

SOVEREIGN 2691

2691 Shameless Zhou An

After Duan Ling Tian received the two Spatial Rings through the air sent out by the Third Prince from behind the curtain, he instantly turned to look at Zhou An, the Vice Sect Leader of Poison King Sect, and said with a smile, "Thanks, Vice Sect Leader Zhou."

Zhou An was so furious that his expression turned unsightly as though he had just eaten a fly. Suddenly, he seemed to have recalled something and abruptly rose to his feet. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked in a low voice, "Do you dare to bet with me again?"

"Again?" Duan Ling Tian was startled. Then, he asked, "What do you want to bet?"

Meanwhile, the people from the VIP seats looked at Zhou An in unison, wondering what Zhou An wanted to bet with the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect.

Behind the curtain, the Third Prince laughed. "It looks like the Vice Sect Leader of the Poison King Sect is unwilling to admit defeat." No one could hear any sound from behind the curtain. The curtain was designed in a way that no noises from inside could be heard whereas the sounds from outside could be heard by the people inside.

"I'm curious what he wants to bet at this moment," Qin Yu said.

A knowing look flashed in King Qin's eyes, and he said, "At this moment, what else can he bet on apart from whether Duan Ling Tian, the ace of Nine Specters County, will show up?" It was as though he could read Zhou An's thoughts.

"Bet on whether Duan Ling Tian will show up?" Qin Yu was startled.

Upon hearing King Qin's words, the Third Prince narrowed his eyes and said with a smile, "If I'm not mistaken, he'll definitely bet that Duan Ling Tian won't show up. After all, it's already the eleventh hour, and yet, Duan Ling Tian's still not here. It's highly likely that he's not going to show up."

"Zhou An is too shameless!" Qin Yu said indignantly. Although he wished Duan Ling Tian would not show up, he still thought Zhou An was shameless. He continued to say, "Even if he wants to make that bet, will the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect agree to it? He'd only agree to that bet if he has lost his mind."

Duan Ling Tian would have been rendered speechless if he were to hear Qin Yu's words. What did Qin Yu mean by saying he must have lost his mind if he agreed to the bet? Was Qin Yu cursing him?

"It's just as you said... Unless the primitive Celestial Alchemist has lost his mind, he definitely won't agree to that bet," the Third Prince said with a chuckle.

Meanwhile, at the VIP seats outside the curtain, Zhou An said, "Let's bet if Duan Ling Tian will show up for the Martial Competition of 16 Counties!"

As soon as Zhou An finished speaking, everyone fell silent.

Many of the VIPs shook their heads. "What kind of bet is this?"

“Exactly! What a meaningless bet. It’s already so late, but Duan Ling Tian still hasn’t shown up. It’s likely that he won’t be showing up.”

“Unless Vice Sect Leader Zhou bets that Duan Ling Tian will show up, is there even anyone who would bet with him?”

“You think he’s going to bet that Duan Ling Tian’s going to show up?” Someone scoffed.

As the VIPs discussed among themselves, they looked at Zhou An curiously as well. They wondered if he was going to bet that Duan Ling Tian would show up at the Martial Competition of 16 Counties? Even the people from the Flying Dragon Sect were looking at Zhou An as well.

Faced with the burning gaze from the crowd, Zhou An did not seem embarrassed. He said, “I’ll bet 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones that Duan Ling Tian, the ace of Nine Specters County, won’t show up.”

Upon hearing Zhou An’s words, everyone felt that he was shameless.

Nevertheless, Zhou An continued to say without an ounce of shame, “Naturally, since the probability of me winning is higher, you’ll only have to pay 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones if you lose.”

Upon hearing this, Huang Guang Ji, the Vice Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect, could not help but say contemptuously, “Shameless! Zhou An, you’re extremely shameless!”

Most people from the Flying Dragon Sect began to chide Zhou An as well. All of them felt he was being shameless as well.

“Shameless! He’s too shameless!”

“Only people from the Poison King Sect would come up with such a bet!”

“It’s likely that Duan Ling Tian won’t show up since it’s so late now. What does it matter if Zhou An pays 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones? Even if he pays 200,000 Celestial Stones, Revered Elder Tian Ling would still lose the 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones since Duan Ling Tian probably isn’t going to show up!”

“Only an idiot would agree to such a bet!”

Even the members of the Poison King Sect felt that their vice sect leader was being shameless as well. However, how could they agree with outsiders and condemn their vice sect leader? Therefore, many of them looked at the people from the Flying Dragon Sect and retorted, twisting facts to suit them.

“What do you mean by shameless? If you daren’t agree to the bet, then, just refuse it. It’s not like we’re holding a knife to your neck and forcing you to agree to the bet!”

“That’s right! Just refuse if you don’t dare!”

“The members of the Flying Dragon Sect are just cowards!”

When the people from the other factions heard the Poison King Sect's members' words, not only did they think Zhou An was shameless, but they thought the entire Poison King Sect was shameless.

"Shameless!"

"This is too shameless!"

Meanwhile, behind the curtain, Qin Yu felt indignant on the Flying Dragon Sect's behalf. "The members of the Poison King Sect are too shameless!"

The Third Prince shook his head and said, "There are many shameless people in the world. In fact, this is nothing. We all know Zhou An's shameless. No one would agree to this bet."

At the same time, the master of ceremony for the Martial Competition of 16 Counties hovered in the air as he looked at the area where the people from Nine Specters County were seated. He looked at Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, and asked categorically, "County Governor Tian, is the participant you selected showing up or not?"

"Sir, I hope that you'll wait a little longer..." Tian Ji Yu said stiffly. Although he was also of the opinion that Duan Ling Tian would not be showing up, he still subconsciously held onto the hope that Duan Ling Tian would show up. For this reason, he tried his best to stall for time, hoping Duan Ling Tian would show up.

As soon as Tian Ji Yu finished speaking, most of the spectators began to discuss among themselves. Most of them did not think Duan Ling Tian would show up.

"Wait? What's the point of waiting?"

Someone scoffed. "Duan Ling Tian's the supposed ace of Nine Specters County. If he was going to show up, he would've been here by now."

"It's just a waste of everyone's time to wait for him. He's definitely not going to show up."

Meanwhile, the master of ceremony frowned slightly when he heard Tian Ji Yu's words. After a moment, he took out a Communication Celestial Talisman and infused his Celestial Origin Energy into it, sending it into the area behind the curtain. He was asking for the opinion of the Third Prince who was in charge of the Martial Competition of 16 Counties.

When the Third Prince received the Communication Celestial Talisman, he looked at King Qin who was next to him and asked, "Big brother, do you think that we should wait?"

"Let's wait for an hour. After all, he's a peerless genius. It's rare for our region to have such a person," King Qin said with a gleam in his eyes.

The Third Prince nodded and sent his reply to the master of ceremony

When the master of ceremony received the Third Prince's reply, he announced, "King Qin has decided to wait for another hour for Duan Ling Tian to show up since he appreciates a peerless genius such as Duan

Ling Tian. If he doesn't show up after an hour, Chu Yan from the Soaring Wind County would be declared the winner of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties!"

Although the crowd felt that it was a waste of time to wait for an hour, none of them dared to object. After all, this was King Qin's wish. To all those under the rule of King Qin's Mansion, King Qin's words were absolute since he stood at the peak.

"Thank you, King Qin." Tian Ji Yu bowed toward the area hidden behind a curtain and thanked King Qin. However, inwardly, he became even more anxious. In fact, he felt somewhat regretful trying to stall for time for Duan Ling Tian. After all, just as the others said, it was highly unlikely that Duan Ling Tian would show up.

"Lord County Governor, is it necessary to wait? Duan Ling Tian is certainly not coming..." Pang Bing, the inner-estate elder, said.

Even the inner-estate, Zheng Qiu, who had been supporting Duan Ling Tian remained silent. After all, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would show up as well. He thought to himself, 'Something must have happened to Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, with his personality, there's no way he wouldn't show up!"

2692 True Self

'It looks like I'll have to reveal myself,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with a sigh. When Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, had tried to secure additional time for him, he had already decided to reveal himself and win first place in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties if Tian Ji Yu was successful in buying him time. If Tian Ji Yu had failed to buy him time, he had decided to repay Tian Ji Yu and Zheng Qiu in the future. After all, he had made a promise to them to win them the three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills. Since Tian Ji Yu managed to buy him time, he felt that it was all fated.

On the other hand, Zhou An was still insisting on betting with the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect. He asked smugly, "So what is it going to be? Do you dare to bet with me?" Since King Qin had agreed to wait an hour for Duan Ling Tian, it made the bet slightly less meaningless.

Huang Guang Ji, the Vice Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, glared at Zhou An. "Shameless!" Then, he turned to Duan Ling Tian and said, "Revered Elder Tian Ling, ignore him. He's just like a barking mad dog! He's just trying to win back his pride and Celestial Stones from losing the earlier bet and came up with this meaningless bet." He looked at Zhou An with a knowing look.

"Huang Guang Ji, it's a bet between me and him. Why are you poking your nose into this matter?" Zhou An said angrily.

