1.8 meters tall suddenly grew to about 100 feet tall. His gigantic figure blocked the sunlight. After checking with his Divine Consciousness, he discovered it was not an illusion. Liu Qian had truly grown bigger despite how impossible it might seem.

“How remarkable!” Duan Ling Tian knew Liu Qian had to have used a Celestial Method or Divine Ability in order to grow so big.

“Elder Liu Qian is using the Hundred Foot Golden Body?”

“This Celestial Method or Divine Ability that allows one to grow ten times bigger isn’t easy to master!”

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, heard the conversation in his surroundings.

Chapter 2668 Killing An Inner-estate Elder

After hearing the discussion in the surroundings, Duan Ling Tian concluded that it had to be a primitive Celestial Method.

Liu Qian who had grown to 100 feet tall, thunderously roared, “Brat, die!” In just a blink of an eye, a terrifying shockwave rippled out into surroundings, sweeping through everyone present on the scene.

Many members of the Liu Clan with a weaker cultivation base felt their eardrums rupturing and began to bleed from their seven orifices.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Liu Qian waved his arm, swatting at Duan Ling Tian as though he was trying to squash a bug.

Duan Ling Tian discovered sword rays shooting out of Liu Qian's palm. The sword qi surrounded him as though it was trying to cut off his escape routes.

Liu Qian's palms drew closer and closer to Duan Ling Tian. Based on the current situation, it would take no time at all before Liu Qian's palms squashed Duan Ling Tian.

"Elder Liu Qian truly doesn't hold back once he decides to act. It seems like he's not underestimating this purple-clad young man!"

"That's to be expected. After all, this brat easily killed Elder Liu Qing. Although Elder Liu Qian's not a Violet Sun Golden Celestial, he's still renowned among Indigo Sun Golden Celestials!"

"Elder Liu Qian is far stronger than ordinary Violet Sun Golden Celestials... Even if this brat is a Violet Sun Golden Celestial, Elder Liu Qian is still capable of making him suffer."

"Even if the brat doesn't die, he'd be severely injured..."

The elders from the Liu clan discussed among themselves, their eyes did not Duan Ling Tian and Liu Qian. It was as though they were afraid to miss even the smallest detail of the battle.

Just as Liu Qian's palms were about to land on Duan Ling Tian, his cold voice rang in the air. "Let's see if you're actually capable of killing me..."

Everyone present in the Liu clan's mansion clearly heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Under everyone's watchful gaze, the area in between Liu Qian's palms suddenly shone with a dazzling light. Upon closer inspection, one would see the lights came from sword rays that were much more brilliant than Liu Qian's sword rays. They made Liu Qian's sword rays pale in comparison. It was as though a phoenix had appeared among a flock of chickens.

The white light shone with such intensity that it caused everyone to squint their eyes.

Xiu!

A sword cry rang in the air at this moment accompanied by the sound of a miserable shriek.

"That's...Liu Qian's voice!" Pang Bing's expression changed drastically. A hint of relief could be seen in his eyes. He felt fortunate that he did not act first. He continued to watch as the bright sword rays severed the hands of Liu Qian who had grown 100 feet tall. At the same time, Liu Qian was sent flying back.

When Liu Qian finally landed in the distance, everyone regained their senses one after another. They watched as Liu Qian's body shrank to its original size. He seemed to have lost his arms as well.

Liu Qian's face was ghastly pale as blood trickled out from the corners of his mouth. The Celestial Sword that was as thin as a cicada's wings hovered next to him, its light had dimmed. Regardless if it was Liu Qian or the Celestial Sword, both were like an arrow that was at the end of its flight.

“You... Who the hell are you? If you’re from Nine Specter County, you can’t be a nobody! Your strength is very close to that of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial... Not many people below Great Overarching Golden Celestials are your opponents!” Although the duration of the fight was short, Liu Qian was keenly aware of Duan Ling Tian’s strength. He could tell Duan Ling Tian was a level stronger than Pang Bing who was widely known as the strongest powerhouse below Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County!

Upon hearing Liu Qian’s words, many people began to shift their attention to Pang Bing. After all, Liu Qian’s words seemed to indicate the purple-clad young man might be even stronger than Pang Bing.

