

Chapter 2681 Qin Yu Is The Direct Descendant of King Qin's Mansion?

Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County was undoubtedly the most famous person in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties that was organized by King Qin's Mansion. His deeds in the Liu clan a year ago had spread in all of Nine Specters County before it began to spread out to the other counties. Eventually, all of the places governed by King Qin's Mansion had heard about it. Even King Qin himself had heard about Duan Ling Tian. It was only natural that many people wanted to see him. Alas, up until now, there was no hide nor hair of Duan Ling Tian.

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County hasn't shown up yet, right?"

"I wonder what County Governor Tian is thinking? Is it possible that he's only going to send Duan Ling Tian out when the winner has been decided to challenge the winner?"

Someone scoffed. "I don't think it has anything to do with the County Governor of Nine Specters County. It's more likely that he has died outside in the wild. After all, the world is a very dangerous place."

"Yes, that's possible."

Apart from the people from Nine Specters County and Fair Mountain County, the people from the other 14 counties began to whisper among themselves. Some of them thought Tian Ji Yu was hiding him and waiting for the right time to send him out. There were also some who thought he had died while traveling the world.

After a while, the powerhouse sent by King Qin's Mansion to preside over the battle arrived. The battle would be fought among the temporary top ten participants. This battle did not include the preselected 13 participants that would fight in the final round.

As time passed, more and more people were defeated.

"Qin Yu!"

Soon enough, it was Qin Yu's turn to fight.

As soon as Qin Yu walked into the center of the arena, a middle-aged man dressed in luxurious robes who was in the VIP area, located at the side of the arena that was hidden by a curtain, suddenly rose to feet. He stared at Qin Yu intently.

The two old men serving the middle-aged man in luxurious robes were startled by his sudden action. They wondered why their master seemed to have suddenly lost his composure. "Your Grace, the Third Prince, w-what's the matter?"

In King Qin's Mansion, King Qin had the highest status. King Qin had three younger brothers; the Second Prince, the Third Prince, and the Fifth Prince. The Third Prince had requested to be in charge of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. The master of ceremony was one of his most capable subordinates.

The Third Prince ignored the two old men and stared at the young man in the middle of the arena as he murmured to himself, "Alike... They're too alike... It seems like his name is Qin Yu?" His eyes lit up like the dazzling stars in the night sky when he spoke.

Upon hearing the Third Prince's words, the two old men followed his gaze and looked at the young man in the middle of the arena. Their eyes widened immediately.

"W-why does he resemble the Fourth Prince so much?"

"His nose, his lips, and his forehead are exactly the same as the Fourth Prince. W-who is he?"

When the two old men regained their senses, they looked at each other and saw shock and incredulity in each other's eyes. The Fourth Prince was the fourth brother of King Qin. Before he left, he was already stronger than King Qin! However, due to Qi deviation, the Fourth Prince left King Qin's Mansion after injuring King Qin a few decades ago. After that, he had never been seen.

King Qin's Mansion had sent people out to look for him but to no avail. Now that several decades had passed, they actually encountered a young man during the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties who greatly resembled the Fourth Prince. Moreover, the young name's family name was also Qin. With these in mind, it was not difficult for them to connect the dots and come up with a conclusion.

"Could Qin Yu be..." The two old men looked at each other again and saw they had the same thought in their minds.

"Elder Qi, investigate Qin Yu," the Third Prince ordered in a low voice. A hint of excitement could be seen in his eyes as he looked at the young man standing in the middle of the arena as though he had just seen a friend whom he had not met in a very long time.

"Yes," one of the two old men immediately responded and left.

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Meanwhile, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties continued on.

Qin Yu was battling with a young man who seemed to be at the same age as him. Initially, they were evenly matched. However, after a few dozen breaths had passed, a powerful energy suddenly surged out from Qin Yu's body. Countless palm prints appeared, seemingly able to block out the sky.

Bang!

In just an instant, the power of the palm prints surged before it directly crushed and defeated Qin Yu's opponent, sending the opponent crashing to the ground. His opponent was severely injured from the attack and died soon after.

Meanwhile, the palm prints were stained with blood.

Many of the spectators inhaled sharply when they saw this.

"It seems like Qin Yu from Nine Specters County has been hiding his strength!"

“What’s the technique he used earlier? It looks like a Divine Ability! An assist-type Divine Ability that’s stronger than the other assist-type Divine Ability he had cast earlier!”

“I think this assist-type Divine Ability should be a profound Divine Ability at least!”

“Apart from that, it’s probably not a common profound Divine Ability. I have seen ordinary profound Divine Abilities before, and I can tell you those Divine Abilities can’t compare to the Divine Ability he had just cast!”

A commotion broke out as everyone from the various counties under King Qin’s Mansion began to discuss Qin Yu’s assist-type Divine Ability.

Meanwhile, the elder and the Revered Elders of Nine Specters County were in shock. A hint of approval could even be seen in Zheng Qiu and Pang Bing’s eyes.

“I didn’t expect Qin Yu to conceal his strength!”

“Based on Qin Yu’s strength, it shouldn’t be difficult for him to rank in the top three for now, before the 13 selected participants make their moves.”

“Qin Yu’s cultivation speed is really fast. Given more time, he might even become the next Duan Ling Tian.”

On the other hand, Tian Ji Yu looked at Qin Yu intently. Something in his mind caused his eyes to widen as an expression of shock and disbelief appeared on his face. It was as though he had seen a ghost.

“That assist-type Divine Ability looks like...”

Similar to Tian Ji Yu, the other fifteen County Governors were also in shock and disbelief when they witnessed this scene. Many of them even gasped when they saw it.

“The Heavenly Dance of Blood Marks!”

“That’s the Heavenly Dance of Bloody Marks!”

“Isn’t the Heavenly Dance of Blood Marks a profound assist-type Divine Ability that is exclusively cultivated by direct descendants of King Qin’s Mansion?”

“How did this kid from Nine Specters County master a profound assist-type Divine Ability that solely belongs to King Qin’s Mansion? Where did he secretly learn this Divine Ability?”

“It’s a capital crime to cultivate the profound assist-type Divine Ability meant for King Qin and his family!”

Even the spectators who were in the know whispered among themselves. Most of them speculated that Qin Yu had sneakily mastered the assist-type Divine Ability from King Qin’s Mansion.

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The Third Prince who was hidden behind the curtains in the VIP area who had just sat down rose to his feet again. An excited expression on his face as he said, "The Heavenly Dance of Blood Marks! H-he must be fourth brother's son. Fourth brother has a descendant!"

The Third Prince looked at the master of ceremony, who was standing above and looking at Qin Yu in shock, said through Voice Transmission, "Meng Ping, bring Qin Yu to me."

Meng Ping, the master of ceremony for the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, responded, "Yes, Third Prince!" Then, he looked at Qin Yu who was still standing in the middle arena and said, "Qin Yu, the Third Prince wants to meet you. Please follow me!"

Before Qin Yu could respond, the entire place broke into an uproar again.

"The Third Prince?"

Everyone's eyes turned to the VIP area that was hidden by a curtain. Unfortunately, they could not see beyond the curtain. Only the people in the VIP area would be able to see outside, not the other way around.

"I think this kid from Nine Specters County is out of luck. The Third Prince is definitely going to punish him!"

"Although I don't know when or how he secretly learned the Heavenly Dance of Blood Marks, there's no doubt it's a capital crime!"

Many people thought Qin Yu was going to get into trouble.

However, a small minority of people thought Qin Yu might be a descendant of King Qin who had been lost based on Qin Yu's family name.

"I don't think the Third Prince is going to punish him. Perhaps, he's a relative?"

"That's right! He has the surname Qin as well."

Tian Ji Yu narrowed his eyes as he said, "No wonder I found Qin Yu familiar. He actually resembles the Fourth Prince..."

Chapter 2682 Revered Elder Tian Ling is Duan Ling Tian?

The Fourth Prince was a legend to the people in King Qin's Mansion. His innate talent was undoubtedly the highest among his brothers. His strength had surpassed King Qin's current strength 100 years ago. He was widely acknowledged as the strongest person in King Qin's Mansion.

Unfortunately, a few decades ago, the Fourth Prince suffered from Qi deviation when he was in closed-door cultivation. Due to that, he had injured King Qin and mistakenly killed his niece. After that, he left King Qin's Mansion, never to be seen or heard of again.

As the County Governor of Nine Specters County, Tian Ji Yu had the honor of meeting the Fourth Prince once. Although he thought Qin Yu looked familiar, since it had been a long time since he saw the Fourth Prince, it did not occur to him that Qin Yu resembled the Fourth Prince.

However, after Tian Ji Yu saw Qin Yu casting the Heavenly Dance of Blood Marks, which was exclusive only to the direct descendants of King Qin's Mansion, and heard the Third Prince summoned Qin Yu, the Fourth Prince's face appeared in his mind, and the puzzles began to click into place.

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Meanwhile, a similar thought appeared in the mind of Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain County. 'That Qin Yu from Nine Specters County resembles the Fourth Prince!' Now, he realized why he had found Qin Yu familiar when they first met.

The other County Governors who had met the Fourth Prince watched as Qin Yu entered the VIP area. They discussed furtively among themselves and speculated that Qin Yu was the son of the Fourth Prince who had disappeared a few decades ago.

"Why does Qin Yu look so similar to the Fourth Prince?"

"Not only that, but his surname is Qin as well. Could he be a direct descendant of King Qin's Mansion who had been left outside all this while?"

"It's likely that he's the Fourth Prince's son!"

When the County Governors discussed this matter, their conversations were, naturally, overheard by their subordinates.

"Fourth Prince?"

"He's the strongest powerhouse in our King Qin's Mansion 100 years ago!"