"Revered Elder Tian Ling is from our Flying Dragon Sect. It's only natural that I won't let him suffer any losses," Huang Guang Ji said righteously.

Everyone in the VIP seats was certain Duan Ling Tian would not show up. However, at this time, Duan Ling Tian said in a feigned hoarse voice, "Fine, I'll accept your bet. However, we'll have to change the rules since this bet is unfair to me."

Everyone fell silent upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. They were shocked that the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect would agree to Zhou An's bet. They wondered if he had gone

mad. Even the people from the Flying Dragon Sect were looking at him in confusion. They did not understand why their Revered Elder would accept Zhou An's shameless bet.

Zhou An, who initiated the bet, was also bewildered when Duan Ling Tian accepted the bet. To be honest, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would accept the bet. After all, he was sure to win! He looked at Duan Ling Tian with a burning gaze and asked, "Are you sure? Are you really sure you want to agree to this bet? As I said earlier, you can only bet on Duan Ling Tian showing up if you decide to accept the bet." After all, he was worried Duan Ling Tian would also bet that Duan Ling Tian would be a no-show.

Duan Ling Tian scoffed contemptuously before he said, "Do you think everyone is as shameless as you are?"

Zhou An was not angered by Duan Ling Tian's words. After all, he could already see the 50,00 prominent Celestial Stones that Duan Ling Tian would soon have to pay him. He said, "You said something about changing the rules since the bet is unfair to you. Anyway, since you bet Duan Ling Tian will show up, I'll make it fair and increase my stakes to 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones. Is that enough?"

Duan Ling Tian chuckled when he heard Zhou An's proposal. Then, he said with a sneer, "Vice Sect Leader Zhou, you have just given me 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones. Not to mention 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones, I'm afraid you don't even have 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones..." The Poison King Sect possessed more wealth than any county under the King Qin's Mansion. However, it was unlikely that a vice sect leader would have more than 100,000 prominent Celestial Stones. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian was certain Zhou An did not have 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones. He said derisively, "If Vice Sect Leader Zhou wishes to bet with an empty shell, I'm sorry, but I won't agree to your bet!"

Zhou An's face flushed red. After all, Duan Ling Tian had revealed his intention. Indeed, he did not have 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones, but he did not think it mattered since he was certain Duan Ling Tian would not show up. Eventually, he calmed down and said, "Yes, I don't have 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones. However, there's no need for you to worry since our Poison King Sect has it!"

"Are you qualified to make such a decision for the Poison King Sect?" Duan Ling Tian sneered.

"What a joke! I'm the vice sect leader of the sect. Moreover, I'm the biological younger brother of the Sect Leader of Poison King Sect. Do you still think I'm not qualified to make this decision?" Zhou An replied in a low voice.

"It looks like I have underestimated you," Duan Ling Tian said flippantly.

"Stop wasting time! Accept or refuse the bet now. If you refuse, then, just admit you're a coward!" Zhou An said coldly.

Duan Ling Tian stared at Zhou An meaningfully and said indifferently, "I will certainly accept the bet. However, don't you think you're still taking advantage of me by betting only 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones? Why don't we do it like this? I'll bet 200,000 prominent Celestial Stones that Duan Ling Tian will show up, and you raise your stakes?"

“Tell me then how many prominent Celestial Stones should I bet?” Zhou An asked. He had no qualms with agreeing to Duan Ling Tian’s change of rules. After all, he was certain Duan Ling Tian would not show up. If Duan Ling Tian were to show up, he would have been here by now.

“500,000 prominent Celestial Stones,” Duan Ling Tian said lightly.

“Okay! I’ll bet 500,000 Prominent Celestial Stones!” Zhou An said, confident he would win. Alas, he was unaware that the man hidden in the black robes were laying a trap for him, step by step.

Duan Ling Tian added, “I have another condition.”

Zhou An frowned and said rather impatiently, “What’s it?”

“You’ll have to invite the Third Prince or King Qin to be the witness to our bet. Otherwise, with your shamelessness, I wouldn’t put it past you to go back on your words!” Duan Ling Tian said.

“You!” Zhou An was furious that Duan Ling Tian called him shameless and that he would go back on his words.

At this moment, the Third Prince emerged from behind the curtain and looked at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully before he said, “I’ll be the witness for your bet.” He could not understand why the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect would agree to Zhou An’s shameless bet. Could he not see that Zhou An was sure to win? Nevertheless, his interest had been piqued, and he wanted to see the primitive Celestial Alchemist’s reaction after he had lost.

“Your Grace, the Third Prince, thank you,” Duan Ling Tian said. Then, he handed the Spatial Ring containing 200,000 Prominent Celestial Stones to the Third Prince.

“Yes, the total amount is correct.” The Third Prince confirmed. Then, he looked at Zhou An and said indifferently, “If you lose, King Qin’s Mansion will take the 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones from the Poison King Sect to hand it over to Revered Elder Ling Tian from the Flying Dragon Sect.”

Zhou An replied flippantly, clearly unconcerned, “If I lose, our Poison King Sect will send 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones to King Qin’s Mansion immediately after I return.” It did not even occur to him that he would lose.

“That’s good.” The Third Prince nodded. He was not worried the Poison King Sect would break the promise.

At this moment, almost everyone in the VIP seats looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a fool.

However, at the same time, Duan Ling Tian took off his black robes that hid his face and revealed his handsome smiling face. He had revealed his true identity. He smiled at Zhou An, and his voice was no longer hoarse as he said to Zhou An, “Thank you for your 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones.”

“Hmm?” The people in the VIP seats were shocked. They had thought the primitive Celestial Alchemist was an old man based on his hoarse voice. They did not expect him to fake his voice. Who would have thought a handsome and tall young man was hidden under the black robe?

Chapter 2693 Identity Exposed

“This is how Revered Elder Tian Ling looks like?” “I’ve always assumed he’s an old man based on his voice. I didn’t expect him to be so young!”

“Not even in my wildest dreams would I have imagined this.”

The people of the Flying Dragon Sect, including Vice Sect Leader Huang Guang Ji, were shocked. This was their first time seeing their Revered Elder Tian Ling’s true appearance.

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian stomped on the ground loudly and launched himself into the air, causing the ground to crack. He made his way to the master of ceremony of the Martial Competition of 16 Counties in just an instant. Then, he said calmly as he hovered above the arena, “I’m Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County!” He looked at Chu Yan, the selected participant from the Soaring Wind County.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian introduced himself, the audience was shocked. Some were so surprised that they rose from their seats abruptly while some gasped loudly, filled with incredulity.

Duan Ling Tian had kept the Yin Celestial Master’s Robe when he had revealed himself, hence, he was once again dressed in his purple-robos.

Apart from the people in the VIP seats who were still in a daze by this turn of events, the spectators in the common seats were busy discussing among themselves. Some of them turned to look at Tian Ji Yu, but most people’s eyes were fixed on Duan Ling Tian as though they were afraid he would disappear. In fact, even before he arrived, he was already the focus of everyone’s attention. After all, many people had been saying that Duan Ling Tian was sure to win first place. Chu Yan would not stand a chance if Duan Ling Tian came. Now that Duan Ling Tian had shown up, how could he not be the center of attention?

“Duan Ling Tian came?”

“H-he’s Duan Ling Tian?”

“I thought the Martial Competition of 16 Counties would end after Chu Yan defeated Yang Jin. Not only did I not expect the County Governor of Nine Specters County to be able to buy time for Duan Ling Tian, but even more so, I didn’t expect Duan Ling Tian to show up!”

“Well, it seems like the County Governor of Nine Specters County knew beforehand that Duan Ling Tian would definitely show up, that’s why he stalled for time earlier.”

“Yes, looks like it to me as well.”

“So he’s Duan Ling Tian who became famous in the entire region governed by King Qin’s Mansion a few months ago? And he’s as strong as a Great Overarching Golden Celestial although he’s less than 100 years old?”

“In all the areas under King Qin’s Mansion, I don’t think we’ve ever had such a genius, right?”

“About a year ago, he was already stronger than inner-estate elder Pang Bing of Nine Specters County. Pang Bing was the strongest below Great Overarching Golden Celestials. Pang Bing must have felt embarrassed for a junior to surpass him. Now that a year has passed, Duan Ling Tian should be even stronger, right?”

“Who knows if he has already become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial?”

“A Great Overarching Golden Celestial who’s not even 100 years old... I think such a person is rare even in those high-rank Celestial Kingdom, let alone our mediocre Celestial Kingdom, the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom.”

Meanwhile, from behind the curtain, Qin Yu stood up abruptly from his luxurious chair as he exclaimed, “Duan Ling Tian?” He was delighted to see Duan Ling Tian safe and sound, but he could not help but worry about the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Sect now that Duan Ling Tian was here. According to his uncle, the powerhouse was a Celestial Duke, who was much stronger than an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. If the Celestial Duke unleashed all her strength, she would be capable of destroying King Qin’s Mansion. He thought to himself, ‘Duan Ling Tian, why did you suddenly show up at this moment? You should’ve told me about your plans!’ He felt a hint of bitterness and helplessness at this moment. He did not try to speak to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission because he knew it was too late to do so. If Duan Ling Tian was the target of that Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, even if he warned Duan Ling Tian now, it would still be useless. On the other hand, if Duan Ling Tian was not the Celestial Duke’s target, he would only be distracting Duan Ling Tian while he fought with Chu Yan.