“I’m... not as strong as him,” Pang Bing said with a sigh, under everyone’s watchful eyes. His eyes were filled with wariness when he turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian.

“Im-Impossible! How’s this possible?!” Liu Zuo Lin cried out. His face was ashen. He had confidence in Liu Qian initially. Who knew, in just a blink of an eye, Liu Qian would be thoroughly defeated? Moreover, even Pang Bing admitted he was no match for Duan Ling Tian.

The expression of Pang Yuan, who was standing next to Liu Zuo Lin, turned unsightly. She finally understood the gravity of the situation. Even with the reinforcement, there was nothing the Liu clan could do to the purple-clad young man. Out of fear, she hastily said, “Brother-in-law! Hurry up and notify Lord County Governor!”

In Pang Yuan’s opinion, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, Tian Ji Yu, was definitely stronger than the purple-clad young man. After all, Tian Ji Yu was a true blue Great Overarching Golden Celestial. She was certain the purple-clad young man, regardless of how strong he was, would definitely die if he went against a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. The difference in strength between a Great Overarching Golden Celestial and a peak Golden Celestial was like an insurmountable chasm after all.

As soon as Pang Yuan finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian’s voice rang in the air, causing the onlookers’ hearts to palpitate in fear. “Since you want to know I am, you can take your time and ponder on it during your journey to the underworld!”

A thought appeared in everyone’s minds at this moment. ‘He’s going to kill Elder Liu Qian?’

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, countless sword rays flew out and converged into a sword Formation that emitted a domineering aura.

“This technique...” Pang Bing’s eyes widened slightly. He vaguely remembered hearing something about this technique. It seemed familiar to him.

“You dare to kill me!? If you kill me, Lord County Governor will never let you go...” Liu Qian who was gravely injured mentioned the County Governor in hopes of saving his own life. He could sense the domineering aura from the sword Formation and knew he did not stand a chance against it. His expression was grim when he spoke up to preserve his life. He was quite certain Duan Ling Tian would not dare to kill him.

Contrary to Liu Qian's expectation, Duan Ling Tian completely disregarded him. The sword Formation continued flying out before it finally landed on Liu Qian, killing him. A shower of blood rained down in just an instant. No traces were left of him except for a Spatial Ring that Duan Ling Tian collected.

Silence descended on the entire place.

Liu Dong Ping looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously. "You... You actually dare to kill my second brother! Lord... Lord County Governor won't let you go for this!" He still could not believe the purple-clad young man was so bold as to kill his second brother. After all, his second brother was an inner-estate elder in the County Governor's estate and was under the County Governor's protection.

"Second uncle... He... He even dared to kill second uncle?" Liu Zuo Lin's face turned pale. He was so frightened that his body began to tremble. The strongest person in the Liu Clan had been so easily killed, how could someone like him survive?

Duan Ling Tian looked at Liu Zuo Lin as he said indifferently, "What I said earlier still stands. If you kill Liu Zuo Lin and give me 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, I'll let this matter slide."

Liu Zuo Lin cried out, "Earlier, didn't you say you'd spare my life as long as my family gives you 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones? Why are you asking for my life, in addition to the 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, now?"

"If all of you had obediently agreed to it from the start, I, naturally, wouldn't increase the stakes. However, since you've wasted my time, it's only fair that I demand more," Duan Ling Tian said flippantly.

"You..." Liu Zuo Lin could not come up with a retort. His face remained pale, and his eyes seemed to have turned into pits of despair at this moment. Was there anyone left who could save him at this moment?"

"Who is it? Who dares to kill my inner-estate elder?" A powerful voice brimming with energy and anger suddenly rang from the direction of the County Governor's estate.

Upon hearing this voice, the members of the Liu clan seemed to have seen a ray of hope. Their expressions brightened immediately.

"It's Lord County Governor!"

The despair in Liu Zuo Lin's eyes was replaced with a look of delight.

Duan Ling Tian turned to Pang Bing and said indifferently, "Elder Pang Bing, it seems like, in the end, you didn't heed my advice." He had seen Pang Bing using a Communication Celestial Talisman earlier. It was clear he had summoned the County Governor of Nine Specters County. Otherwise, the County Governor would not have reacted so quickly.