"Qin Yu from the Nine Specters County is probably the son of the Fourth Prince?"

When the County Governors discussed Qin Yu, their subordinates, naturally, overheard their conversation. They were thoroughly shocked by the news. A nobody from Nine Specters County was suddenly suspected to be the Fourth Prince's son, a direct descendant of King Qin's Mansion!

There were many people who were also invited to sit in the VIP area. Most of these people were from major sects and forces in the places governed by King Qin's Mansion. Although they were not as strong as King Qin's Mansion, they were stronger than the 16 counties.

A figure shrouded in black robes started as he muttered in a low voice that was only audible to him, "Qin Yu? The direct descendant of King Qin's Mansion? The son of the Fourth Prince?" A hint of surprise could be heard in his voice when he spoke.

This person's black robes were embroidered with flames that formed the word 'Yang'. The words seemed to be ablaze, it was a truly eye-catching design. This robe is the Celestial Master's Robe in the Devata Realms.

The Celestial Master's Robes were exclusive uniforms made by the Alliance of Celestial Masters. Only Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen would be given these robes once they verified their identities at the Alliance of Celestial Masters.

Celestial Masters was the collective name for Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Craftsmen. Therefore, their alliance was called the Alliance of Celestial Masters.

Not many in the Spirit Overarching Heaven would dare to make counterfeits of the Celestial Master's Robes. Anyone who was caught wearing a counterfeit Celestial Master's Robe would be hunted down and killed by the Alliance of Celestial Masters.

The Celestial Master's Robes were divided into four ranks; heaven, earth, yang, and yin. These robes were given to Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen according to their supreme, prominent, mediocre, and primitive ranks.

The man in black's Celestial Master's Robe was a yin Celestial Master's Robe. This indicated that he was a primitive Celestial Alchemist!

The black-robed man tilted his head and looked at a middle-aged man sitting nearby and asked in a hoarse and deep voice, "Vice Sect Leader Huang, is the Fourth Prince stronger than King Qin of King Qin's Mansion?"

The middle-aged man looked at the black-robed man and smiled as he nodded. "Revered Elder Tian Ling, yes, the Fourth Prince is, indeed, stronger than King Qin. It looks like you haven't heard about the Fourth Prince?" The middle-aged man was Huang Guang Ji, the Vice Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect. The Flying Dragon Sect was one of the relatively strong sects in the area governed by King Qin's Mansion.

The middle-aged man had led members of the Flying Dragon Sect to watch the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties under the invitation of King Qin's Mansion. Although the black-robed man in front of him had just joined the Flying Dragon Sect less than two months ago and was merely one of five primitive Celestial Alchemists, his skill in pill refining far surpassed the other four. Moreover, the Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect did not only treat the black-robed man courteously, but the sect leader had also urged him to be respectful to the black-robed man before they departed to the King City of King Qin's Mansion. For this reason, he did not dare to put on airs and was very polite to the black-robed man.

The black-robed man nodded before saying indifferently, "I've been traveling a lot all these years. I only arrived in King Qin's Mansion two months ago. As it happened, I was just about to have a breakthrough in my cultivation so I chose to temporarily settle in your sect."

Huang Guang Ji, the Vice Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect, had heard the sect leader spoke about the black-robed man so he was not surprised by this information. He said enthusiastically, "Revered Elder Ling Tian, since you're interested in the Fourth Prince, let me tell you what I know about him..."

After listening to Huan Guang Ji's explanation, the black-robed man sighed and said, 'Qin Yu is probably the lost son of the Fourth Prince...'

When Huan Guan Ji saw the black-robed lowered his head, lost in his thoughts, and clearly not in the mood to talk, he was not annoyed. After all, he had already gotten used to the black-robed man's anti-

social behavior. He thought to himself, 'Based on Revered Elder Ling Tian's hoarse voice, I guess he must be very old.'

Naturally, Huang Guang Ji was unaware that the black-robed man was, in fact, a young man who had faked his speaking voice. Underneath the black-robos that hid his appearance and body was a purple-clad young man with a muscular body. If Qin Yu was around and moved the cloth covering his face aside, he would definitely recognize this Revered Elder Tian Ling as Duan Ling Tian!

'I think the Third Prince must be trying to verify Qin Yu's identity,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Although he did not try to look at what was happening behind the curtain, like the others, his mind was definitely focused on what was happening behind the curtain.

Duan Ling Tian's thoughts wandered off from Qin Yu to another matter. 'Anyway, thanks to the rule from King Qin's Mansion that allows a county to select a participant to directly participate in the finals, I'm able to keep myself hidden until now. Otherwise, there really would be no way for me to hide.'

Everyone, including Tian Ji Yu, did not imagine, even in their wildest dreams, that Duan Ling Tian had already arrived in King Qin's Mansion. However, he had come with another identity; Revered Elder Ling Tian of the Flying Dragon Sect who was a primitive Celestial Alchemist as could be seen by the yin Celestial Master's Robe he was wearing.

Since Duan Ling Tian was dressed in the yin Celestial Master's Robe, no one dared to probe him with their Divine Consciousnesses. They did not dare to provoke a Celestial Alchemist after all. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian was able to hide his age and identity.

Suddenly, thunderous voices began to ring one after another.

"Lord King Qin has arrived!"

"Lord King Qin has arrived!"

Along with the voices, nine white horses appeared, carrying a roofless carriage and flying from somewhere nearby at a speed comparable to an ordinary Great Overarching Golden Celestial. A middle-aged man dressed in purple and gold robes with a majestic air sat in the carriage as a large group of people trailed behind him.

Chapter 2683 Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's Celestial Duke?!

All nine of the snow-white horses looked no different from normal horses in the mundane realms. However, upon closer inspection, the snow-white horses emitted Celestial Origin Energy. These horses were clearly Celestial beasts.

In the Devata Realms, Celestial beasts were divided into those that were sentient and those who were not. Those with sentience were no different from humans. They were even able to transform into humans and cultivate as well. Those without sentience were no different from normal beasts that only operated on their animal instincts. Those beasts only cultivated through their instincts or with help from humans.

The horses pulling on King Qin's roofless carriage were bred in King Qin's Mansion, and each of their cultivation bases was comparable to a Violet Sun Golden Celestial. With these horses pulling on the carriage, the carriage's speed was comparable to that of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

'So that's King Qin?' Hidden under the black robes, Duan Ling Tian's eyes glinted as he looked at the middle-aged man dressed in a purple and gold long robe. The middle-aged man's complexion was as clear as jade, he was tall, and had a strong build. The majestic air about him far outshone that of the county governors who were present. Before King Qin, all the county governors paled in comparison. It was clear they were in a different league.

"It's King Qin!"

"King Qin is here!"

As soon as the roofless carriage appeared, a commotion broke out immediately.

"Greetings, King Qin!"

Everyone present on the scene bowed and greeted King Qin respectfully in unison.

Moments later, everyone surrounding the battle ring bowed at King Qin respectfully. Even the audience in the VIP area were no exception as they cupped their fists and greeted, "Greetings, King Qin."

Duan Ling Tian followed the people from the Flying Dragon Sect and cupped his fists and greeted King Qin.

Among everyone present, the only person who was unaffected and showed no deference was the grey-clad figure next to Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain County.

"Hm?" King Qin who was seated in the carriage waved at the crowd before he noticed the grey-clad figure next to Wang Qi Ling who did not pay respect to him. A frown appeared on his face immediately. This was his territory, how could there be someone who dared to act with such disrespect?

Everyone's eyes followed King Qin's eyes and looked at the grey-clad figure. In just an instant, the grey-clad figure became the center of attention.

'Damn it! What's he trying to do? He's going to get us killed!' The expressions of the Revered Elders and elders of Fair Mountain County changed drastically.

'Who's that person? How bold of him to disrespect King Qin!' The young powerhouses from Fair Mountain County were speechless. They were also worried this person's behavior would affect King Qin's behavior toward them.

King Qin turned his eyes to Wang Qi Ling and said indifferently, "County Chief Wang, it seems like the person standing next to you has something against me..." Despite his indifference, everyone could hear the hint of anger in his voice.

Wang Qi Ling's expression changed drastically, and he began to sweat profusely, "K-King Qin, my lord..."

Meanwhile, the other 15 county governors were gloating over Wang Qi Ling's misfortune.

Wang Qi Ling quickly sent a Voice Transmission to the grey-clad figure. "Senior, can you please say something to King Qin?"

The grey-clad figure did not deign to reply to Wang Qi Ling. After all, it might alert Duan Ling Tian to her presence. Her turbid eyes glinted with wisdom as she looked at King Qin.

"You're King Qin of King Qin's Mansion? I'm from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. I came today under the order of my sect leader to kill someone. If my identity is exposed and scares my target away, I'll definitely annihilate King Qin's Mansion!" The grey-robed figure's Voice Transmission rang in King Qin's ears.

'The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?!' Then, he saw the grey-robed figure's hand move, and an order token flashed before him.

'The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's core elder?!' Although King Qin only saw it for a brief moment, he knew without a doubt it was an identity token of a core elder from the Compassionate Traveler Sect.

'Among the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's core elder, even the weakest is a Celestial Duke!'

Upon seeing the identity order token and realizing the person was a Celestial Duke, he gulped and hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission, "Senior, I'll ask my man to come out with an excuse. Otherwise, the others would find it strange if I don't do anything. Please accept my apology in advance if I offend you in any way."

The grey-clad figure only scoffed in response.

Then, King Qin sent a Voice Transmission to Wang Qi Ling.

Upon hearing King Qin's Voice Transmission, Wang Qi Ling's eyes widened in horror and disbelief. However, he quickly recovered his composure. He bowed at King Qin and said, "King Qin, this person is deaf and mute. I apologize on this person's behalf. Please forgive him."