Qin Yu prayed fervently inwardly, ‘I really hope Duan Ling Tian isn’t the target of the Celestial Duke of Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect...’ He sighed. ‘I really didn’t expect Duan Ling Tian to be sitting so close to me in the VIP seats. Why didn’t he tell me through Voice Transmission that he’s here? If he had done so, I could’ve told him about the Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and asked if they have enmity between them.’ He did notice the noise outside at the VIP seats, and many people blocked his view when Duan Ling Tian first revealed himself. Therefore, he was a step too late to react. When he regained his senses, Duan Ling Tian had revealed his identity to everyone present on the scene.

King Qin, who was sitting next to Qin Yu, looked at Duan Ling Tian as he asked, “Yu’er, so this is Duan Ling Tian?”

“Yes. I didn’t know he came, let alone that he was the primitive Celestial Alchemist from the Flying Dragon Sect.” Qin Yu smiled bitterly.

“He’s good at hiding himself,” King Qin said. At the same time, he wondered why Duan Ling Tian only showed himself now. After all, if he did not agree to Tian Ji Yu’s request to wait for a while more, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties would have ended earlier. It would have been meaningless if Duan Ling Tian had appeared after the competition ended. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian did not just show up now, he had been here all along, hiding among the people in the VIP seats. He thought to himself, ‘This is King Qin’s Mansion. It’s reasonable that he doesn’t have to worry about the others from the 15 counties harming him here. However, why did he only show up at the eleventh hour? Is it possible that

he's also aware that he's the target of the Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect? That still doesn't make sense. If he knows he's a target, why would he show himself now? Even if we can't tell if the powerhouse has left, there's no need for him to take such a risk, right?' The more he thought about it, the more confused he was. Then, he looked at the people from Fair Mountain County before his eyes eventually landed on a grey-robed figure next to Wang Qi Ling. The grey-robed person was a core elder and a Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

"Senior, Duan Ling Tian has shown up. Why aren't you attacking him yet?" Wang Qi Ling asked anxiously. After all, it seemed like the person next to him had no intention of attacking Duan Ling Tian. If the powerhouse only killed Duan Ling Tian after Duan Ling Tian had defeated Chu Yan, it meant Fair Mountain County would only receive one mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill, since Yang Jin would be demoted to the third place. He had expected the powerhouse next to him would kill Duan Ling Tian as soon as Duan Ling Tian appeared. Who knew that was not the case?

The grey-robed figure rebuked Wang Qi Ling coldly, "It is not up to you to tell me what to do!"

Wang Qi Ling was so terrified that his face turned pale. He quickly lowered his head and fearfully apologized, "Senior, I apologize. I was just too anxious..."

Although Wang Qi Ling did not know the real identity of the old lady, he noticed that even King Qin had to compromise during the confrontation between King Qin and the old lady earlier! At that time, King Qin had demanded him to say that the old lady was deaf so King Qin would not be embarrassed. How could the old lady be an ordinary person if even King Qin had to give in to her? Even King Qin did not dare offend her, how could someone like him dare to provoke that old lady? If the old lady killed him, he would just die in vain. He was certain King Qin would not avenge him. For this reason, when he heard the displeasure in her words earlier, he was frightened out of his wits.

Meanwhile, the old lady's eyes flashed coldly as she studied Duan Ling Tian intently. 'So this is Duan Ling Tian? He's the one who took away Miss Bing'er's virginity?'

Chapter 2694 Various Parties' Reactions

Although Duan Ling Tian had shown up, the old lady was not in a hurry to take action. Since he had already appeared, she knew he would not be able to escape from her. He would die sooner or later anyway. On the other hand, Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain County, was very anxious. Naturally, he no longer dared to urge the old lady. All he could do was stew in his own anxiety.

"Duan Ling Tian actually came?" The elders and Revered Elders from the Fair Mountain County smiled bitterly. "We thought Yang Jin would win second place in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, and we'll get two Great Overarching Pills. However, that doesn't seem possible now."

"Since Duan Ling Tian has appeared, Yang Jin can only win third place in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties."

"This means instead of getting two Great Overarching Pills, we'll only get one. This Duan Ling Tian really showed up at a bad time!"

The elders and Revered Elders of Fair Mountain County felt helpless. They knew there was nothing they could do.

“Why did Duan Ling Tian choose this time to appear?” Yang Jin said through gritted teeth as he sat at the side. He had slightly recovered from his earlier battle. Although it was his first time meeting Duan Ling Tian, his eyes were brimming with hostility as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was to be expected. After all, with Duan Ling Tian’s sudden appearance, he would be demoted to third place in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. Not only would Fair Mountain County receive one less pill from King Qin’s Mansion, but even his reward would be lessened as well. How could he not feel displeased?

The situation among the people from Soaring Wind County was about the same as Fair Mountain County. When the few elders and Revered Elder who came together with their County Governor, Chu Ting Xuan, saw the appearance of Duan Ling Tian, they could not help but sigh. “It seems like instead of three Great Overarching Pills, we’ll only get two since Duan Ling Tian has come.”

“Perhaps this is fate.” Chu Ting Xuan shook his head. “It’s not bad to have two Great Overarching Pills. We should be grateful.”

Chu Yu who was standing next to Chu Ting Xuan was dressed valiantly. She looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of admiration in her eyes. ‘So he’s Duan Ling Tian?’ Although she had an easy-going manner and acted like a boy most of the time, she was still a girl after all. In the past, the only person she admired was her brother, Chu Yan. She felt she only deserved someone stronger or as strong as her brother. When she heard about Duan Ling Tian’s feats in Nine Specters County, she finally realized there was someone who was stronger than her brother.

Although Yang Jin from Fair Mountain County was quite strong, he was about 20 years older than her brother. However, his innate talent was much lower than her brother so she was not interested in Yang Jin at all. On the other hand, although Duan Ling Tian was about the same age as Yang Jin, his innate talent was much better than her brother. Therefore, even before she had met Duan Ling Tian, she already had a crush on him.

This might sound ridiculous, but it was a fact. A woman like her who had been strong since she was a child had never developed any feelings for any man. In fact, she had thought she would end up alone all her life since she had not met any man whom she had special feelings for. However, when she learned about the existence of such a brilliant man in Nine Specters County, her heart had moved. Naturally, since she had never seen him before, regardless of his prowess, she knew there was a chance she might not be attracted to his appearance or personality. This was something similar to online dating in Duan Ling Tian’s past life. Two people could get along well chatting online, but when they finally met, they might not get along at all.

Nevertheless, when Chu Yu saw Duan Ling Tian, his handsome appearance and extraordinary bearing attracted her even more. Her heart was thumping so fast that it felt as though it was going to jump out of his chest.

‘I, Chu Yu, will only marry him!’ Chu Yu swore inwardly as she looked at Duan Ling Tian. Before she met him, she had had a crush on him. However, now, after seeing him, she had thoroughly fallen in love with him. Sometimes, emotions worked in mysterious ways indeed.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was unaware that he had unintentionally captured the heart of a beautiful maiden who happened to be Chu Yan's younger sister. If he knew about it, he would definitely be rendered speechless and feel helpless. After all, he already had two wives and a partner. Now, he even had Murong Bing whom he had sex with and was adamant about taking responsibility for. This had already caused him a headache. How could he have thoughts to mess with another woman?

"Damn it! Why did he come?" Whether it was the County Governor of the Overarching Floating County or Xing Dong, its selected participant, both their expressions had darkened. If Duan Ling Tian did not show up, Xing Dong would still be in the tenth place. However, with Duan Ling Tian's arrival, Xing Dong would be kicked out of the top ten. With that, the Overarching Floating County and Xing Dong would not receive any reward from the King Qin's Mansion at all. Most importantly, they would have to pay a fine to King Qin's Mansion.

Unlike the tense atmosphere that loomed over the people from Fair Mountain County, Soaring Wind County, and Overarching Floating County, the originally tense atmosphere that loomed over the Nine Specters County had vanished and was replaced with joy.

Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, laughed heartily without caring about his image. His teeth were all exposed as he laughed loudly. "Duan Ling Tian has finally arrived!"

"I knew he's not someone who would go back on his words," Zheng Qiu, the inner-estate elder, said. He was delighted as well.

Pang Bing scoffed and only said coldly, "Well, at least he has a conscience."

Needless to say, the others from the Nine Specters County were extremely happy as well.

Meanwhile, at the VIP seats, everyone was discussing among themselves as they looked at Zhou An as though he was an idiot. It was clear to them that Duan Ling Tian had been laying traps step by step for Zhou An to fall into.