Chapter 2669 The County Governor Arrives

Upon seeing the iciness in Duan Ling Tian's eyes, a hint of fear flashed past in Pang Bing's eyes as he said in a lowered voice. "Honorable Sir, since this matter involves Liu Qian, an inner-estate elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specter County, I only acted according to official procedure. How can that be considered as me interfering in the matter between you and the Liu clan?"

“In any case, Elder Pang Bing, the Pang clan has to deliver 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones to me within three days before I’ll let this matter slide,” Duan Ling Tian said indifferently. He clearly did not buy Pang Bing’s words and decided Pang Bing was interfering with the matter between him and the Liu Clan

“100,000 prominent Celestial Stones within three days?” Pang Bing’s expression turned gloomy as he continued to say in a low voice, “Honorable Sir, your appetite is really huge! If the Pang clan is unable to deliver 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones in three days, what are you going to do?”

“I can only personally come knocking on your door to collect the Celestial Stones then,” Duan Ling Tian said apathetically as though he was talking about the weather.

Pang Bing scoffed as he looked into the distant sky. He coldly said, “If you want the Pang clan to give you 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, you’ll have to make sure you survive today!” At this moment, he could clearly feel a powerful aura closing in on them from the County Governor’s estate. He could also sense the speed of the aura was terrifyingly fast. Based on these, he knew the County Governor was coming. Although he knew he was not as strong as this purple-clad young man, he could discern that the purple-clad young man was only the strongest among those who were below Great Overarching Golden Celestials. Regardless if the purple-clad young man’s strength was almost comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, the former was still weaker than the latter.

Great Overarching Golden Celestials were divided into ranks. Yellow Great Overarching Golden Celestials were the weakest. Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, was a profound Great Overarching Golden Celestial who was much stronger than yellow Great Overarching Golden Celestials. His strength was much closer to that of an earth Great Overarching Golden Celestial. In fact, he was among the strongest profound Great Overarching Golden Celestials.

For this reason, Pang Bing was of the opinion that the purple-clad young man would not be able to create any trouble once the County Governor of Nine Specter County arrived.

“Elder Pang Bing, there’s no need for you to concern yourself with my survival,” Duan Ling Tian said as he looked in the direction of the County Governor’s estate. He could, naturally, feel the familiar and fast approaching aura.

“Lord County Governor!” At the same time, Liu Dong Ping, the Clan Leader of the Liu clan, and the other members of the clan also turned to look in the direction of the County Governor’s estate. An expression of relief and delight could be seen on their faces. Similar to a group of devout worshippers, they eagerly awaited the County Governor’s arrival.

A few moments later...

Swoosh!

A powerful gust of wind appeared in the sky above the great hall in the Liu clan’s mansion, causing many people’s robes to flutter and flap noisily.

The wind was accompanied by a figure that seemed to have appeared out of thin air. The figure belonged to a tall middle-aged man who was dressed in a long silver robe. He had a square face, thick eyebrows, and big eyes. He carried the air of someone with high status.

“Lord County Governor!”

“Lord County Governor!”

As soon as the County Governor appeared, the members of the Liu clan greeted him in unison.

Pang Bing cupped his fists together and greeted the County Governor as well. ‘Lord County Governor.’”

As everyone greeted the County Governor, Duan Ling Tian looked at him as well. He only faintly smiled and casually greeted the County Governor.

Upon seeing how casually Duan Ling Tian had greeted the County Governor, as though Duan Ling Tian was familiar with the County Governor, Pang Bing’s expression changed slightly as an ominous feeling rose in his heart.

Duan Ling Tian’s behavior did not escape Liu Dong Ping and Liu Zuo Lin’s eyes as well. Their expression changed drastically. It was clear the purple-clad young man was well-acquainted with the County Governor. Moreover, based on the way the purple-clad young man greeted the County Governor, it seemed like they had a close relationship.

‘How’s this possible? How does he know Lord County Governor? No! It’s impossible!’ Liu Zuo Lin shook his head. Despite his thoughts, his eyes that were brimming with hope earlier seemed to have turned dull at this moment. Earlier, he was convinced the County Governor’s arrival would definitely mean he would be able to escape this calamity. However, now, he was not so certain.

