

Chapter 2841: Naive Kid

“He Shan? So this is the Old Ancestor’s name...”

While the onlookers’ attention was focused on Huan’er, Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback when he heard Tan Zheng Ye, the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect in the Light Region, addressing the Old Ancestor as Senior He Shan. It was the first time he heard the name of the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

At this moment, the young man and the young woman standing behind Tang Zheng Ye finally regained their senses. They shifted their eyes from Huan’er to the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and bowed in unison as they greeted him. “Senior He Shan,”

The young man obviously had a significantly harder time tearing his gaze away from Huan’er, compared to the young woman. It was only natural since Huan’er was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen in his life. He found it hard to believe such a beautiful woman existed in this world. Not even in his imagination would he be able to dream up such a peerless beauty.

He Shan nodded in response to the young man and the young woman’s greeting. Then, he looked at Tan Zheng Ye and asked with a smile, “Vice Sect Leader Tan, are they your disciples?”

“Yes.” Tan Zheng Ye nodded. He pointed to the young man and the young woman standing behind him before he continued to say, “These are my disciples, Cheng Da Gang and Zhong Xiao Hui.”

He Shan nodded and politely said, “Well, they both have striking appearances.”

At this moment, Guan Qi Fei, a prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, finally averted his gaze from Huan’er. When he regained his senses, he looked at He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, and said, “Senior He Shan, you came at the right time. You’re a senior member of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect... What’s your opinion on the illegal sale of the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop?” He sounded accusing when he spoke.

Alas, He Shan did not even spare Guan Qi Fei a glance and ignored him.

“You...” As the saying went, ‘Everyone has a temper’. Guan Qi Fei was, naturally, furious when he saw He Shan’s disregard for him. “He Shan! Don’t think I’ll drop this matter just because you ignore me. The Tai Yi Celestial Sect is violating the rules set by the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions!”

He Shan continued to ignore Guan Qi Fei.

However, Situ Ming glanced at Guan Qi Fei coldly and asked, “Are you sure? Guan Qi Fei, you’d better shut up before the truth is revealed. Don’t you dare tarnish the reputation of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!”

Guan Qi Fei scoffed. “I’m only telling the truth. Didn’t you say the prominent Celestial Alchemist from your sect who’s able to refine Overarching Heaven Pills is in the shop? Where’s he? Summon him here so he can show us!”

“Master Duan is already here. You’re just too blind to notice it,” Situ Ming said with a sneer.

Upon hearing Situ Ming’s words, Guan Qi Fei’s gaze instinctively fell on Huan’er. He asked skeptically, “Master Duan’s here? You don’t mean to tell me she’s the prominent Celestial Alchemist from your sect who’s capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills, right?”

At this moment, everyone, including Tan Zheng Ye, turned to look at Huan’er.

The peerless beauty was the prominent Celestial Alchemist in Tai Yi Celestial Sect who could refine Overarching Heaven Pills?

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian, whose hand Huan’er was holding, looked at Guan Qi Fei indifferently and said, “Master Situ is right, you’re really blind... He was talking about me.”

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, everyone shifted their eyes from Huan’er to him.

“You?” Guan Qi Fei’s expression darkened when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s mocking words. Then, he laughed before he said condescendingly, “Boy, I’ve already investigated you with my Divine Consciousness when you came out... The aura of your body has betrayed the fact that you’re not even 100 years old! You’re still wet behind the ears. How can you claim to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist? Moreover, you’re also claiming you can refine the Overarching Heaven Pills? Are you dreaming?”

As soon as Guan Qi Fei finished speaking, quite a number of the onlookers extended their Divine Consciousness and probed Duan Ling Tian’s age.

“Not even 100 years old?”

“Indeed. He’s really younger than 100 years old!”

It did not take long before they confirmed the purple-clad young man, who clearly had the favor of the peerless beauty, was not even 100 years old!

“What a joke! He’s not even 100 years old. How dare he pretend to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine Overarching Heaven Pills? Is he crazy?”