"No wonder he agreed to the unfair bet with Zhou An. As it turns out, the primitive Celestial Alchemist is Duan Ling Tian himself!"

"Who knew Revered Elder Tian Ling from the Flying Dragon Sect is Duan Ling Tian, the selected participant of Nine Specters County. This time, Vice Sect Leader Zhou An is going to suffer a huge loss!"

"That's 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones we're talking about. I was so sure he would win. It seems like he went out for wool but came home shorn!"

"500,000 prominent Celestial Stone isn't little. Even if the Poison King Sect has the Celestial Stones, I'm afraid it'll seriously affect the sect."

"This time, the Poison King Sect has truly suffered a great loss!"

At this moment, Huang Guang Ji, the Vice Sect Leader of Flying Dragon Sect, laughed loudly as he looked at Zhou An. "Zhou An, you lost 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones. Have you thought about how you are going to talk to your sect leader about this?"

The people from the Flying Dragon Sect looked at Zhou An with ridicule. They seemed to have forgotten they had doubted Duan Ling Tian's sanity as well when he had first agreed to the bet.

"Earlier, Zhou An looked at Revered Elder Tian Ling as though he was an idiot. However, the real idiot is Zhou An!"

"He thought he'd definitely win. Who could've guessed that Revered Elder Tian Ling is actually Duan Ling Tian? Duan Ling Tian sure plays the role of a swindler well."

"Zhou An probably feels worse than if he had eaten a fly."

"Of course! He has lost 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones after all!"

Meanwhile, the others from the VIP seats looked at Zhou An sympathetically. As for the people from the Poison King Sect, they only looked at their vice sect leader quietly. If he were not their vice sect leader, they would have cursed at him.

Meanwhile, Zhou An's expression was extremely unsightly. He recalled when the primitive Celestial Alchemist accepted his bet, he could see the Celestial Stones he had lost during the first bet coming back to him. Who knew the primitive Celestial Alchemist was Duan Ling Tian? When he regained his senses and saw the pitying gazes from the crowd, he flew into a rage out of humiliation. He seemed insane as he shouted, "No! This bet is nulled! It can't be counted. After all, he's Duan Ling Tian! He's cheating! He's cheating!"

It was 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones after all. If the Poison King Sect were to lose 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones because of him, even if he was the sect leader's younger brother, he would still be severely punished even if they would not kill him. Those elders, Revered Elders, and two Supreme Elders who were as strong as his brother would definitely not let him go so easily!

The Third Prince who had yet to return to behind the curtain scoffed.

Upon hearing this, Zhou An was so frightened he almost fainted.

Chapter 2695 A Duel with Chu Yan

"Third Prince." Zhou An, who had regained his senses, looked as pale as a sheet of paper. He looked at the Third Prince of King Qin's Mansion, and said fearfully, "Your Grace, the Third Prince, I know you're the witness between our bet, but I didn't know he's Duan Ling Tian from the Nine Specters County. If I knew he's Duan Ling Tian, I wouldn't have proposed that bet even if the bet is only 5,000 prominent Celestial Stones. This bet isn't fair at all!" He became more riled up as he spoke. He knew the only person who could make the bet void was the Third Prince. He could go back on his words if it was just Duan Ling Tian alone, and he did not request for the Third Prince to bear witness to their bet.

Before the Third Prince could reply, Huang Guang Ji could not hold back and exclaimed, "This is ridiculous!" He scoffed before he said, "Zhou An, don't you feel embarrassed for saying such words? Don't forget you're the one who initiated this bet. You felt delighted when he agreed to your bet, didn't you? You thought you'd be able to regain your 50,000 prominent Celestial Stones and some more. Why didn't you think the bet was unfair at that time? Now that you learned he's Duan Ling Tian and you'd lost the bet, you're saying the bet is unfair?" A mocking smile could be seen on his face as he spoke.

Then, he turned to the people in the VIP seats and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask for your opinion if this bet is unfair? Do you think this bet should be voided?"

Huang Guang Ji did not know why the genius, Duan Ling Tian, from Nine Specters County would join their Flying Dragon Sect as a primitive Celestial Alchemist and became a Revered Elder. However, since Duan Ling Tian had joined their sect, he had never done anything harmful to their sect. Instead, he had even refined a batch of extremely high-quality pills for their sect. For this reason, he wholeheartedly supported Duan Ling Tian.

The people from the other forces in the VIP seats had no enmity nor a good relationship with the Flying Dragon Sect or the Poison King Sect. Their words were spoken from a neutral point of view. All of them unanimously felt that Zhou An was shameless and the bet should not be voided.

"I have seen shameless people before but I haven't seen someone as shameless as Vice Sect Leader Zhou of Poison King Sect!"

"Exactly! How shameless. He's the one who proposed the bet. Now that he has lost, he wants to go back on his words. How preposterous!"

"I really don't know why the Poison King Sect would have such a person. Moreover, he's a vice sect leader. Didn't he say his brother is the sect leader? So did he become the vice sect leader by relying on his brother?"

"The Poison King Sect is really getting worse. It seems like anyone can be a vice sect leader. What a disgrace to the sect!"

The Third Prince looked at Zhou An and asked indifferently, "So, do you still think the bet can be voided?"

Thud!

As soon as the Third Prince finished speaking, Zhou An whose face turned even paler trembled and fell to the ground. He was so frightened that his legs had lost all strength to stand. '500,000 prominent Celestial Stones! 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones!' When the Third Prince expressed his stance, he knew clearly that the Poison King Sect would have to pay the 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones no matter what. Otherwise, they would risk offending the Third Prince and even King Qin's Mansion. Although the Poison King Mansion was relatively strong, it was not worth mentioning compared to King Qin's Mansion. Not to mention King Qin himself, even the Third Prince alone was enough to destroy the Poison King Sect!

The Third Prince said threateningly, "If the 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones aren't delivered here in a month, I'll personally lead a group to take it from your Poison King Sect! At that time, the matter wouldn't just be settled by 500,000 prominent Celestial Stones." As soon as he finished speaking, he entered the hidden area behind the curtains.

After the Third Prince left, Zhou An rose to his feet as he shuddered. He barked to his subordinates, "Let's leave!" He no longer wanted to stay and watch the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. It was

not because he could already guess the outcome of the competition, but it was more important for him to speak to his elder brother about what had happened.

Seeing the people from the Poison King Sect leaving in a hurry, the people from Fly Dragon Sect felt smug and satisfied.

“I’ll definitely tell all the junior sisters and brothers about this when I return to the sect. They’ll certainly feel happy! After all, how often can we make the Poison King Sect turn tail and flee.” A disciple of the Flying Dragon Sect smiled proudly.

“Well, it’s all thanks to Revered Elder Tian Ling. Without him, we wouldn’t have this satisfaction.”

“But I really didn’t expect Revered Elder Tian Ling is Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County who recently became famous. He’s not even 100 years old but he’s already as strong as a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. Moreover, he’s also an excellent primitive Celestial Alchemist. He’s truly a peerless genius!”

“If you didn’t mention it, I would’ve forgotten Duan Ling Tian is also a primitive Celestial Alchemist. Not only is he strong, but he’s also a Celestial Alchemist who’s less than 100 years old. He’s a truly peerless genius among all geniuses!”

When the group of Flying Dragon Sect’s disciples looked at Duan Ling Tian who was standing above the arena, their eyes shone with admiration.

...

Above the arena.

After keeping quiet, Chu Yan broke the silence first. He said in a low voice, “Duan Ling Tian, I heard you’re much stronger than me, but I still want to fight you. If you defeat me, then, you’ll win first. I hope your reputation isn’t unearned!” Battle intent shone in his eyes when he spoke. The Celestial Origin Energy that had been brewing underneath his skin surged out immediately, forming a circle of air currents around his body.

“Please attack,” Duan Ling Tian said indifferently. Although he asked Chu Yan to attack him, there were no signs of him mobilizing his Celestial Origin Energy at all. It was as though he was not bothered by Chu Yan’s attack at all.

Upon seeing this, Chu Yan felt greatly humiliated. Flames of fury rose in his heart as he lunged toward Duan Ling Tian like a lightning bolt. He took out his Celestial Weapon and cast all his Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities without any restraint. However, he was not foolish. Although reputation could be faked, seeing how flippant Duan Ling Tian when faced with his attack, he knew Duan Ling Tian was probably as strong as a Great Overarching Golden Celestial as rumored. For this reason, he did not hold back at all when he attacked Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, who knew if he would even have a chance to use his techniques later?

Boom!

Chu Yan who lunged at Duan Ling Tian with all his might was like a furious beast. The void shook in his wake, accompanied by a thunderous sound.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

When Chu Yan appeared before Duan Ling Tian, his mighty attack that was as vast as the sea and as loud as thunder crashed down. Just as his attack was about to land on Duan Ling Tian, he discovered Duan Ling Tian still did not show any signs of retaliation or defending himself. Duan Ling Tian, with no hints of Celestial Origin Energy at all, stood motionlessly in the air. Upon seeing this, he felt humiliated again, "Since you're seeking death, don't blame me for this!"