"I've always been magnanimous. Since this person is deaf and mute, I'll forgive him." King Qin played along with Wang Qi Ling's excuse. Then, he made his way to a hidden area in the VIP area to the seat that had been reserved for him.

The crowd was discussing furtively among themselves as their attention turned away from Wang Qi Ling and the grey figure next to him.

"It seems like King Qin came for Qin Yu!"

"Isn't it obvious? It seems like Qin Yu is really related to the Fourth Prince from King Qin's Mansion who had disappeared."

"I heard the Fourth Prince had severely injured King Qin before he left the King Qin's Mansion... If Qin Yu is truly related to the Fourth Prince, will King Qin seek revenge from Qin Yu?"

“You overthink things! Aren’t you aware the Fourth Prince only attacked King Qin because he experienced Qi deviation and lost his sanity? King Qin and the Fourth Prince are biological brothers and had a close relationship. If Qin Yu is truly the Fourth Prince’s descendant, King Qin will definitely treat him well.”

“Perhaps, he might even be made a family member of King Qin!”

At this moment, King Qin, the Third Prince, and Qin Yu were in the hidden area in the VIP area. Nobody knew what was going on inside. After all, they could not see nor hear what was happening inside.

About 15 mins later...

The master of ceremony of the Martial Competition of the 16 counties suddenly rose into the air and announced, “Qin Yu will withdraw from the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties... The competition will continue as usual!”

Upon hearing this, the entire place fell silent for a moment before an uproar broke out again.

“Qin Yu is quitting the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties?”

“What happened?”

“It seems like Qin Yu is really the descendant of the Fourth Prince! If he’s really the Fourth Prince’s son, there’s no need for him to participate in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. After all, as the Fourth Prince’s son, King Qin’s Mansion definitely won’t mistreat him.”

Someone sighed. “Life is really different if you’re born with a silver spoon!”

Among the audience in the VIP seats, Duan Ling Tian thought to himself inwardly, ‘Congratulations, Qin Yu! If we have a chance to meet again, I’ll congratulate you in person!’

Duan Ling Tian was still hiding from the old lady who had been searching for him in Nine Specters County. She had even chased after him to King Qin’s Mansion. Since it was best to be cautious, he decided to continue to hide. To others, he was merely a primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect.

‘Fortunately, I’m wearing the Celestial Master’s Robe with the ‘Kun’ word on it that proves my identity as a primitive Celestial Alchemist or primitive Celestial Craftsman... Otherwise, my original outfit would’ve attracted people’s attention.’ Duan Ling Tian knew without the Celestial Master’s Robe, many people would probe him with their Divine Consciousness out of curiosity.

The Martial Competition of the 16 Counties continued...

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Behind the curtain of the VIP seats, Qin Yu stood in between King Qin and the Third Prince of King Qin’s Mansion. Both of them were staring at Qin Yu intently while Qin Yu was reserved.

“Yu’Er... Where’s your father?” the Third Prince asked.

Qin Yu sighed before he replied, “Father... he has passed.”

Upon hearing this, King Qin and the Third Prince's expression changed drastically.

Chapter 2684 Chu Yu From the Soaring Wind County!

"Yu'er... What happened? H-how did your father pass?" King Qin had a pained expression on his face as he asked this question. He was elated when he realized his fourth brother had a son. He was hopeful that he would be able to see his brother again. However, his hope was dashed when his nephew told his third brother that his fourth brother had passed away.

Qin Yu said slowly, "When father regained consciousness not too long after he injured you due to Qi deviation, he felt extremely guilty about hurting you. Moreover, the Qi deviation could happen again. Hence, he didn't want to return to King Qin's Mansion. Soon after, he met my mother and fell in love. Not long after I was born, my father left home due to another Qi deviation. My mother brought me with her to look for him but we were robbed during our journey. They tried to kill us, and my mother sacrificed herself to protect me, allowing me to escape." His eyes reddened when he spoke, "After killing my mother, those people came after me... At the critical juncture, my father who had regained consciousness found me and killed all of those people, saving me. He lost his will to live, blaming himself for my mother's death. He told me of his origins and gave me his order token after that. Before I could react, he committed suicide in front of me. Before he died, he asked to be buried with my mother." After he finished speaking, he took out an order token.

"That's fourth brother's order token!" The Third Prince took the order token from Qin Yu with shaking hands and studied it. The word 'third' and his brother's name were carved on the token. Tears began to well up in his eyes.

King Qin inhaled deeply before he said, "Yu'er, from now on, you can rely on your uncle and King Qin's Mansion!" Then, he patted Qin Yu on his shoulder.

"When father told me about his origins, he asked me to return to King Qin's Mansion and to reunite with my family... He said his greatest regret was not being able to return to King Qin's Mansion and protect it due to his condition," Qin Yu said.

"Yu'er, you have a family now, You don't have to wander around anymore. From now on, all of us, your first uncle, me, and your fifth uncle, will be your pillars of support!" the Third Prince said as he returned the order token to Qin Yu.

"En." Qin Yu nodded as tears streamed down his face. In the past, he could only rely on himself. He relied on himself and encountered many hardships to come to King Qin's Mansion. Since he was alone previously, he would need to be a Great Overarching Golden Celestial to be able to travel freely in the counties under King Qin's Mansion. Otherwise, there was no doubt he would meet with peak Golden Celestials robbers and die. However, now, he could finally rely on his family. This was such a huge chance that he did not know how to feel about it.

All of a sudden, King Qin asked the Third Prince with a grim expression on his face, "Third Brother, did you notice the grey-clad figure next to Fair Mountain County's Wang Qi Ling previously?"

The Third Prince was confused. "Why? Is something wrong?" He did notice the grey-clad figure since he found it strange how Wang Qi Ling was extremely respectful to that person. However, a few days had

passed, and the grey-robed figure did not cause any trouble so he stopped paying attention to that person.

King Qin said grimly, "Yes, we have a major problem."

"Did Wang Qi Ling hire him to kill Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County?" The Third Prince asked with a frown. He had heard about how the other 15 counties had colluded to hire someone to kill Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County. However, he did not expect they would dare to act so brazenly in King Qin's Mansion. Was this not akin to a challenge to King Qin's Mansion?

"Kill Duan Ling Tian?" Qin Yu's expression changed drastically. Duan Ling Tian was his only friend. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had saved his life.

King Qin said solemnly, "No, this is much more than that. A mere Wang Qi Ling isn't capable of getting a core elder of the Compassionate Celestial Sect to come here, let alone hire a core elder to kill Duan Ling Tian."

"T-the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect? A core elder at that?!" The Third Prince was thoroughly shocked when he heard King Qin's words. An expression of disbelief could be seen on his face when he looked at King Qin with a pale face.

The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was a powerful sect that was much more powerful than the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom where King Qin's Mansion was located. In fact, the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was even more powerful than most high-rank Celestial kingdoms...

Even a high-rank Celestial kingdom would not dare to simply provoke or offend the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. After all, the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was a huge threat even to a high-rank celestial kingdom. Moreover, he heard that almost all of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's core elders were top-tier Celestial Dukes.

"Yes." King Qin nodded.

"The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's core elders are peak Celestial Dukes. Brother, are you sure the grey-clad figure is a Celestial Duke?" The Third Prince asked. A horrified and wary expression could be seen on his face.

"I tried to probe her cultivation base.... It... It was too profound for me to find out anything!" King Qin said solemnly.

The Third Prince shuddered.

'Celestial Duke?!' Qin Yu who was standing aside could not help but widen his eyes when he heard his uncles' conversation.

Celestial Dukes were even stronger than Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial!

It should be noted that the strongest person in King Qin's Mansion was only King Qin who was an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. Even if the Fourth Prince was still around, there would only be two Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials.

Currently, a Celestial Duke had appeared, according to his uncles, at the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. Moreover, the Celestial Duke came from an extremely powerful sect, the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. It was even more peculiar that such an elite was standing with Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain.

Qin Yu was thoroughly shocked when he found out the grey-robed man was a Celestial Duke. He had noticed the grey-robed figure earlier. He was one of the two people who had hidden their appearance. The other person was a black-robed man who stood with the Flying Dragon Sect that was also a powerful sect under King Qin's Mansion governance. Based on the black robe with the word 'Kun' on it, which was a Celestial Master's Robe, it was obvious he was either a Celestial Alchemist or Celestial Craftsman. However, there was no doubt the grey-clad figure was more mysterious than the black-robed man.

Seeing the Third Prince's skepticism, King Qin added, "Moreover, that person briefly showed me his or her order token. There was no doubt it's an authentic order token of a core elder from the Compassionate Celestial Sect. In addition to that..."

The Third Prince said, "Since that person's identity is confirmed, we must not offend them and cooperate with them!"

"You're right," King Qin nodded.

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Meanwhile, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties continued on.

After Qin Yu withdrew from the competition, the temporary top three candidates had been selected.

"One Heart County's Yan Shi Hu is ranked third in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties for now. Horse Teeth County's Tong Yuan is second while the Soaring Wind County's Chu Yu is ranked first for the time being," the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties' master of ceremony stood above the arena and announced, "Next, the 13 strongest participants that had been selected by their respective counties will have a chance to challenge the current top three participants. If they succeed, they will take over the defeated person's rank. If the challenger fails and wishes to try again, they would have to challenge those in the top ten, apart from the top three, before they can challenge the top three participants again. If those below the top three are defeated, their ranks would drop, ranking behind the person who defeated them." He was very thorough with his explanation.

At this time, the climax of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties was about the start.

The spectators began to whisper among themselves.

"I didn't expect the person to rank first for the time being to be a woman."