“Lord County Governor!” Pang Yuan, Liu Zuo Ling’s mother who was from the Pang clan, did not waste any time and stepped forward. She pointed at Duan Ling Tian accusingly and said with righteous indignation, “It’s him. He killed Elder Liu Qian!” Her expression turned aggrieved as she continued to say, “Elder Liu Qian was an inner-estate elder in the County Governor’s estate. His act of killing Elder Liu Qian is akin to declaring war on the County Governor’s estate. Lord County Governor, you must avenge Elder Liu Qian and teach this person a lesson!”

“Hm?” Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of the Nine Specter County, had already seen Duan Ling Tian and was about to return his greeting when Pang Yuan had interrupted him and accused Duan Ling Tian of killing Liu Qian. What a joke! Duan Ling Tian killed Liu Qian? If it was true, then did it not mean that Duan Ling Tian would certainly be able to rank first in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties and obtain the three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pill?

Tian Ji Yu scowled as he coldly said, “Preposterous! Duan Ling Tian isn’t even 100 years old, and yet, you say he killed Elder Liu Qian who had long become an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial? Are you trying to fool the County Governor of Nine Specters County?” His gaze turned cutting as he stared at Pang Yuan.

Pang Yuan felt chills running up her spine. She was so frightened that her face turned pale, and she began to tremble from head to toe.

At this moment, the entire place was deathly silent.

Duan Ling Tian? He was not even 100 years old? Everyone in the Liu clan was familiar with this name. They were aware that he had ascended to Bloody Specter City, one of the counties in Nine Specters County, and came to the County City of Nine Specters County two years ago. They, naturally, knew he had easily entered the Latent Dragon Abyss and soundly defeated Zhou Fei who was widely acknowledged as the strongest among the younger generation. After that, he had taken over Zhou Fei's place of being the strongest among the younger generation.

Pang Bing looked at Tian Ji Yu with an expression of disbelief as he asked, "Lo... Lord Governor... Are you certain this person is Duan Ling Tian?" It did not occur to him to determine Duan Ling Tian's age earlier so he was, naturally, shocked by this revelation.

"Of course, I'm certain," Tian Ji Yu indifferently said. His brows were slightly furrowed as he said, "Elder Pang Bing, what are you doing here? You're not the slightest bit injured, but Elder Liu Qian is dead. What happened here?" His expression had turned grim when he finished speaking.

"He... He's younger than 100 years old!"

"Heavens! I didn't think to probe him earlier... It seems like he's really younger than 100 years old!"

"He.... He's really the strongest powerhouse among the younger generation in Nine Specters County, Duan Ling Tian?"

"Isn't this too frightening? He's not even 100 years old, but he's stronger than Elder Pang Bing who's widely acknowledged as the strongest among those below Great Overarching Golden Celestials!"

"You're right. Earlier, Elder Pang Bing admitted he's not as strong as Duan Ling Tian!"

Tian Ji Yu was suitably shocked when he heard the conversations in his surroundings. "These people are saying Duan Ling Tian is stronger than Elder Pang Bing? How's this possible? In Nine Specters County, Elder Pang Bing's strength is only inferior to me and Revered Elder Zhou Tong who had died." His eyes were brimming with bewilderment and skepticism as he looked at Pang Bing.

Pang Bing, naturally, knew what was going through Tian Ji Yu's mind. He could only nod and bitterly say, "Lord Governor, my strength is indeed inferior to Duan Ling Tian!" After he had probed Duan Ling Tian to confirm his identity, the ominous feeling in his heart intensified. At the same time, he felt incredulous that someone who was not even 100 years old was stronger than him.

Tian Ji Yu's eyes flashed as he asked, "So, Elder Liu Qian is really killed by Duan Ling Tian?"

"Yes," Pang Bing nodded slightly as he explained, "This isn't a baseless accusation. Everyone here can stand witness to this."

Upon hearing this, Tian Ji Yu turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. His smile remained polite as he asked, "Duan Ling Tian, did you kill Elder Liu Qian?"

"Yes." Since Duan Ling Tian dared to kill Liu Qian, he was, naturally, not afraid to admit it.