In just an instant, Chu Yan's bulged as if he had transformed into an angry vajra. His attack turned even more explosive, and thunderclouds that seemed to be striking down with tens of thousands of lightning bolts appeared.

"What's Duan Ling Tian doing? Does he not plan to do anything at all?"

"Although it's Chu Yan's first attack, based on his battle with Yang Jin earlier, it's obvious he's unleashing all his strength now! It seems like Duan Ling Tian is a bit reckless, right?"

"If I'm not mistaken even a common Violet Sun Golden Celestial might not dare to underestimate Chu Yan's ultimate attack, right?"

The spectators watched rapturously at the thunderclouds that loomed over Duan Ling Tian.

2696 Duan Ling Tian Attacks

The thunderclouds that loomed over Duan Ling Tian suddenly parted.

Boom!

A loud noise rang in the air. A force that seemed capable of shaking heaven and earth swept out.

Whoosh!

In the next moment, a crisp and clear sound of sword cries rang in everyone's ears. A dazzling bright light dispersed the thunderclouds. It seemed like the bright light was formed by countless sword rays. A figure could be seen in the midst of the light, as though being protected by the light of sword rays.

"Not bad... It's a pity that it's useless against me." Duan Ling Tian stood in the midst of the sword rays, completely unharmed. Even his purple robes were intact.

Chu Yan had unleashed all his strength, and yet, he did not even manage to harm a single hair on Duan Ling Tian's head. He paled immediately. When he looked at Duan Ling Tian again, an expression of fear appeared on his face. It was as though he had seen a ghost. 'H-how is this possible?! Even peak Golden Celestials wouldn't have been able to easily deflect my attack! D-don't tell me he has a breakthrough and has become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial?!' He felt himself shudder as these thoughts appeared in his mind.

'Remarkable!' Chu Yu exclaimed in her heart. She was Chu Yan's biological sister. The look on each and every member of the Soaring Wind County was grim, but she was the only one who seemed impressed

with Duan Ling Tian's strength. She was staring intently at him, her eyes as bright as stars in the night sky. 'It's impossible for someone below Great Overarching Golden Celestials to deflect brother's attacks so easily... It seems like he has successfully become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial!'

'H-his strength has improved again!' Pang Bing, an inner-estate elder in Nine Specters County, thought to himself when he saw Duan Ling Tian standing there shrouded by sword rays like a god of sword. He was genuinely shocked.

'Duan Ling Tian has become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial?' Another inner-estate elder, Zheng Qiu, was all smiles. He was sincerely happy for Duan Ling Tian's achievement.

Tian Ji Yu was delighted and laughed openly. He was similarly shocked by Duan Ling Tian's remarkably fast improvement. In just less than a year, Duan Ling Tian had improved tremendously. "Extraordinary!" Naturally, he was also happy because Duan Ling Tian winning the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties meant that the Nine Specters County would be rewarded with three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills from King Qin's Mansion. It did not matter to him how strong Duan Ling Tian was. After all, with Duan Ling Tian's innate talent, even King Qin's Mansion would be just like a small pond to Duan Ling Tian in the future, let alone the Nine Specters County. He knew from today onward, Duan Ling Tian would be able to use King Qin's Mansion as a stepping stone to enter the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom and go to better places!

'A Great Overarching Golden Celestial who's not even 100 years old... It seemed like there was only one person like that in the history of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. It was hundreds of thousands of years ago, I think? Eventually that genius had left the kingdom and joined a formidable sect that was much more powerful than a high-rank Celestial Kingdom,' Tian Ji Yu thought to himself.

"How powerful!"

"Duan Ling Tian is remarkable... Seems like he had a breakthrough in his cultivation base and has become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, right? The Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties is just a walk in a park to him!"

"You're right... Moreover, he still fulfills the requirement to participate in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties."

"Unbelievable! I can't believe such a monster would appear in King Qin's Mansion."

"It's the first time that such a monster appears in King Qin's Mansion... Even in the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom, there was only one that appeared hundreds of thousands of years ago."

Similar remarks could be heard among the spectators.

Meanwhile, the Third Prince said with a sigh, "Duan Ling Tian, indeed, already has strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial indeed."

"Indeed." King Qin nodded in agreement.

'Great Overarching Golden Celestial?' Qin Yu remained silent. A year ago, Duan Ling Tian had already possessed the strength to kill a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. He had personally witnessed Duan

Ling Tian capture the Nine Specters County's strongest Revered Elder, Zhou Tong, a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. He even delivered Zhou Tong to the Blood Specter City's City Governor to be killed. 'If I'm not mistaken, at that time, when his sword rays weren't seven colors, he still couldn't defeat Zhou Tong. Only when his sword rays emitted seven colors was he able to completely subdued Zhou Tong!' Naturally, he was unaware that Duan Ling Tian possessed a Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. He only knew Duan Ling Tian was capable of transforming his sword rays into the Seven-Colored Sword Rays that increased his strength tremendously. However, Duan Ling Tian did not use that technique today. He continued musing inwardly, 'He didn't even use the Seven-Colored Sword Rays today, and yet, his strength is comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial... He's definitely even more powerful if he uses that technique!' He inhaled sharply when he thought of this.

A year ago, Duan Ling Tian would not have strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial without the Seven-Colored Sword Rays. Currently, even without using that method, his strength was almost equal to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

'In only a year, Duan Ling Tian made such a tremendous progress,' Qin Yu thought to himself.

...

Hovering above the arena, Duan Ling Tian became the center of attention again. He was shrouded by hundreds of thousands of sword rays. The sword rays seemed to make the air around him ripple. He, who had remained silent from the beginning, finally calmly said, "Now it's my turn to attack!" His tone was apathetic, but it was loud for everyone present on the scene to hear.

Everyone was stunned.

"Duan Ling Tian... is going to attack?!"

The spectators' eyes were brimming with enthusiasm. They could tell Duan Ling Tian's strength was comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial when he easily deflected Chu Yan's attack. Moreover, it was likely that he had become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. They had yet to witness his attack so they were, naturally, excited to see him attack. None of them dared to move their eyes away from him as though they were afraid they would miss even the smallest details.

"I..." Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Chu Yan was stunned. He had wanted to surrender. He was well aware that Duan Ling Tian's strength was far superior to his. He would only be asking for trouble if he allowed Duan Ling Tian to attack. Just as he was about to speak up to surrender, the imposing energy from Duan Ling Tian seemed to cause a disruption in his blood flow, causing him to be unable to speak.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian had raised his hands, and a sword battle Formation appeared. The light from the Formation grew brighter and brighter with each passing minute.

Boom!

Then, the sword battle formation transformed into a gargantuan sword that was 100-meter long. It seemed to appear out of thin air and was about to land on Chu Yan. Duan Ling Tian had only dropped

the gigantic sword on Chu Yan, he did not intend to kill Chu Yan so he did not use his blade. After all, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties prohibited killing. Even if it were allowed, he still would not kill Chu Yan. After all, they had no enmity between them. Moreover, although Chu Yan did not hold back when he attacked earlier, there was no killing intent in his attack.

Boom!

The earth-shattering explosions continued to ring in the air. When the gargantuan sword fell, it split the currents in the air just like how Moses had parted the Red Sea.

The gargantuan sword was surrounded by a thick and dense sword energy that seemed to be able to cut anything it came in contact with. Moreover, for its size, it was extremely fast as well. It was so fast that Chu Yan could not avoid it at all.

Chu Yan tried everything in his arsenal to avoid the gargantuan sword from hitting him but to no avail. Alas, he was sent flying out of the arena. He flew back a few feet before he retched and spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Th-thank you for showing mercy!” Chu Yan could barely steady himself, and his face was extremely pale. It was almost similar to his battle with Yang Jin earlier. The difference was he was now in Yang Jin’s position and in a sorry state.

Chapter 2697 The Old Lady Appears

When Chu Yan was sent flying by the sword energy, Duan Ling Tian quickly withheld his strength. If he did not do so, one strike would be more than enough to kill Chu Yan.

“My pleasure.” Duan Ling Tian nodded to Chu Yan.

Chu Yu left her seat and rushed to her brother’s side. She asked, “Big brother, are you all right?”

“I’m fine.” Chu Yan shook his head. A hint of disappointment for losing could be seen in his eyes along with a hint of doting for his beloved sister.

In fact, before Chu Yu approached Chu Yan, she had already sent him a Voice Transmission, asking him to introduce her to Duan Ling Tian. As for her brother’s injuries, she did not seem very concerned about them. He realized that after a woman had come of age, they could not be kept from marriage. He did not take offense, after all, he really loved his sister. Moreover, he admired Duan Ling Tian for his strength as well. For this reason, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and pointed to his sister before he said, “Duan Ling Tian, this is my sister, Chu Yu.”

“Miss Chu Yu.” Duan Ling Tian nodded to Chu Yu out of courtesy.