"Yes. Who would have thought she would rank first in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties?"

"She's from the Soaring Wind County, right? So I guess to rank first she must be pretty powerful."

"I beg to disagree. I think the Soaring Wind County's best candidate should be Chu Yu's brother, Chu Yan!"

"Chu Yan... I've heard of him... He's the son of Chu Ting Xuan, the County Governor of Soaring Wind County. He isn't very well known in the past. He only gained a modicum of fame when he joined King Qin's Mansion's Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. In the past, the world only knew about Chu Yu, the daughter of the Soaring Wind County's County Chief. She's a woman who's not inferior to men!"

Chapter 2685 Women Are No Inferior To Men

"I thought the Soaring Wind County's best candidate would be Chu Yu. I never thought it would be someone else, let alone Chu Yu's own brother, Chu Yan!"

"Since he's been named the Soaring Wind County's best candidate instead, it must mean that Chu Yan is more powerful than Chu Yu."

"Who would've known? It turns out that the strongest among those less than 100 years old in the Soaring Wind County isn't Chu Yu but Chu Yan who wasn't well-known before this."

"Chu Yan, what a masterful disguise!"

Many people were whispering among themselves. Obviously, Chu Yu of the Soaring Wind County and her brother, Chu Yan, were the centre of the topic.

The person who ranked first in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties at that point was a young powerhouse from the Soaring Wind County, Chu Yu. As a fearless beauty, her long hair was tied behind and her exquisite facial features were on full display. Even someone like Duan Ling Tian, who had met countless beauties, was impressed. Although Chu Yu was a girl, she was gorgeous in a strong, masculine way. She was completely different from all the girls Duan Ling Tian had ever seen.

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

A series of rapid wind whistling sounds were heard. The carriage without a roof that was being pulled by nine snow-white horses entered the area behind the VIP seats. As though on command, the camp expanded to cover them in a timely manner. All of it disappeared from the crowd's line of sight.

"Now, the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties will continue...The best candidate of the thirteen counties may take your pick and issue the challenge," the emcee announced loudly.

A roaring voice could be heard the moment he finished his sentence, "I, Xing Dong, would like to challenge Chu Yu!"

A sturdy figure stepped forward from one side of the audience. When he spoke, it was as though one could hear roaring thunder in the background.

It was a young man in gray tight-fitting clothes that showed off his well-built figure. His muscles bulged as though they were moving and twitching the whole time. Besides, there were clearly visible veins pulsating on them.

Although the young man was buff, he was only of average height at about 170 cm.

Shortly after that, he was already inside the battle ring, hovering in the air. He shot a glance at the top ten contestants of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties at that point, and eventually his eyes found the only girl among them. His fighting spirit gleamed strongly in his eyes.

“It is the Overarching Floating County’s Xing Dong!”

“Xing Dong is the strongest person in the Overarching Floating County, and he’s less than 100 years old...I heard that he has achieved the Green Sun Golden Celestial stage a few years ago. Even if he hasn’t broken through to the Blue Sun Golden Celestial stage, he must be much stronger than he had been back then.”

“I think Chu Yu is also a Green Sun Golden Celestial...It’s hard to say who will win this fight.”

“Their cultivation base is the same...I think it depends on the celestial weapons they own and their techniques.”

“Chu Yu does have a celestial weapon...As the best candidate from the Overarching Floating County, I’m sure Xing Dong has celestial weapons as well.”

“This fight will be the fiercest battle in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties by far. How exciting!”

As soon as Xing Dong entered the ring, the people around the battle ring who knew of him could not help but start speculating.

Whoosh!

In the meantime, Chu Yu, who had been singled out by Xing Dong, stepped forward and confronted Xing Dong.

“Xing Dong of the Overarching Floating County...I’ve heard of you,” Chu Yu glanced at Xing Dong indifferently and said, “but you are no match for me.”

“Hmph!”

Naturally, Xing Dong found it intolerable that a woman would declare that he was no match for her in front of all these people. He then scoffed and sneered in disdain. “Chu Yu, I know you are fairly powerful. Still, you’re not as powerful as I am!”

From the start, he had watched Chu Yu’s every battle. As such, he would think that he was stronger than her. Therefore, he decided to use his only chance to challenge the top three contestants of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. So long as he defeated her, he would be able to take her place as number one. Even though it was merely a temporary victory in first place, it was still a great honor.

Especially now that the Qin Mansion’s King Qin was there, he might stand out if he could defeat Chu Yu now and become number one in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties for now.

‘Pfft, does Xing Dong really think the strength Chu Yu previously showcased was all she’s got? If that is the case, I’m afraid he’s out of luck.’

Among the audience, Duan Ling Tian, who was shrouded in his Celestial Master's Robe that had a 'kun' word on it, narrowed his eyes and thought to himself. He had watched Chu Yu's every battle as well. At first, there was nothing out of ordinary, but then he slowly noticed that she seemed to be holding back and hiding her true strength even in the last battle to fight for the temporary first placing in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

Upon hearing Xing Dong's remark, Chu Yu cocked her brows and cried out, "Since you are so confident, then let's fight!"

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Immediately, Xing Dong made a move. When he moved, it was like a mountain rumbling while setting off a series of air explosions behind him. It was deafening, so the audience with a weaker cultivation base couldn't help but start frowning.

"Chu Yu, take this!"

When Xing Dong charged, he suddenly let out a piercing cry as well. Then, a broad sword appeared in his hands. The saber ray was several feet long as it flew straight at Chu Yu. Although it seemed like a simple move, it had locked on to her closely. It still went after her even as she moved around quickly, trying to avoid it. It seemed as though it would not stop until it reached her!

"Hmph!" Chu Yu scoffed and stopped avoiding it. Instantly, she retrieved a seven-foot long spear. She thrust it forward like an angry dragon roaring towards Xing Dong's saber ray.

In that moment, with her spear, she resembled a heroic and valiant general. If she had donned armor, she would have looked like the 'generals of the Yang family' from the literature in Duan Ling Tian's past life.

Weng! Weng! Weng! Weng!

The saber ray crossed the sky, appearing as captivating as a crescent moon as it tried to split heaven and earth open.

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

Wherever the spear ray passed and wherever the tip of the spear pointed, sparks exploded in the air. Together they seemed like constellations that resisted the saber ray which resembled a crescent moon. Everyone watched the fight in silence with bated breath.

'Xing Dong is going to lose soon.'

After a few rounds of exchange, Duan Ling Tian could see Xing Dong slowly falling into a disadvantage. He knew he was right.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian was not the only person who could tell that Xing Dong was about to lose soon. In the VIP seats, the high-ranking officials began to look away as they thought there was no point in continuing to watch the fight. After all, the results were becoming obvious.

Chu Yu was stronger!

“Chu Yu was hiding her true strength previously!”

While the county chiefs could tell that Xing Dong was about to lose, the Overarching Floating County's County Chief could see that too. He has a grim expression on his face. He never expected his best candidate, Xing Dong, to lose his first fight.

The group near the Soaring Wind County looked at the Soaring Wind County's County Chief Chu Ting Xuan and said, “County Chief Chu, your daughter does live up to her name. She's truly a woman who's not inferior to men!”

He was obviously envious of County Chief Chu for having such a powerful daughter. In addition, he had a son who was the best candidate from the Soaring Wind County.

Chu Ting Xuan was a middle-aged man dressed like a scholar. He looked noble and chivalrous. Although he was slightly older now, it was obvious that he was definitely extremely good-looking when he was young.

“You flatter me, County Chief Chu.”

Upon hearing that remark, Chu Ting Xuan immediately looked at him and smiled humbly.

‘It's over.’ Just as Duan Ling Tian thought to himself and began to look away...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the battle ring, Chu Yu's seven-foot-long spear, which was a celestial weapon, seemed as though a wrymdragon was charging at Xing Dong. It crushed all of Xing Dong's attacks, landed on him, and then sent him flying away. Even the celestial saber Xing Dong was gripping tightly with both his hands was knocked away.

Xing Dong fainted after vomiting a mouthful of blood although he was still falling. When he almost reached the ground, the emcee got to him before men from the Overarching Floating County could and lifted him up with his force. Then, he sent him over to those from the Overarching Floating County.

“Thank you, my lord!” the Chief of the Overarching Floating County thanked him immediately and then went to check Xing Dong's injuries.

After a thorough checking, he sighed in relief and said to the valiant figure in the air inside the battle ring, “Chu Yu, thank you for showing mercy.”

Chapter 2686 Duan Ling Tian!

The County Chief of the Overarching Floating County was clearly aware that if not for Chu Yu showing her mercy, Xing Dong's injuries would have been much more severe than they were. With his current injuries, he would just have to consume a healing Celestial Pill and rest a bit to fully recover to his full form. He would then be able to continue with the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

Although Xing Dong lost this battle, he still had the chance to challenge anyone who ranked fourth till tenth in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. If he could defeat them, he would still have the chance to challenge the top three contestants.

“Most welcome, Uncle Lian.”

As the daughter of the County Chief of the Soaring Wind County, Chu Yu had met the County Chief of the Overarching Floating County, so she immediately responded with a smile when the other party thanked her. Then, she returned to the lineup and stood along with the other top 10 contestants.

“Next!” the emcee of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties announced indifferently.

“Mo Qiu of Qiu Li County...I challenge Tong Yuan of Horse Teeth County!”

As soon as the emcee finished his sentence, a lean young man stepped forward and said that he would like to challenge the person currently placed second in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties: Tong Yuan of Horse Teeth County!

Tong Yuan was a young two-meter-tall man. He was muscular and had bronzed skin. After being named, he stood up solemnly. However, he wore a blank expression. Then, he went into the battle ring and confronted Qiu Li County’s best candidate, Mo Qiu, who was already waiting for him in the battle ring.