Tian Ji Yu's expression froze as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's reply...

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Since Duan Ling Tian had personally confirmed it, regardless of how impossible it sounded, Tian Ji Yu had to believe it. The frozen expression on his face thawed and was replaced with a delighted smile. "Good, good.... Very good!" In addition to the lack of anger in his voice, a hint of excitement could be heard as well. It was clear the death of Liu Qian, an inner-estate elder, was nothing compared to finding out Duan Ling Tian's strength was almost comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. After all, this meant Duan Ling Tian was certain to rank first in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties! If Duan Ling Tian ranked first, the Nine Specter County would be rewarded with three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills. Three Great Overarching Pills were enough to propel three people into becoming Great Overarching Celestials. What was the death of an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial compared to this?

"Lord County Governor!" Pang Yuan, Liu Zuo Lin's mother, cried out. She could see Tian Ji Yu had no intention of punishing Duan Ling Tian for killing Liu Qian, and this worried her greatly. She kneeled in the air and hurriedly said, "Even if Elder Liu Qian had no outstanding achievements, he was loyal to the County Governor's estate. Now that he has been killed, you must seek justice for him!" Naturally, she did not really care about Liu Qian, she was only worried about her son, Liu Zuo Lin. If Tian Ji Yu did not plan to punish Duan Ling Tian, there was no doubt that a calamity was going to befall her son!

Meanwhile, Liu Dong Ping and the other members of the clan could vaguely sense the outcome of this matter. Although their expressions were unsightly, none of them dared to speak up. They knew it would be useless even if they had spoken out. They knew Tian Ji Yu placed great importance on the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. Now that Duan Ling Tian had revealed his strength, it was clear to see that it would not be a problem for Duan Ling Tian to rank first in the competition and obtain the three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills. If they were in Tian Ji Yu's shoes, they would not punish Duan Ling Tian for a mere Liu Qian as well.

"Yuan'er!" Pang Bing cried out anxiously when he saw Pang Yuan showed no signs of giving up. Although he understood she was only concerned about her son, he was afraid her behavior would only infuriate Tian Ji Yu.

Tian Ji Yu scoffed as he glanced at the kneeling Pang Yuan. "I believe in Duan Ling Tian. I'm sure he has his reason for killing Elder Liu Qian." These words clearly showed his unconditional support for Duan Ling Tian. In truth, he did not care about what really happened. Even if Duan Ling Tian had killed Liu Qian on a whim, he would still turn a blind eye to it.

Upon hearing Tian Ji Yu's words, Pang Yuan turned deathly pale.

Tian Ji Yu looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked with a faint smile on his face, "Duan Ling Tian, do you want to return to the estate with me?" Initially, he had been furious when he learned an inner-estate elder had been killed. However, upon learning that Duan Ling Tian was capable of killing Liu Qian, Duan Ling Tian's importance rose greatly in his heart. If he was hopeful before that Duan Ling Tian would be able to rank in the top three of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, currently, he was certain Duan Ling Tian would rank first!

'County Governor, you can go on ahead. I still have a few matters to settle with the Liu clan,' Duan Ling Tian replied.

“Alright.” Tian Ji Yu nodded slightly. “In that case, I’ll wait for you in the estate. When you return, please look for me in the main hall.”

“Okay,” Duan Ling Tian said.

Before he left, Tian Ji Yu glanced at the members of the Liu Clan indifferently and flew in the direction of the County Governor’s estate.

Following Tian Ji Yu’s departure, Duan Ling Tian unsurprisingly became the center of attention.

Swoosh!

A gust of wind blew in the air as the old man, the Supreme Elder of the Liu Clan, flashed away and appeared in front of Liu Zuo Lin.

Bang!

Before Liu Zuo Lin had time to react, the old man punched him. The frightening energy overwhelmed him immediately. Blood splattered in the air, and the only thing left was a Spatial Ring.

Liu Zuo Lin had died!

Pan Yuan who had regained her senses cried out, “Lin’er!” Her expression was twisted as she glared at the Supreme Elder of the Liu clan. She cried out hysterically, “Y-you... You actually killed my son! I want your life! I want your life!” A pleading expression appeared on her face as she looked at her uncle, Pang Bing. “Uncle, I beg you. Please kill him to avenge Lin’er!”