“Hello, big brother Duan.” Chu Yu was normally a carefree person, but faced with Duan Ling Tian, she was much more restrained. A blush could be seen on her cheeks. It was a rather rare sight that even Chu Yan was surprised. Chu Yan did not expect his sister who usually acted like a boy would have such a lady-like side to her as well. He lamented inwardly, ‘So, it’s true that a woman changes her expression for the one she likes.’

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was so discomfited with Chu Yu’s adoring gaze that he had to turn away.

The master of ceremony of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties saved Duan Ling Tian from the awkwardness as he asked, "Is there anyone else who wants to challenge Duan Ling Tian? According to the rules of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, Duan Ling Tian is now ranked first. All participants who're ranked from the third to the tenth places are free to challenge Duan Ling Tian if they so wish."

The spectators rolled their eyes upon hearing the master of ceremony's words.

"Are you kidding me?! Won't the other participants be digging their own graves if they challenge Duan Ling Tian!"

"Exactly! All eight of them were defeated by Chu Yan... However, Chu Yan was defeated by Duan Ling. How could they stand a chance against Duan Ling Tian? None of them is a match for him!"

"Well, I'm sure the master of the ceremony knows that no one would dare to challenge Duan Ling Tian. It's probably just a formality and a procedure he has to follow. It'd be unfair to directly declare Duan Ling Tian as the winner without asking if anyone wants to challenge him, right?"

"That's true."

Naturally, there were people who were wiser. They knew the master of ceremony only said these words as a formality.

When nobody made a move, the master of ceremony said, "Since no one's challenging Duan Ling Tian, the final rankings of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties are decided!"

With that, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties came to an end. The final rankings were as followed, first was Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County. Second, Chu Yan from Soaring Wind County. Third, Yang Jing from Fair Mountain County. Fourth, Zhong Jue Ming from Ataraxia County. Fifth, Ren Fei from Red Cloud County. Sixth, Zhang Jian Hong from Plum Blossom County. Seventh, Chu Yu from Soaring Wind County. Eighth, Mo Qiu from Qiu Li County. Ninth, Tong Yuan from Horse Teeth County. And finally, tenth, Yan Shi Hu from One Heart County.

Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain County, remained silent. He repeatedly looked at the grey-clad figure next to him furtively. He was confused as to why she did not make a move yet. Her target was clearly Duan Ling Tian, right? He thought to himself, 'Don't tell me the old lady can't bear to make a move because of how good looking he is?'

Although the Martial Competition of the 16 counties had ended, the spectators still remained in their seats, discussing among themselves. Naturally, their discussions revolved around Duan Ling Tian. Most of them were curious about his potential and how far he would go. Would he become a peak Celestial Duke?

"Just as expected, Duan Ling Tian from Nine Specters County won the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties."

"He appeared just in time. If he had appeared an hour later, he would've missed winning the competition."

“To be able to witness Duan Ling Tian’s strength really made the trip here worthwhile. Based on his strength, he’ll definitely go far beyond expectations.”

“As long as he doesn’t die prematurely, it won’t be a problem for him to go beyond the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom.”

“With his innate talent, if everything goes well, he’ll be a Celestial Duke at the very least and won’t have a problem settling in a high-rank Celestial Kingdom!”

“A Celestial Duke is much stronger than an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. It’s said that even among the high-rank Celestial Kingdoms, there might not even be one Celestial Duke!”

To most of the people present on the scene, a Celestial Duke was someone they only heard about in rumors. At least, in the territories under King Qin’s Mansion, a Celestial Duke had never publicly appeared before in the last few hundred years.

‘Seems like the old lady isn’t here.’ Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief as he checked for her presence from the air.

However, just as he was about to turn and join the people from Nine Specters County, a hoarse and cold voice rang in the air. Although the voice was not loud, it drowned out all the spectators’ voices. “Duan Ling Tian! Are you Duan Ling Tian from the Black Dragon Army in Bloody Specter City?”

The spectators were momentarily stunned before they began to search for the mysterious speaker.

“Who was it?”

In just a moment, a grey figure emerged from the group of people from Fair Mountain County.

“What does he want to do ?!” The members of Fair Mountain County were confused. Only the County Governor, Wang Ling Qi, looked at Duan Ling Tian with a gloating expression.

The grey figure discarded its robe and revealed an old lady in plain robes. She seemed to be in her 70s. She did not waste any time and stepped into the air, making her way to Duan Ling Tian.

‘She must be the old lady that City Governor Liu mentioned. She’s definitely stronger than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial! She’s, at least, comparable to King Qin from King Qin’s Mansion!’ Duan Ling Tian thought. When the old lady had called out to him earlier, he had tried to escape immediately but to no avail. An invisible and powerful force seemed to have surrounded him and bound him. Although the force did not seem particularly dense, he was no match for its power at all. An ordinary Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial would not be capable of making him feel this way, only someone stronger than an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial could render him so helpless.

Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, exclaimed, “It’s you!” He was shocked by the grey-figure’s true identity. His previously elated expression had changed to one of fear when he saw the old lady. The old lady had come to see him a year ago in the County Governor’s estate in Nine Specters County, looking for Duan Ling Tian. With just her aura, she had injured him. Due to this, he estimated the old lady was at least on par with a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. ‘Sh... She’s here all

this time? She's even hiding among Wang Qi Ling's people! He did not expect the old lady was the grey figure who stood with Wang Qi Ling, the County Governor of Fair Mountain Count.

"Hm?" The old lady suddenly came to a halt. She tilted her head and looked at Tian Ji Yu with a glint in her eyes. She said lightly, "Oh, I've almost forgotten about you. When I last saw you, I remember you said Duan Ling Tian wouldn't be competing in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, right?" Her cold eyes were narrowed as she spoke.

"S-senior..." Tian Ji Yu clearly sensed her killing intent. He panicked and hastily replied, "Senior, i-it's a misunderstanding... I truly didn't know Duan Ling Tian would appear. I swear!" Although he was in King Qin's Mansion and King Qin was present, he did not feel safe at all. King Qin was an ordinary Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, however, the old lady was likely stronger than King Qin. Even if their strength was on par with each other, King Qin probably would not make a move to save him. After all, he was a mere insignificant subordinate.

Chapter 2698 To Trade One's Life for Another

"Is that so?" The old lady smirked coldly when she heard Tian Ji Yu's reply. "I remember you requested to wait for an hour for Duan Ling Tian's arrival... If you didn't know he'd appeared, why would you make such a request? Do you think I'm a fool?!" The old lady's voice turned icier as she spoke.

Tian Ji Yu felt as though winter had arrived. Blood drained from his face, and he turned pale. He stammered, at a loss for words, "S-senior..."

The old lady scoffed with a glint in her eyes. However, she remained motionless.

In the next moment, Tian Ji Yu shuddered for a brief moment before a bloody hole bloomed on his glabella, and just like that, he was dead.

Boom!

Tian Ji Yu's corpse fell to the ground with a loud boom. The sound echoed through the deathly silent arena.

Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, was dead!

The crowd inhaled sharply as they witnessed Tian Ji Yu's death. No one expected the County Governor of Nine Specters County would die in the presence of King Qin in King Qin's Mansion.

"County Governor!" the people from Nine Specters County cried out when they regained their senses.

The inner-estate elders, Pang Bing and Zheng Qiu, glanced at Tian Ji Yu's corpse before turning to look at the old lady who had continued making her way to Duan Ling Tian in the air. Their expressions were extremely grim at this moment.

Pang Bing asked through Voice Transmission, "Zheng Qiu, it's impossible even for King Qin to kill Lord County Governor in such a manner, right?"

“This old lady... is stronger than King Qin,” Zheng Qiu replied through Voice Transmission, “Do you recall when King Qin appeared earlier, she did not even greet or pay respect to him?”

“Now that you mentioned it... At that time, the tension was palpable between King Qin and the old lady. However, it seemed that King Qin had let the matter go after Wang Qi Ling said the old lady was deaf and mute,” Pang Bing said.

“Deaf and mute? Do you think as a subordinate of King Qin, the County Governor of Fair Mountain County, would dare lie to King Qin because of an outsider? In my opinion, he was instructed by King Qin to say the old lady’s deaf and mute,” Zheng Qiu replied.

“Instructed by King Qin?” Pang Bing was puzzled. “Why would he do something like that?”

“It’s likely King Qin knows the old lady is stronger than him or she has an extraordinary background. He ordered Wang Qi Ling to say the old lady is deaf and mute to save himself the embarrassment. After all, there are so many people present on the scene,” Zheng Qiu said knowingly.

“No wonder King Qin didn’t make a move even after the old lady killed Lord County Governor,” Pang Bing said with a sigh as he glanced at the curtained area.

...

Hidden behind the curtains, Qin Yu’s expression turned grim as he watched the old lady make her way in the air toward Duan Ling Tian. He knew this Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect had come for his friend, Duan Ling Tian. Based on his uncle’s words, it seemed like she had come to kill Duan Ling Tian! Every step the old lady took was like a heavy stomp to his heart, and it made him tremble in fear. Not only was Duan Ling Tian his friend, but Duan Ling Tian had even saved his life before. Now that Duan Ling Tian was in danger, all he could do was watch helplessly. It made him feel terrible. He turned to look at King Qin and pleaded, “Eldest uncle... P-please help Duan Ling Tian!”