Coincidentally, they attacked at the same time!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

About thirty breaths later, a figure backed off and surrendered. “I’m no match for you. I surrender!”

The person who had surrendered was Tong Yuan of Horse Teeth County.

Among the best candidates from the thirteen counties, two of them had appeared. Apart from Xing Dong of the Overarching Floating County who had been defeated, Mo Qiu from Qiu Li County defeated Tong Yuan and took his place to become second in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties for now.

As for Tong Yuan, he became the third. Those placed third to ninth had also moved a spot lower. The person who had been ranked tenth was no longer in the top 10 now.

“You are forced out of the top ten now, but you’ve been given a chance to challenge anyone in the top ten now. If you can defeat them, you will take their place and stay in the top ten for now.”

The emcee looked at the young man who was no longer among the top ten of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties and said, “If you pass on this opportunity, you will no longer have the chance to be placed in the top ten of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. You have ten breaths’ time to consider, so think things through and let me know.”

“I give up.”

In about the span of two breaths, the young man made up his mind. He chose to give up this opportunity. He would not have ranked tenth if he could defeat any one before him. The latest addition

to the top ten of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties was even stronger than Mo Qiu. He was well aware he was no match to him. Therefore, he chose to give up because he knew it was impossible for him to win.

“Next.”

...

“Next.”

...

The emcee repeated again and again, introducing the best candidates of the thirteen counties one by one. The competition was in full swing.

In the process, more and more of the people, who were temporarily listed in the top ten of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, were forced out. They would either lose the challenge or did not dare to challenge the newcomers at all. The most outstanding contestant was, of course, the best candidates of Fair Mountain County, Yang Jin, and Soaring Wind County, Chu Yan.

Chu Yan was the brother of Chu Yu, who ranked first temporarily. He was also the son of the County Chief of the Soaring Wind County.

After numerous battles, the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties was nearing the end. Chu Yu, who was temporarily ranked first in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, was not just forced out of the top place, but she was not even amongst the top three. For now, she ranked sixth in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. However, if there were no accidents, her ranking should not change by much.

At most, she would drop by one more spot, and that would only happen when the best candidate from Nine Spectre County, Duan Ling Tian, appeared and was stronger than her.

Certainly, Duan Ling Tian was undoubtedly stronger than her. Therefore, as long as Duan Ling Tian showed up, his position would definitely drop. If Duan Ling Tian did not show up, then she would be able to maintain her rank.

At that point, the top ten in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties was as follows:

First, Yang Jin of Fair Mountain County.

Second, Chu Yan of the Soaring Wind County.

Third, Zhong Jue Ming of the Peaceful County.

Fourth, Ren Fei of Red Cloud County.

Fifth: Zhang Jian Hong of Plum Blossom County.

Sixth: Chu Yu of the Soaring Wind County.

Seventh: Mo Qiu of Qiu Li County.

Eighth: Tong Yuan of Horse Teeth County.

Ninth: Yan Shi Hu of One Heart County.

Tenth: Xing Dong of the Overarching Floating County.

Apart from Yang Jin of Fair Mountain County and Chu Yan of the Soaring Wind County who had not fought each other, the rest had already battled against each other. The outcome was clear.

In other words, Yang Jin and Chu Yan would be the ones fighting for the first place in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

“If Duan Ling Tian doesn’t show up, the first place in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties will belong to either Yang Jin or Chu Yan”

“Yes. If Duan Ling Tian doesn’t appear, only the first and second placing of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties might change. The next eight will stay the same.”

“If Duan Ling Tian does show up, the first place of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties will definitely be his...if he lives up to his name.”

“If Duan Ling Tian shows up, Xing Dong of the Overarching Floating County will be forced out of the top ten!”

Seeing that the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties nearing its end, the crowd was gradually abuzz again. A lot of them mentioned Nine Specter City’s best candidate, Duan Ling Tian.

However, up till then, Duan Ling Tian had yet to show up.

The County Chief of the Overarching Floating County saw Xing Dong’s anxiousness and promptly consoled him, “Don’t worry...Look at the time. I don’t think he’s coming.”

Xing Dong nodded, but he still could not help feeling nervous. Once Duan Ling Tian appeared, he would be forced out of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties’ top ten. At the same time, the Overarching Floating County would also be penalised by King Qin’s Mansion if that happened.

At that point, Nine Specter County was the only county which was not ranked in the top ten but still had their best candidate. Three other counties had their best candidates forced out of the top ten.

Therefore, they would have to accept King Qin’s Mansion’s penalty. Those county chiefs from the three counties did not look pleased. Although King Qin’s Mansion penalty was probably to ask them to submit more celestial stones and would not severely harm their counties, they still felt the pinch.

In the VIP seats, Duan Ling Tian, who was shrouded in his Celestial Master’s Robe which had a ‘kun’ word, was watching the battle between Yang Jin and Chu Yan with a clear mind.

Yang Jin was the best candidate from Fair Mountain County. He was also known as the strongest person below 100 years old in Fair Mountain County. He was an average-sized young man dressed in a blue robe. Because he seemed so ordinary, he was someone you would not be able to pick out in a crowd.

Chu Yan was the best candidate from the Soaring Wind County and the son of the County Chief of the Soaring Wind County. Before the King Qin's Mansion's Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, no one had heard of him. At that time, it was his sister, Chu Yu, who was known as the strongest person below 100 years old in the Soaring Wind County. This time in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, Chu Yan had shown his strength which was far superior to his sister's. He became the underdog who succeeded against all odds, ranking second in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties now. At this moment, he would be fighting Yang Jin for the first place in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

In the camp situated behind the VIP seats, nine snow white horses were resting at the side while a few other people stood straight as though they were marching. In front of the horses and those men, there were three luxurious seats where King Qin, the Third Prince, and Qin Yu, who had just reunited with his family, sat.

At that time, Qin Yu's eyes were fixed on the fight between Yang Jin and Chu Yan as he tried guessing who would win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

'Will Duan Ling Tian come? If he does, he will surely win. If he doesn't, the first place of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties will be determined in this match. I hope he's still safe even if he doesn't show up,' Qin Yu thought to himself.

Unlike Qin Yu, King Qin and the Third Prince's attention were mostly on the audience from Fair Mountain County although there some occasional glances at Yang Jin and Chu Yan's fight. More accurately, their eyes were on the gray-clad man beside the County Chief of Fair Mountain County.

"Brother...the Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect's core elders haven't made any move. Could it be that the person he is here to kill on the orders of Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect's sect leader has yet to appear?" the Third Prince asked King Qin in confusion.

"That should be it." King Qin nodded and continued, "However, till this point, all the people who are supposed to show up for the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties have already appeared...unless..."

At that point, King Qin gave a pause and stared at the Third Prince in the eye.

In the next moment...

"Duan Ling Tian!" King Qin and the Third Prince unanimously chorused the name.

Chapter 2687 Qin Yu's Worry

"Duan Ling Tian?!"

Qin Yu recollected his senses when King Qin and the Third Prince mentioned Duan Ling Tian's name. He turned to King Qin and the Third Prince and said, "Uncles, what's up with Duan Ling Tian?"

"Oh right!" King Qin turned and looked at Qin Yu suddenly as though he just thought of something then asked, "Qin Yu, you came here from Nine Specters County. Have you heard of or knew Duan Ling Tian while you were there?"

"Of course." Qin Yu nodded. "He's my only friend in Nine Specters County."

Although he only knew Duan Ling Tian at a later stage, he did not have any true friends before that. It was Duan Ling Tian who made him feel like he had a friend in Nine Specters County.

“Furthermore, he saved me before!” Qin Yu added.

“He saved your life before?”

King Qin and the Third Prince frowned a little after hearing what Qin Yu said. They then looked towards each other and saw helplessness and bitterness in each other’s eyes. Duan Ling Tian was their nephew’s friend and he had saved their nephew’s life before, so they should offer him protection. However, if the target of the Compassion Celestial Travellers Sect powerhouse was their nephew’s friend who had saved his life before, then they were powerless to do anything even if they wanted to help.

Now, they could only hope that the powerhouse of the Compassion Celestial Traveller Sect’s target was not Duan Ling Tian. If it was, then they hoped that Duan Ling Tian would not reveal himself, or else they would be stuck between a rock and a hard place.

“Yup.” Qin Yu nodded, and at the same time, he saw the helplessness in the eyes of King Qin and the Third Prince. He could not help but feel worried and ask, “Uncles, what were you saying just now? What happened to Duan Ling Tian?”

Qin Yu felt worried when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s name being mentioned. Although he did not hear the conversation between his uncles clearly just now, an uneasy feeling still rose within his gut.

“Qin Yu, this is only our speculation.” The Third Prince sighed.

“What speculation?” Qin Yu became even more anxious.

“Well...”

As the Third Prince elaborated on the situation, Qin Yu’s face changed several times, each second grimmer than the one before.

“Therefore, Uncle, do you suspect that the Core Elder of the Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect’s target is Duan Ling Tian?”

“However, that’s just our suspicion,” King Qin consoled after noticing Qin Yu’s worried expression. He then added, “After all, Duan Ling Tian is the only person who’s expected to turn up at the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties that isn’t present. Of course, we cannot rule out that he’s looking for another person.”

Although King Qin said it might be another person, deep down he still felt that the person that the powerhouse from the Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect was waiting for was Duan Ling Tian.

Apart from the monster prodigy, Duan Ling Tian he could not think of another person in the area under King Qin’s Mansion that would warrant the Sect Leader of Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect to issue a kill order personally.