“That’s right! He might have gotten lucky and obtained a prominent Celestial Fire before he hit the age of 100. However, just because he possesses a prominent Celestial Fire, it doesn’t mean he’s qualified to be called a prominent Celestial Alchemist. He must have the skills and techniques to refine prominent Celestial Pills before he can be called a prominent Celestial Alchemist!”

“It’s nearly impossible for someone who’s not even 100 years old to become a prominent Celestial Alchemist. And yet, he even claimed he’s a prominent Celestial Alchemist who’s able to refine Overarching Heaven Pills?”

“In addition to possessing the pill formula and a prominent Celestial Fire, to refine Overarching Heaven Pills, one has to be highly skilled in alchemy as well. It’s already difficult enough to refine ordinary prominent Celestial Pills, let alone the Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“Hah! Keep dreaming!”

“I really don’t understand. Why does such a peerless beauty like a liar like him?”

“He doesn’t deserve her at all!”

When Huan’er appeared while holding onto Duan Ling Tian’s hand, many men who were present noticed her tender gaze when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was obvious that she liked him. They were, naturally, filled with envy and hatred toward Duan Ling Tian. With Guan Qi Fei fanning the flames, their words were filled with righteous indignation as they spoke about Duan Ling Tian. They all thought Duan Ling Tian was just a naive kid!

At this moment, Tan Zheng Ye looked at Duan Ling Tian and said in a deep voice, “Mister, please be careful with your words. We might take your words seriously and treat you as a prominent Celestial Alchemist who’s capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills. If you fail to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills, the major Celestial Sects of the Six Southeastern Regions won’t let you off the hook!” His tone was rather threatening.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He asked with a faint smile on his face, “What’s the matter? Vice Sect Leader Tan doesn’t believe I’m capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills as well?”

“I’m afraid no present on the scene believes you’re a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone a prominent Celestial Alchemist who’s able to refine Overarching Heaven Pills,” Tan Zheng Ye bluntly replied.

“Is that so?” Duan Ling Tian turned to Huan’er and asked with a smile, “Huan’er, why don’t you tell Vice Sect Leader Tan if you think I’m capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills?”

Huan’er, whose eyes did not leave Duan Ling Tian up to now, responded with a smile, “Brother Ling Tian, it’s easy for you to refine Overarching Heaven Pills.” She did not care about everyone’s attention at all. It seemed like there were only two people in her world; Duan Ling Tian and her.

Duan Ling Tian turned to look at the Old Ancestor and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect before he asked, “Old Ancestor, three masters, do you believe I’m a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine Overarching Heaven Pills?”

“Of course, I believe you.” He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, nodded.

“I believe you.”

“Of course.”

“I believe you as well!”

The three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect answered one after another.

Then, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Tan Zheng Ye and said with a faint smile on his face, “Vice Sect Leader Tan, you said there’s no one present who believes I’m a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills... What about now?”

"I..." Tan Zheng Ye was rendered speechless when he saw Duan Ling Tian asking the people from Tai Yi Celestial Sect if they believed he could refine the Overarching Heaven Pills. It was only natural for the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to take his side. He did not expect this purple-clad young man who was not even 100 years old to be so shameless!

Seeing his master struggling to find words, the young man, Cheng Da Gang, snorted as he glared at Duan Ling Tian. "Brat, it's only natural that the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would take your side. You intentionally took my master's words literally. You know very well he meant to say that, apart from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's people, no one believes you're a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine Overarching Heaven Pills!" His eyes were brimming with contempt as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

"Huan'er," Duan Ling Tian said, stopping Huan'er. As soon as Cheng Da Gang finished speaking, he had felt Celestial Origin Energy surging from Huan'er's hand that was still holding onto his hand. He patted Huan'er with his other hand and said through Voice Transmission, "I don't care about their words so why should you care?"

Earlier, when the people began to mock Duan Ling Tian, Huan'er was about to make a move to attack them, but he stopped her. Now that she wanted to attack again, he stopped her again. He did not think it was necessary since he had nothing to hide. Apart from that, he was not worried about Huan'er. After all, He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was here. He did not think any of the people present on the scene would be able to hurt her.

Chapter 2842: Do You Have the Guts?