As soon as Qin Yu finished speaking, the Third Prince forced a smile on his face and said helplessly, “Yu’er! The old lady is a Celestial Duke. You saw how she killed the County Governor of Nine Specters County... If your eldest uncle has two breakthroughs and ascended two levels, he still wouldn’t be able to kill the County Governor in such a manner. The power of a Celestial Duke is beyond your imagination...”

Although the Third Prince was a peak Great Overarching Golden Celestial who was peerless among those below Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials, in front of a Celestial Duke, he was just like an ant. The old lady could kill him as easily as she had killed Tian Ji Yu.

King Qin sighed and said, “Yu’er, it’s not that I don’t want to help him, but I can’t...” There was no doubt that it was humiliating to him that the Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect had killed his subordinate, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, in front of so many people. However, he could not even muster up any anger because he knew it was pointless. Not only was he not a match for the Celestial Duke, but the sect she was from, the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, was not a force he could afford to offend either. That sect was even stronger than a high-rank Celestial Kingdom!

Swoosh!

As soon as King Qin finished speaking, Qin Yu had left the area like a gust of wind, appearing in front of Duan Ling Tian to shield him. Unlike Duan Ling Tian who was bound by the old lady's energy, he could move freely since he was not bound.

"Qin Yu?" Duan Ling Tian exclaimed in surprise. Then, he quickly said through Voice Transmission, "Qin Yu, leave at once before she vents her anger on you... Don't worry, I'll be fine..." Although he knew Qin Yu would not be able to help him out of his predicament, he was still touched by Qin Yu's actions. He knew Qin Yu must have pleaded with his eldest uncle, King Qin, to help him. However, seeing that Qin Yu had appeared alone, it meant that King Qin refused to help. However, it was more likely that King Qin could not help because he knew he was no match for the old lady.

Qin Yu, naturally, did not believe Duan Ling Tian when he said he was fine. He had seen the killing intent in the old lady's eyes. It was clear she could not wait to kill Duan Ling Tian, grind his bones into ashes, and scatter them in the air. He was certain the old lady would not grant Duan Ling Tian an easy death like how she had killed Tian Ji Yu. He was, naturally, trembling inwardly in fear when faced with the old woman. He said haltingly, "S-senior, in... in what way did Duan Ling Tian offend you? If you're willing to let him go, I'd promise you anything that's within my capability. Even if you want my life, I won't have any complaints." How could he not be afraid? He was just an ordinary Golden Celestial. Let alone a Celestial Duke, even an ordinary Great Overarching Golden Celestial or Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial could crush him like an ant. The old lady probably needed to blow at him with her Celestial Origin Energy, and he would die. Despite all that, he steeled himself and spoke up for Duan Ling Tian.

The old lady was prepared to kill Qin Yu for obstructing her way. However, she paused when she heard Qin Yu was willing to trade his life for Duan Ling Tian. She temporarily dismissed the idea of killing Qin Yu. She asked, perplexed, "You're willing to trade your life for his?" The Devata Realms were places where the strong was revered and the weak were prey. It was a dog eat dog world. It was extremely rare for someone to sacrifice themselves for another person. Moreover, humans were inherently selfish.

"As long as you promise me that you won't kill him, I'm willing to die in his place!" Qin Yu replied solemnly.

As soon as Qin Yu finished speaking, the old lady's eyes turned ice-cold. "Since you wish to trade your life for his, then, so be it!"

Whoosh!

A powerful energy surged out of her body and violently swept toward Qin Yu before it shrouded him. As a Celestial Duke, just her plain energy was enough to severely injure or kill an ordinary Great Overarching Golden Celestial, let alone an ordinary Golden Celestial!

"Senior, please show mercy!"

"Please show mercy!"

As soon as the old lady's energy shrouded Qin Yu, two voices cried out in unison from behind the curtains.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Two figures flew out from behind the curtains. They were none other than King Qin and the Third Prince from King Qin's Mansion. Both men had swiftly come out to rescue Qin Yu. After all, Qin Yu's father was their fourth brother. Moreover, Qin Yu's father had saved their lives more than once. Now that their fourth brother's son was facing death, how could they stand aside and do nothing?

2699 Liar?

Whoosh! Whoosh!

King Qin and the Third Prince soared into the air toward Qin Yu to save him.

The old lady snorted. She raised her hand, and a vast and tremendous energy swept out, leaving ripples in its wake. It could be seen how powerful the force was based on the ripples of shockwaves that swept through the surroundings.

The stability in Devata Realms was much more stable compared to the mundane realms. One needed to be much stronger than an ordinary Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial to create a ripple in space!

Boom! Boom!

Two loud explosions rang in the air as King Qin and the Third Prince who were heading toward Qin Yu were sent flying back at a high speed. They were severely injured and spat out mouthfuls of blood. The dignified and noble air around them seemed to have disappeared at that moment.

The spectators could only watch in disbelief and fear. Those who were seated in the normal area were all subordinates of King Qin's Mansion whereas those who were seated in the VIP area, like the Flying Dragon Sect, were forces to be reckoned with in the territories of King Qin's Mansion.

"Unbelievable..."

"King Qin and the Third Prince... They can't even take a strike from the old lady?"

"Th-this is not happening... Is it?"

King Qin was the only Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial in all the territories of King Qin's Mansion. He was generally acknowledged as the strongest powerhouse and revered like a god by many under King Qin's Mansion's rule. And yet, he was easily defeated by the old lady with just a strike! Who was this old lady?!

"Qin Yu!" Duan Ling Tian cried out. He wanted to save Qin Yu as well, but his reaction was much slower compared to King Qin and the Third Prince. Moreover, he was bound.

"Duan Ling Tian, if there's an afterlife... I hope to be your friend again." Qin Yu grinned. Then, he closed his eyes and stepped out to meet the old lady's attack without flinching. He felt relieved that at this moment, he was finally able to repay Duan Ling Tian for saving him.

"Qin Yu!!" Duan Ling Tian cried out in despair. He regretted his selfish decision. Why did he not leave when he had the chance? If he had left, Qin Yu would not have to die in vain.

“Hm?” In just a brief moment, he could clearly sense the old lady’s energy that had shrouded Qin Yu seemed to have been dispersed.

Boom!

Even then, the remnants of her dispersed energy were still powerful enough to send Qin Yu flying back a dozen steps. His face was pale after he coughed out a few mouthfuls of blood. Fortunately, his injuries did not seem to be life-threatening.

“Qin Yu, are you all right?” Duan Ling Tian asked worriedly as he held onto Qin Yu.

“I-I’m fine...” Qin Yu shook his head. He looked at the old lady in confusion. Why did the old lady dispersed her attack at the last moment and did not kill him?

“You’re really willing to die for him.” The old lady sneered. Despite that, she was quite impressed by Qin Yu. When she was young, she had a friend who had sacrificed his life to save her. For this reason, she had a deep respect for people like Qin Yu. She had only attacked Qin Yu to test his sincerity.

“Senior... You won’t renege on your promise, will you?” Qin Yu was afraid the old lady would go back on her words and kill Duan Ling Tian.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, King Qin and the Third Prince arrived near Qin Yu and Duan Ling Tian. Although they were severely injured, it did not stop them from shielding Qin Yu and Duan Ling Tian.

“Senior, although I don’t know how my nephew’s friend has offended your respected sect leader, I’m willing to do anything to resolve the enmity between your sect leader and him if it’s within my capability.”

‘Sect leader?’ Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes slightly. ‘This old lady’s from a sect? Then, based on King Qin’s words, she’s sent by her sect leader to kill me?’

The old lady completely ignored King Qin and looked at Qin Yu as she spoke, “Boy, if there’s enmity between us, I would spare your friend’s life based on your sincerity to die on his behalf. However, I came to kill him on the order of the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect! Therefore, he must die today! No one can stop me!” Her voice grew colder and colder as she reached the end of her sentence.

‘The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?! Is that Murong Bing’s sect? This old lady must be from the same sect as her,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he shuddered.

The spectators were astonished as well when it was revealed that the old lady was from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. After all, the sect was well known among them.

“The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?!”

“This old lady is a powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?”

“The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect is a formidable sect that’s even stronger than high-rank Celestial Kingdoms. They have many powerhouses who are Celestial Dukes!”

“So, a Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect came all the way to King Qin’s Mansion in Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom just to kill Duan Ling Tian?”

“Who is Duan Ling Tian?”

The spectators heatedly discussed this among themselves as they looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously.

“Duan Ling Tian’s background is questionable. Like I said, how’s it possible for such a peerless genius to appear in King Qin’s Mansion.”

“Indeed. Never in the history of King Qin’s Mansion was there a powerhouse who was younger than 100 years old with strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.”

“In my opinion, Duan Ling Tian must belong to an opposing faction of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. He somehow ended up in King Qin’s Mansion as he was hunted by powerhouses from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.”

“That must be it.”