He was also shocked when he first heard of Duan Ling Tian a few months ago because he never would have thought that King Qin's Mansion would have such a cultivator who possessed a power that was almost similar to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial's while still below a hundred years old. Duan Ling Tian was even recognized as the most powerful person under the Great Overarching Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County by the people there!

Even with both the Third Prince and King Qin consoling him, Qin Yu still realized that the Core Elder of the Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect was here for Duan Ling Tian. Although he was unsure why the Sect Leader of the Compassion Celestial Traveler Sect sent a Core Elder here to kill Duan Ling Tian, it did not stop him from worrying for Duan Ling Tian.

'Duan Ling Tian, I hope that you are safe. In addition to that, I hope that you won't appear in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties,' Qin Yu secretly prayed. Before this, he wished that Duan Ling Tian would appear in time, but his mind had changed since.

"Now, we can only hope that Duan Ling Tian won't appear..." The Third Prince sighed.

"Although I value Duan Ling Tian and hope that he can remain in King Qin's Mansion, since he's friends with Qin Yu and the powerhouse from the Compassion Celestial Traveller Sect seems to be here to kill him, I also hope that he won't appear," King Qin added.

Boom!

Boooooooooom!

Earthshaking sonic booms echoed across the area outside the curtains and the blows in the combat ring caused it to rock and an earthquake rumbled in the spectators' area.

Now in the void above the combat ring, the trump card of Fair Mountain County, Yang Jin, was in fierce combat with the trump card of the Soaring Wind County, Chu Yan. They were currently neck to neck with each other.

The gazes of King Qin and the Third Prince were led to the void above the combat ring together. Qin Yu was the only one whose head was still lower as he was still praying that Duan Ling Tian would not appear...

Qin Yu cared so much for Duan Ling Tian because the latter was his only friend and he did not want anything bad to happen to him. Apart from that, he could not care less about anything else. It was none of his business who the victor of the battle between Yang Jin and Chu Yan would be or who would get first place in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

Although King Qin and the Third Prince hoped that nothing bad would happen to Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian was merely their nephew's friend after all. There was not much they could do if the powerhouse from the Compassion Celestial Traveller Sect was targeting Duan Ling Tian. However, if the powerhouse from the Compassion Celestial Traveller Sect's target was not Duan Ling Tian, then they trust that the latter would not be in any danger.

Therefore, they quickly shifted their attention away from Duan Ling Tian to the battle that was happening in the void above the combat ring. They were now more interested to find out between Yang

Jin and Chu Yan, who would be able to defeat the other party and claim victory to become first in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

"I have heard about Yang Jin of the Fair Mountain County before this. Rumor has it that he has rather strong power and is a genius in Fair Mountain County. He lives up to his name, it seems!" the Third Prince exclaimed.

"Chu Yan looks quite good as well...He and his father have been well hidden. Although I'm the head of King Qin's Mansion, I have only heard of Chu Yu, a very capable woman from the Soaring Wind County, but I have never heard about the even more talented Chu Yan in the Soaring Wind County!" King Qin said.

"Elder brother, who do you think will win among them?" the Third Prince asked.

"It is still unclear...However based on the current situation, they are neck to neck with each other, so it will depend on who makes a mistake first. If the other person manages to capitalize on the mistake, then he can potentially end the battle and win!" King Qin said with certainty.

"I concur," the Third Prince nodded while saying.

Beyond the curtain, all of the spectators around the combat ring was focused on the fierce battle between Yang Jin and Chu Yan that was taking place in the void above the combat ring.

"Yang Jin is so powerful. He is well-deserving of his fame!"

"I have heard of Yang Jin in the past, but I wasn't sure how powerful he is...After today, I finally know how formidable he is."

"If it wasn't for the dark horse of this competition, Chu Yan, and Duan Ling Tian being absent, Yang Jin would have cruised to the first place in this Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties."

"Indeed!. Who would have guessed that the Soaring Wind County would have a trump card such as Chu Yan apart from Chu Yu?"

"Regardless of whether Duan Ling Tian shows up, the Soaring Wind County will occupy two of the top ten spots in this Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. Furthermore, both of them are siblings. This will definitely be buzzing all over the Soaring Wind County and King Qin's Mansion!"

"It is really enviable that the County Chief of the Soaring Wind County has such a great pair of children."

A group of spectators was discussing in the audience surrounding the combat ring. Most of them were exclaiming about the dark horse in this competition, Chu Yan, and how lucky the County Chief of the Soaring Wind County was for having such excellent children.

Chu Ting Xuan, the Chief of the Soaring Wind County Chief, was currently sitting beside the spectators' area watching the fierce battle that was taking place in the void above the combat ring. However if one were to take a more detailed look, he would find Chu Ting Xuan's eyes filled with pride.

To have a daughter such as Chu Yu and a son such as Chu Yan, what more could a father want?

In the distinguished guest spectators' area, the deputy Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, Huang Guang Ji asked the black-robed man nearby, "Revered Elder Tian Ling, who do you think will win this battle?"

The black-robed man was none other than the Revered Elder Tian Ling of the Flying Dragon Sect, a Primitive Celestial Alchemist in a Celestial Master's Robe which had a 'kun' word on it.

This Primitive Celestial Alchemist was also the widely mentioned trump card of Nine Specters County, Duan Ling Tian!

"The both of them are neck to neck...It's hard to tell who will have the last laugh now,"

Duan Ling Tian replied Huang Guang Ji in a hoarse voice.

"I think so too." Huang Guang Ji nodded and added, "I feel that it must take one of them being distracted to decide the winner...I don't dare name a winner for now."

"However..."

Duan Ling Tian continued as Huang Guang Ji finished his sentence, "I feel that Chu Yan has a better chance of winning."

"Chu Yan? The son of the Soaring Wind County Chief?"

Huang Guang Ji was surprised by what he had just heard. He then asked, "Why do you say so, Revered Elder Tian Ling? Based on the current situation, it's still hard to tell who has the advantage."

"This is solely based on my personal judgment. The final outcome may not be as I've predicted," Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows under the black robe and calmly said.

Chapter 2688 The Be

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Huang Guang Ji could not hold back his curiosity and ask, "Revered Elder Tian Ling, can you tell me how you made such a judgment?"

Even if hundreds or thousands of people had asked, he would still answer that it was a 50-50 chance of winning between Yang Jin and Chu Yan. It was difficult, almost impossible, for Huang Guang Ji to say for certain who would win. Therefore, he was intrigued by Duan Ling Tian's words

'This primitive Celestial Alchemist, Revered Elder Tian Ling, of the Flying Dragon Sect... I wonder what's his reason for making such a judgment?' A hint of intrigue flashed in Huang Guang Ji's eyes as he thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and took his time to reply. "Chu Yan is more composed compared to Yang Jin... It's likely that Yang Jing will get distracted and make a mistake. Whereas, if Chu Yan makes a mistake, he'll still be able to maintain his composure."

"How did you come to this conclusion?" Huang Guang Ji was burning with curiosity and continued to urge Duan Ling Tian, "Revered Elder Tian Ling, stop keeping me guessing. Tell me what you think."

"That's right, Revered Elder Tian Ling, tell us."

“Revered Elder Tian Ling, I want to know why you think so as well!”

“Revered Elder Tian Ling...”

Those people from the Flying Dragon Sect who came with Huang Ji Guang and Duan Ling Tian were also curious. Naturally, they were unaware that the person before them who was shrouded in black robes was the ace of Nine Specters County whom everyone had been talking about since the commencement of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. They had no idea he was the Golden Celestial who was less than 100 years old but possessed the strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial! They only knew him as Revered Elder Tian Ling from the Flying Dragon Sect who was a primitive Celestial Alchemist with remarkable alchemy skills.

Not only the members from the Flying Dragon Sect were curious, but even those from other sects and clans who overheard the conversation between Duan Ling Tian and Huang Guang Ji were curious as well. They were all waiting for Duan Ling Tian to reveal his thoughts.

All of a sudden, a loud scoff rang in the air. It was from a man with a curly beard who was standing with a group of people standing nearby. He glanced at the people from Flying Dragon Sect coldly and said disdainfully, “Fools! At this moment, even Lord King Qin doesn’t have the confidence to say that Chu Yan has the upper hand. What does a primitive Celestial Alchemist know about such things? I think you should just concentrate on refining medicinal pills and stop acting like a know-it-all!”

“Zhou An, how dare you be rude to Revered Elder Tian Ling... Is the Poison King Sect trying to provoke the Flying Dragon Sect or is this a personal attack on Revered Elder Tian Ling?” Huang Guang Ji asked solemnly. He rose to his feet and glared at Zhou An, clearly furious.

“Zhou An is the Vice Sect Leader of Poison King Sect!” Someone from the Flying Dragon Sect revealed Zhou An’s identity.

Meanwhile, the people from the other sects and clans whispered among themselves when they saw the Flying Dragon Sect and the Poison King Sect seemed to have gotten into a conflict.

“The Poison King Sect and Flying Dragon Sect have been sworn enemies for 100 years now... I can’t believe they’re even acting up during the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties.”

“I didn’t think they would dare to act recklessly in King Qin’s Mansion, especially with King Qin’s presence.”

“Although they’re furious, they still won’t dare to act recklessly. If they create a fuss here, they’ll definitely be punished by King Qin’s Mansion.”

At this moment, the Vice Sect Leader of Poison King Sect, Zhou An, rose to his feet and scoffed before he said arrogantly, “Do you think we’re afraid of the Flying Dragon Sect?” He was clearly not afraid of offending Huang Guang Ji who was also Vice Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect.

Since Zhou An was the highest-ranking person from the Poison King Sect who was present at the scene, when he made his way to Huang Guang Ji, his subordinates followed behind him. It was as though they were going to battle.