Pang Bing sighed but did not make a move. If he were in the Supreme Elder’s shoes, he would not have acted differently.

Liu Dong Ping, the Clan Leader of the Liu Clan, glared at Pang Yuan and said coldly, “You’re too noisy! If it weren’t for you spoiling Lin’er since he was young, would he have such an outcome? I could not bear to kill Lin’er with my own hands so I sent a Voice Transmission to the Supreme Elder to act on my behalf!”

“You... It was you?!” Pang Yuan stared at Liu Dong Ping, her husband, in disbelief. A tiger, no matter how ferocious, would never eat its own cubs. She truly did not expect her husband to do this. Due to her not being able to vent her anger or sadness, she passed out immediately.

Pang Bing caught Pang Yuan to stop her from falling.

“Duan Ling Tian, the Liu clan concedes,” Liu Dong Ping looked at Duan Ling Tian apologetically and said, “100,000 prominent Celestial Stones will be delivered to the County Governor’s estate for you within three days!”

“In that case, many thanks to Clan Leader Liu,” Duan Ling Tian said indifferently as he looked at Liu Dong Ping. He was not surprised by Liu Dong Ping’s action. If the Liu clan did not yield, only doom awaited the clan. After all, even the County Governor of Nine Specters County had voiced his unconditional support for him.

As for Liu Zuo Lin's death, Duan Ling Tian did not feel sympathetic at all. If he had not been strong enough, he would have been killed by Liu Zuo Lin and his attendant after he left the medicine shop. In his opinion, Liu Zuo Lin brought this upon himself. As for the Liu clan, since they chose to protect Liu Zuo Lin earlier, they would, naturally, have to pay the price as well. Apart from that, for Liu Qian who had acted against him, he felt death was too easy for Liu Qian.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian's gaze fell on Pang Bing. He saw Pang Bing was about to leave with the unconscious Pang Yuan in his arms. A cold smile bloomed on his face as he said, "Elder Pang Bing, where do you think you're going? We still have unfinished business, right?"

Pang Bing came to a halt. He turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said unyieldingly, "Duan Ling Tian, I admit my loss today. However, the Pang clan doesn't have 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones. I can give you 10,000 prominent Celestial Stones at most."

"Even at this point, Elder Pang Bing is still trying to haggle with me?" Duan Ling Tian said icily, "200,000 prominent Celestial Stones? If I don't receive it within three days, I'll have to personally visit the Pang clan to look for you!"

"You..." Pang Bing's expression changed drastically. He did not imagine his attempt to lower the number of Celestial Stones he had to pay would rise.

Duan Ling Tian said apathetically, "Elder Pang Bing, I'm sure you've seen the County Governor's attitude earlier... Even if I kill you, I'm certain he won't blame me." Despite his words, his tone was deceptively calm. He looked at Pang Bing one last time before he said, "The County Governor is waiting for me... I'll take my leave now."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian left, many people from the Liu clan sighed in relief. Fortunately, they did not try to haggle with Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, they would have to fork out 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones as well. If they had to fork out such a huge number of Celestial Stones, the Liu clan would definitely be negatively impacted, let alone the Pang clan that was slightly inferior to the Liu clan. Many of them looked at Pang Bing sympathetically.

Pang Bing did not leave after Duan Ling Tian left. He turned to Liu Dong Ping and said in a lowered voice, "Liu Dong Ping! I'm only here because of the Liu clan. Out of the 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones, the Liu clan will be responsible for paying half of it." He did not wait for Liu Dong Ping's reply and left as soon as he finished speaking.

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In the air above the Black Dragon Army's base in Bloody Specter City.

An old lady with white hair and a wizened face who was dressed in a long white robe hovered in the air as she muttered to herself, "Previously, a Black Dragon Army's captain died in the Little World that was left by a Celestial King from the Blissful Sect. Someone found the captain's identity token and became the new captain in the Black Dragon Army. If I'm not mistaken, he should be the person who was with the young miss in the Little World and destroyed her purity. The sect master has said that he should be killed without mercy when I find him!" Her eyes flashed with killing intent when she finished speaking.