The spectators’ speculation was, naturally, wrong. However, they could not be blamed. After all, this was the most logical reason they could come up with. With this, it even explained how a peerless talent had appeared in their insignificant kingdom. Moreover, there were many Great Overarching Golden Celestials who were less than 100 years old in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. Therefore, the opposing sect of a sect like the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect would have many peerless geniuses as well.

Duan Ling Tian was about to ask the old lady if Murong Bing was from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect when Qin Yu said, “Senior, is there a misunderstanding between my friend and your respected sect leader?” Although he could see the old lady was determined to kill Duan Ling Tian, he could not help but try his luck again. “As far as I know, my friend is not a native of the Spirit Overarching Heaven. He has only ascended here less than five years ago. How’s it possible for him to provoke your respected sect leader?” He was truly baffled. How did Duan Ling Tian who had just ascended less than five years ago manage to provoke the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect? By right, it should be impossible for them to cross paths.

“He only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years?” The old lady was shocked and baffled by Qin Yu’s words.

Even King Qin and the Third Prince were shocked.

The spectators were abuzz again upon hearing Qin Yu’s words.

“What?! Duan Ling Tian had ascended here, and he’s only been here for less than five years?”

“H-how is that possible?!”

“From his aura, there’s no doubt he’s younger than 100 years old. If he had just ascended, he should only be a Crimson Moon Heavenly Celestial when he first arrived here. For a Crimson Moon Heavenly

Celestial to possess the strength of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial in less than five years is just a joke!”

“Even if a Crimson Moon Heavenly Celestial has mastered Celestial Methods, Divine Abilities, and were given the best cultivation resources and environment King Qin’s Mansion has to offer, it’s still an impossible feat!”

“Qin Yu must be lying! He must be lying so the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial would spare Duan Ling Tian.”

In the end, all of the spectators came to the conclusion that Qin Yu was only lying to save Duan Ling Tian’s life. After all, his words were too preposterous to believe.

The old lady stared at Qin Yu coldly as she said pointedly, “Boy! I admire your courage, but it doesn’t mean you can treat me as a fool!”

Chapter 2700 Shadow Void Escaping Talisman

“Senior, I’m not lying...” Qin Yu forced a smile as the old lady gazed at him coldly. He felt helpless as the old lady refused to believe him. “Duan Ling Tian had only transcended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years ago... I, Qin Yu, can attest to that!” Qin Yu said earnestly.

The old lady continued to stare deeply into Qin Yu’s eyes, in search of even the slightest hint of guilt, as he met her gaze unflinchingly. Soon enough, she decided he was not lying. She wondered skeptically, ‘Is what this young lad said true?’

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian asked in a low voice, “Do you know Murong Bing?”

Murong Bing! The old lady instantly shifted her attention to Duan Ling Tian. She glared at him and sneered. “It seems like you do know Miss Bing is from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect after all! You should know the reason for your death then!” Her killing intent spiked as she reached the end of her sentence.

‘So she’s from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!’ Duan Ling Tian smiled. He had been looking for information about Murong Bing ever since they had separated. Then, he asked, “Does she know you came here to kill me?”

“A man who’s about to die doesn’t need to know much!” The old lady snorted coldly, her Celestial Origin Energy surged out like a beast on a rampage and caught the four men off guard, sending flying back in the distance.

After Qin Yu stabilized his footing, he discovered something was amiss. His expression changed drastically as he cried out, “Duan Ling Tian!”

Although Duan Ling Tian was sent flying back as well, a grin remained on his face, and he did not lose his composure at all. He thought to himself, ‘It seems like she’s unaware of this.’

The expression on the old lady’s face was unsightly when she saw Duan Ling Tian was still able to smile in this situation. She was, naturally, displeased. She exclaimed with an earth-shattering voice, “Die!”

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The old lady's Celestial Origin Energy began to surge out from her body again and loomed like dark clouds over Duan Ling Tian before they shrouded him. At this moment, he was like a pig waiting to be slaughtered. Suddenly, the dark clouds began to shrink as though it was being compressed by an invisible force. Its power was rising with every passing second. Without any warning, the force crashed onto Duan Ling Tian.

"You shouldn't dawdle here," Duan Ling Tian said indifferently, "Go back to the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and tell your sect leader that one day, I'll personally bring betrothal gifts to the sect and marry Murong Bing!"

"Hm?!" The old lady frowned as she had sensed something was amiss. Her expression changed drastically as she exclaimed, "T-the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman?!"

At the same time, the rolling clouds from the old lady's Celestial Origin Energy that had been brewing had reached its peak.

Boom!

It exploded. A huge mushroom cloud appeared immediately.

"Oh, no!"

"Argh!"

Terrifying shockwaves rippled out from the mushroom cloud in all directions. The shockwaves swept through the arena, killing most of the young powerhouses that were less than 100 years old from the 16 counties. Only a handful of them managed to survive. Even the elders and Revered Elders from the 16 counties could barely save themselves as they were severely injured. Only those County Governors who were Great Overarching Golden Celestials were capable of protecting the young powerhouses. Nevertheless, they had their limitations as well. When push came to shove, they only protected those with high potential.

At the spectator seats, the elders and Revered Elders of the Soaring Wind County were gravely injured. Their County Governor, Chu Ting Xuan, could only protect his children, Chu Yan and Chu Yu. The rest of the young powerhouses that came along had all died!

The other counties all shared the same fate as well. Their elders and Revered Elders were severely injured, and the young powerhouses with the highest potential survived under the protection of their County Governors.

Apart from Duan Ling Tian, the remaining top nine powerhouses of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties were the only young powerhouses who managed to survive.

All 16 counties sitting at the spectator seats had suffered a great loss, however, none suffered greater than Nine Specters County. After all, Tian Ji Yu, their County Governor and the only Great Overarching Golden Celestial in their county, had died. Only a few elders, Revered Elders, and inner-estate elders such as Pang Bing and Zheng Qiu survived. The rest of the young powerhouses had died from the backlash.

The people at the VIP seats were fortunate since there were no deaths among them. Only a few people suffered minor injuries. Seated among the VIPs were members from different sects and clans that were in the territories of King Qin's Mansion. They were stronger and more resourceful than the 16 Counties of King Qin's Mansion and had more Great Overarching Golden Celestials among them. The crowd at the VIP seats owed their lives to those Great Overarching Golden Celestials.

Meanwhile, those from King Qin's Mansion were safe as well. King Qin and the Third Prince had protected Qin Yu with ease. The master of ceremony for the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial as well. It would have been easy for him to protect himself if not for the fact that he was standing closer to the point of explosion. For this reason, he sustained minor injuries. The members of King Qin's Mansion who were sitting behind the curtains in the VIP area were unharmed. Even nine snow-white horses with strength comparable to Violet Sun Golden Celestial were unharmed due to the protection from a few Great Overarching Golden Celestials from King Qin's Mansion.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

In the sky above the arena, the shock waves continued to ripple out to all directions from the mushroom cloud, leaving destruction in its wake. The spectators' seats were in ruins. Only rubble and debris were left. The spectators were forced to take flight into the sky due to this.

After a while, as the mushroom cloud slowly dispersed, a strong gust of wind blew past. Finally, everything became deathly still. The damage done was devastating. Everything was in ruins except for the arena and the area concealed behind the curtains.

At this moment, everyone's attention turned to the old lady in plain robes who was hovering in the sky. She looked just like an unassuming old lady, who knew she would cause everyone present to be filled with fear?

"The powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect is truly terrifying!"

"Such destructive power... It's really terrifying! Most importantly, it wasn't even a direct attack at us, it was just the backlash from the attack to Duan Ling Tian."

"Even a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial isn't this strong, right?"

"This old lady should be a Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?!"

The spectators whispered to one another. It was clear she was stronger than Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials so she had to be a Celestial Duke at least!

"I-is he... dead?" Chu Yu from the Soaring Wind County looked at the sky anxiously, and yet, she could not see the figure she longed to see.

"He must have survived the attack... If he's dead, there would be traces left behind. Didn't you see there's no blood at all?" Chu Yan said as he shook his head.

Chu Yu surveyed her surroundings. Indeed, there was no blood.

If Duan Ling Tian was killed, even if he was blasted into ashes, there would still be a mist of blood left behind. Since there was none, it was likely that Duan Ling Tian did not die.

“Before the old lady’s Celestial Origin Energy peaked, she seemed surprised. I think I heard her say, ‘Shadow Void Escaping Talisman’. If I’m right, during the critical moment, Duan Ling Tian had used the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman and escaped,” Chu Ting Xuan said in a hushed voice. The gentle and elegant scholar had a gloomy expression on his face since 28 of his young powerhouses had died from the shockwaves.

Up in the sky, Qin Yu who was protected by his uncles, King Qin and the Third Prince, finally regained his senses. He searched around frantically with his eyes for his friend, Duan Ling Tian, as he called out urgently, “Duan Ling Tian!”

“Don’t worry, he’s fine...” King Qin patted Qin Yu’s shoulder as he said, “During the critical moment, he used a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman to escape from here.”