“Poison King Sect?” Duan Ling Tian, who was dressed in the Celestial Master’s Robe with the word ‘Kun’ on it, narrowed his eyes. Although he had only become a Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect not long ago, it was not the first time he had heard about the Poison King Sect. He knew they were skilled in poison.

Naturally, most of the poisons from the Poison King Sect were only effective on those weaker than Great Overarching Golden Celestials. Only the Sect Guarding Poison of the Poison King Sect was a threat to Great Overarching Golden Celestials.

About 100 years ago, a fierce battle between the Flying Dragon Sect and Poison King Sect broke out over a Celestial Stone vein. The battle was gory and blood was shed. Eventually, the Great Overarching Golden Celestials from both sects had fallen because of this battle. The battle was only put to an end when King Qin’s Mansion intervened and claimed the Celestial Stone vein. Ever since then, the two sects became enemies. They would never miss a chance to provoke each other, like now.

The tension was palpable in the air at this moment when Duan Ling Tian suddenly said, “You’re the Vice Sect Leader of Poison King Sect? You... Do you dare to make a bet with me?”

“Hm?” Zhou An looked at Duan Ling Tian. He was taken aback by Duan Ling Tian’s request to make a bet. It took him a moment to regain his senses.

“What bet?” Zhou An replied through gritted teeth. His face had flushed with anger.

“Let’s bet if Chu Yan wins the match!” Duan Ling Tian said, “Naturally, I know you feel Chu Yan has a 50% chance to win this match as well. I’ll make the bet worth your while.” He continued before Zhou An could reply, “If Yang Jin wins, I’ll give you 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones. If Chu Yan wins, you’ll only have to give me 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones!” Then, he taunted Zhou An again, “Vice Sect Leader Zhou, do you dare to accept this bet?”

The guests of honor gasped in unison. They were stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s words. They began to whisper among themselves again. Most of them felt the bet was unfair toward Duan Ling Tian.

“Is the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect mad? This bet is clearly unfair!”

“Yang Jin and Chu Yan are equally matched. It’s obvious there’s a 50-50 chance for either of them to win. It might even end in a tie.”

“The Martial Competition of the 16 Counties doesn’t allow a match to end in a tie, right?”

“Well, if I’m not mistaken, if the match still doesn’t have a clear winner after an hour, the master of ceremony would raise the difficulty and increase the pressure of the battle to determine a winner.”

“The fighter will definitely be distracted when fighting under pressure. At that time, their flaws will be revealed. With this, the winner will be determined.”

“100,000 prominent Celestial Stones?” Zhou An had just regained his senses and continued asking, “Are you sure? If Yang Jin wins, you’ll give me 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones?”

“Yes,” Duan Ling Tian replied nonchalantly, “However, if Chu Yan wins, you’ll need to give me 50,000 prominent stones. What do you think? Do you dare to accept the bet?” Duan Ling Tian asked again’.

“Revered Elder Tian Ling...” Huang Guang Ji frowned as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. He asked through Voice Transmission, “A-are you sure?”

“Not entirely...” Duan Ling Tian replied earnestly through Voice Transmission.

Huang Guang Ji’s expression darkened. “Then why would you bet with Zhou An?”

“However, I’m 90% confident that I’m right,” Duan Ling Tian interrupted Huang Guang Ji before Huang Guang Ji could continue speaking.

Huang Guang Ji was rendered speechless for a moment before a sense of delight welled in his heart.

“Is it really possible that the Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect can tell that Chu Yan has the advantage? If not, he wouldn’t make such a bet, right? Moreover, the bet is to his disadvantage.”

“That’s right. He’s betting 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones against 50,000 stones.”

“What’s wrong with him? He might as well give the Celestial Stones to Zhou An!”

“As the saying goes, ‘Even a blind cat has a chance of finding a dead mouse’. What if Chu Yan really wins?”

“Then, what if Yang Jin wins?”

...

The commotion and excitement from the guests had also caught the attention of King Qin and the Third Prince.

The Third Prince said with a grin, “The primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect... He’s quite a character.”

“I wonder why he’s so certain that Chu Yan has the upper hand?” King Qin said as he shook his head.

2689 Not Simple

“In my opinion, the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect is playing tricks just like what Zhou An from the Poison King Sect had said,” said the Third Prince.

“I don’t think so. He seems confident in his words,” said King Qin.

Concealed behind the curtains, King Qin and the Third Prince could hear the ongoing conversation between Zhou An and Duan Ling Tian.

“Alright! I, Zhou An, agree to this bet of yours! However, are you sure you won’t repudiate if you lose?” Zhou An did not seem to believe Duan Ling Tian.

“Don’t worry...It’s only 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones which isn’t a big deal to me. However, since you’ve said so, I’m more worried that you might repudiate,” said Duan Ling Tian doubtfully.

“Bullsh*t! I’m the dignified Deputy Sect Leader of the Poison King Sect. Am I someone who’d go back on his word?!” Zhou An replied in rage.

“Who knows?” Duan Ling Tian continued.

“It seems like you guys don’t trust each other...Let me be your mediator!” said The Third Prince aloud as he stood up from his luxurious seat, made his way out through the curtains, and appeared among the guests of honor.

“Greetings, Third Prince!” the guests of honor greeted him respectfully. The Third Prince was King Qin’s biological brother and one of the mansion’s handful of Peak Great Overarching Golden Celestial powerhouses. His strength came second only to King Qin. Therefore, it was only natural that he became King Qin’s spokesperson. He was even the host of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

“How’s that? If you guys trust me, I’ll be the mediator and safeguard your wagers. When the victor’s decided, I’ll give the wagers to the winner of the bet.” The Third Prince soon arrived among the members of the Flying Dragon Sect and the Poison King Sect.

“Of course, I trust the Third Prince!” Zhou An was nervous when he learned that the bet between him and Duan Ling Tian had caught the Third Prince’s attention. At the same time, he drew out an empty Spatial Ring, placed 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones in it, and handed it over to the Third Prince.

“With the Third Prince as the mediator, I’m not afraid that he’ll repudiate,” said Duan Ling Tian as he drew out a Spatial Ring as well, placed 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones, and handed it over to the Third Prince.

The Third Prince examined both Spatial Rings and nodded. “The amounts are correct. However...” He gazed at Duan Ling Tian and smiled gently. “You’re the Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect, am I right? Can you tell me why are you so optimistic about Chu Yan?”

“I overheard part of your conversation earlier. You mentioned that Chu Yan’s more composed compared to Yang Jin...If one of them gets distracted and reveals his flaws, you’re confident that it’ll be Yang Jin instead of Chu Yan? I wonder why,” the Third Prince continued to ask.

All eyes were on Duan Ling Tian, including Zhou An. However, the rest of the audience beyond the circle of the guests of honor were oblivious to what was going on as they were engrossed in the intense battle between Yang Jin and Chu Yan who had taken the battle to the sky above the arena.

“Actually, it’s just a wild guess.” In reply to the Third Prince’s inquiry, Duan Ling Tian continued to add on, “I feel that Chu Yan managed to stay low in the past instead of displaying his talents and true strength up until now. That’s why he’s the dark horse of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties...It says that Chu Yan’s extremely composed,” Duan Ling Tian blurted his thoughts and judgment.

“It...it makes sense.” The Third Prince was dazed for a moment. He nodded after he regained his senses because he could not refute Duan Ling Tian at all.

From their past experience, indeed, Chu Yan had shown tremendous self-control. However, it was not valid to conclude that Yang Jin was impatient.

“Hahaha...” Zhou An laughed aloud and stopped immediately when he noticed the Third Prince right in front of him. He proceeded to look at Duan Ling Tian scornfully and said, “Although it makes sense, why do you think Yang Jin will be the first to lose his cool? Considering his opponent is on par with him, I’m sure anyone in his shoes will definitely give his all and be extremely cautious!”

Indeed, Duan Ling Tian had a point, but it was insufficient to say that Chu Yan would ultimately defeat Yang Jin! Besides, Yang Jin was not easy to deal with. Even the guests of honor thought so too. They were left in disappointment because they had anticipated compelling reasons from him. Alas, he failed to fulfill their expectations!

“Revered Elder Tian Ling, you’re being impulsive,” said Huang Guang Ji via Voice Transmission.

Although Duan Ling Tian had a point, Huang Guang Ji felt that Chu Yan only had a slightly higher chance of winning against Yang Jin at 60%.

‘Why would the Revered Elder Tian Ling say he’s 90% confident?!’ He could not figure it out.

Duan Ling Tian continued via Voice Transmission, “Deputy Sect Leader Huang, patience...Even if I lose, I’m not using the sect’s prominent Celestial Stones.”

“That’s not what I meant...” Huang Guang Ji forced a smile.

By this moment, the Third Prince had returned back to his luxurious seat behind the curtains. “I thought that the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of Flying Sect Dragon was able to convince me... But, it seems like Chu Yan’s only slightly at advantage, it’s not worth betting 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones on him,” said the disappointed Third Prince shaking his head.

“Not necessarily,” King Qin disapproved.

“Hm? What do you mean, Big Brother?” asked the Third Prince curiously.

“In this match, there’s a 90% chance that Yang Jin will lose!” said King Qin.

“90%? Why would you say so?” the Third Prince continued to ask.

Even after Duan Ling Tian had explained his point, the Third Prince still felt that Chu Yan had only a 60% chance of winning the match. However, now King Qin said that it was 90% instead! If it was true, increasing the bet would be a smart move!

At this moment, Qin Yu, who was indifferent toward the betting and commotion that were happening outside, had become curious as to why his eldest uncle would claim the secret weapon from Fair Mountain County and that there was a 90% chance that Yang Jin would be defeated.

“If the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect didn’t mention how Chu Yan displayed his composure, I thought it’d be a 50-50 chance of winning between Chu Yan and Yang Jin.”

King Qin sighed. "I've observed Yang Jin's every single match...Indeed, he's much more impatient compared to Chu Yan!

"His previous opponents were far weaker than him. That's why it wasn't obvious when he's impatient, hence it didn't cross my mind at all. I reckon the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect sensed it earlier," continued King Qin. His eyes were fixated on the black figure seated among the guests of honor.

"Is that so? I would've determined that Yang Jin's inferior to Chu Yan if I'd sensed it. But how did the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect manage to sense it? Could his cultivation level be higher than mine?" said the Third Prince in disbelief.

"As long as one has a keen eye for detail, even a Yellow Stage Great Overarching Golden Celestial can sense it easily," said King Qin. "This primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect is not as simple as he seems to be!" He finally came to a conclusion.

Soon, an hour had passed. Chu Yan and Yang Jin were still competing and they were still equally matched.

"Fighters, watch out! Behold my attack!" announced the presider of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, much to the audience's thrill.

The moment had come for the victor to finally emerge!

Chapter 2690 Chu Yan Wins!

The presider of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial sent by King Qin's Mansion.

"Fighters, watch out! Behold my attack!" As he finished his sentence, a powerful and imposing pressure surged out from his body and swept down upon Yang Jin and Chu Yan who were in the midst of an intense battle and overwhelmed their bodies. Instantly, they felt under great pressure.

They continued to fight against each other while defending against the pressure brought upon them by the presider's imposing manner. Nevertheless, they were still evenly matched.

"Hmph!" After realizing that they were not greatly affected, the presider snorted. The Celestial Origin Energy in his body surged out and turned into an invisible force. Like a surging river, it followed through the course of his pressuring aura and shrouded Yang Jin and Chu Yan.

All of a sudden, the pressure increased tremendously. At this very moment, all eyes were focused on Yang Jin and Chu Yan.

"Yang Jin!" The Fair Mountain County Governor, Wang Qi Ling, watched in anticipation. He anticipated that Yang Jin would defeat Chu Yan and win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. As long as he won the competition, Fair Mountain County would obtain three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills, from King Qin's Mansion!

With the possession of three Great Overarching Pills, the county could then produce three Great Overarching Golden Celestials!

“Yan’er...” The Soaring Wind County Governor, Chu Ting Xuan, could not contain himself anymore. His gaze was glinting with anticipation and desire for the lad to defeat Yang Jin and win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

He had thought that if the Nine Specters County’s secret weapon, Duan Ling Tian, were to appear after Chu Yan defeated Yang Jin, Chu Yan would still maintain his position in the second rank of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties and obtain two mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills, on behalf of the Soaring Wind County. He had planned to take the pills himself to successfully breakthrough and achieve the Earthly Stage Great Overarching Golden Celestial!

On the other hand, the Fair Mountain County Governor, Wang Qi Ling, was not afraid of Duan Ling Tian. It was not because he felt Yang Jin could beat Duan Ling Tian but because he knew that Duan Ling Tian would not stand a chance to survive if he appeared. Apparently, he had a different plan in mind.

The man in gray robes standing by his side was here for a reason. He was waiting for the hare, Duan Ling Tian, to show itself and make the kill. Therefore, as long as Yang Jin defeated Chu Yan, the winner of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties would definitely belong to him. Fair Mountain County would then receive the generous reward from King Qin’s Mansion: all three Great Overarching Pills!

‘Finally, he’s lost it...’ Seated among the guests of honor, Duan Ling Tian was fully focused on the intense battle between Yang Jin and Chu Yan. However, in a moment of thought, as if he had seen something, he withdrew his gaze and never glanced at them anymore.

Boom!

A loud and deafening noise exploded.

In a flash of light, Yang Jin had blown his cool and revealed his flaws. Chu Yan’s eyes were dead cold and the corner of his mouth curved up slightly as he knew this was the chance he had been waiting for. When Chu Yan raised his palms, a vast amount of energy blasted out and struck Yang Jin directly, sending him flying out of the arena.

“Argh!”

Blood came spurting out of Yang Jin’s mouth, and he had sustained serious internal injuries. Although he survived the attack, his face was as pale as a sheet. His aura that was powerful and prosperous had become feeble. It was impossible for him to continue anymore as that would be asking for an insult!

“Damn it!” As reality dawned on him, it was a bitter pill for him to swallow. His face was sour whilst his eyes revealed hints of refusal to give in. Reluctant as he was, it was clear to him that he had been defeated!

“Do you still want to continue?” asked Chu Yan in high spirits after he had seriously injured Yang Jin with his strike.

“I’ll challenge you once more after I’ve fully recovered...And I’ll never be careless as I was today!” replied Yang Jin while he glanced at him coldly and returned to where the members of Fair Mountain

County were sitting. He went straight to his County Governor, Wang Qi Ling, with his head held down and apologized earnestly, "County Governor, I'm sorry I let you down..."

Wang Qi Ling sighed. "It's alright. Although you didn't win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties, you've fought well and secured at least two Great Overarching Pills for Fair Mountain County. That's just one pill less." Truthfully, deep down inside, he was very displeased with Yang Jin.

"County Governor, isn't it too early to say so? It's uncertain if Duan Ling Tian is going to appear. If he does, Yang Jin will only rank third in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties," said an elder from Fair Mountain County with a reluctant smile.

"Duan Ling Tian may not appear. Even if he does, it may not be his fate to win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties!" sneered Wang Qi Ling. He spoke with confidence as if he was 100% assured that whether Duan Ling Tian appeared or not, it would not affect the outcome of Yang Jin ranking second in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties.

Upon hearing what Wang Qi Ling said, the elders, revered elders, and the young powerhouses of Fair Mountain County glanced at the mysterious person covered in gray robes standing beside him in unison.

"This gray-clad man...Could he be a hitman hired by the County Governor to kill Duan Ling Tian?"

"Quite impossible...The Third Prince is here, and so is King Qin. The man in gray might not have a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian. Even if he does, I'm afraid he won't be able to escape. In fact, we, the Fair Mountain Sect, will definitely be implicated."

"I feel it's impossible too. To say the least, even if this man in gray manages to kill Duan Ling Tian and escape, King Qin's Mansion firmly believes that we intended to sabotage the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. By that time, forget about the reward. It will be graceful of King Qin's Mansion to not punish us instead."

"If he wasn't hired to kill Duan Ling Tian, why is the County Governor so confident to say even if Duan Ling Tian's here, he won't have the fate to win the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties?"

...

The Fair Mountain Sect members were secretly discussing among themselves via Voice Transmission. Still, they were unable to figure out why their county governor was confident that Yang Jin would still rank second even if Duan Ling Tian appeared.

"Chu Yan won?!"

"I didn't expect Chu Yan to win in the end!"

"Soaring Wind County has made it big this time!"

"I saw clearly what happened just now. Yang Jin couldn't hold back, and Chu Yan seized the opportunity to strike him out!"

"Whatever happens, if you lose, you lose! Chu Yan is the ultimate winner!"

“Ultimate winner? Don’t you think it’s too early to say that? After all, the Nine Specters County’s secret weapon, Duan Ling Tian, hasn’t shown up yet.”

“That’s right. If Duan Ling Tian shows up, the ultimate winner of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties will definitely be him...However, if he doesn’t show up, then Chu Yan will be the ultimate winner.”

“It doesn’t matter if Duan Ling Tian shows up or not. Chu Yan has made his mark in this Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties! Moreover, he made his mark by defeating Yang Jin!”

...

The spectator seats surrounding the arena were bustling with noise and excitement. The county governors from other counties had taken the initiative to congratulate the Soaring Wind County Governor, Chu Ting Xuan, for their remarkable win. “County Governor Chu! Congratulations to your son for ranking first in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties!”

“County Governor Chu, before this, we knew that you’ve got a daughter who’s outstanding capabilities. Who would’ve thought that your son would surpass his sister!? We are envious indeed!”

“County Governor Chu, my daughter has reached the age of marriage...Why don’t we arrange for their marriage?”

...

The group of county governors that were flattering the Soaring Wind County Governor Chu certainly made his spirits soar.

Back in the seats for the guests of honor, the noises were short-lived compared to the bustling noises that seemed to be endless out there, and soon, silence set in. This was because someone said, “Since Chu Yan has won, the primitive Celestial Alchemist Revered Elder of the Flying Dragon Sect has won as well, right?”

As the word spread among them, people started to recall a bet between two men earlier with the Third Prince being the mediator and safekeeper of their wagers.

“Deputy Sect Leader of the King Poison Sect, Zhou An has lost!”

“50,000 prominent Celestial Stones...50,000 stones!”

Soon, their attention shifted onto the Deputy Sect Leader of the King Poison Sect, Zhou An. His expression turned gloomy. He could not help but stare fiercely at Duan Ling Tian who was surrounded by the Flying Dragon Sect members congratulating him right now. Duan Ling Tian was now a hero in their eyes.

“Congratulations, Revered Elder Tian Ling!”

“Revered Elder Tian Ling, you’ve won!”

“Revered Elder Tian Ling, you’ve avenged us!”

One by one, the elders, revered elders, and disciples of the Flying Dragon Sect congratulated and celebrated his triumph. Even the Deputy Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, Huang Guang Ji, was smiling brightly. He was filled with pride and satisfaction when he looked at Zhou An again.

“Hmph! That’s just an accidental fortune!”

“That’s right! Does he think he really predicted Chu Yan would win? Ridiculous!”

The Poison King Sect members seemed to have their mouths full of sour grapes and they were green with envy as they watched the Flying Dragon Sect members celebrating their ‘victory’.