"Boy, didn't you hear me?" Cheng Da Gang, Tan Zheng Ye's male disciple, was furious when he saw Duan Ling Tian ignoring him. To add oil to flames, Duan Ling Tian also blatantly flirted with Huan'er in front of him!

"I'm giving you face by ignoring you," Duan Ling Tian glanced at Cheng Da Gang indifferently as he said, "Since you clearly want me to pay attention to you, I'll tell you why I ignored you. You, a junior, are not qualified to point your finger at me while I'm talking to your master!"

The onlookers were shocked by Duan Ling Tian's words. He had clearly placed himself on the same level of seniority as Tan Zheng Ye, the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, by calling Cheng Da Gang his junior. As the saying went, 'When the elders speak, the younger ones must not interrupt'. This was the most basic respect for one's elders.

Cheng Da Gang flushed red when he heard Duan Ling Tian's rebuke. He said coldly, "Do you really think you're worthy of being on the same level as my master? If you aren't pretending to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine Overarching Heaven Pills, I wouldn't even waste my breath talking to a pup who's not even 100 years old!"

"Tan Zheng Ye!" A thunderous voice rang in the air as soon as Cheng Da Gang finished speaking. It was He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He glared at Tan Zheng Ye and asked, "Is this how you teach your disciples? Master Duan is the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Identity wise, he's on equal footing with you... Your disciple is too arrogant and even dares to disrespect the Chief Celestial Alchemist of my sect. As his master, you didn't even do anything to correct his

behavior. You've failed in disciplining and teaching your disciple." His voice was so cold that the temperature seemed to drop.

He Shan's words caused an uproar among the onlookers.

"The Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"What? This kid who isn't even 100 years old is the Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect? Is it true?"

"Nonsense! Of course, it's a lie!"

"Impossible. Even if he's lucky enough to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire before the age of 100, it's impossible for him to become a prominent Celestial Alchemist even if he works hard. Let alone a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill, it would be difficult for him to refine ordinary prominent Celestial Pills!"

"The people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect are too shameless. How dare they claim a kid who's not even 100 years old is the Chief Celestial Alchemist of their sect just to sell Overarching Heaven Pills in their shop! Do they have any shame?"

"The Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is a senior member of the sect, and yet, he went along with his sect members' lie as well. He has lived for so long in vain!"

Based on the discussion in the surroundings, it was clear everyone thought He Shan was lying as well.

Boom!

A loud explosion rang in the direction of the crowd. A blood mist appeared before it was pulled to the ground by an invisible force. The blood stained the ground a dazzling color of red.

Everyone gasped.

The person who was killed was a middle-aged man who had said He Shan had lived for so long in vain. He had clearly paid the price for his insult.

Upon seeing this, everyone who was happily gossiping earlier fell silent as they looked at He Shan fearfully.

Although He Shan did not make any movements, the crowd clearly felt a powerful surge of power from him swept toward the middle-aged man earlier.

"Senior He Shan, please calm down!" Tan Zheng Ye hastily said, "That man didn't have any malicious intentions. He just found it hard to believe your words. After all, the young man from your sect hasn't even reached the age of 100."

After seeing He Shan's fierce attack, Cheng Da Gang, who mocked Duan Ling Tian earlier, paled immediately. He quickly hid behind Tan Zheng Ye. He no longer dared to argue after seeing He Shan kill

the middle-aged man for his insult. Who knew if He Shan would attack him? After all, He Shan was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, and he was even stronger than his master, Tan Zheng Ye. His master might not even be able to stop He Shan if He Shan wanted to kill him.

“That’s right!” Guan Qi Fei stepped forward at this moment and coldly said, “The Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s words are too outrageous. We won’t believe you unless this brat refines an Overarching Heaven Pill in front of us. Otherwise, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would be considered as violating the rule set by the major Celestial Sects of the Six Southeastern Regions... If you’re guilty, you might even lose the qualification to participate in the Alchemy Conference forever!” He was clearly gloating.

“Who do you think you are?!” Duan Ling Tian looked at Guan Qi Fei and said disdainfully, “Someone like you isn’t worthy of watching me refine Overarching Heaven Pills!” Then, he added confidently, “If you want me to refine Overarching Heaven Pills, please summon representatives from all the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions... I don’t want any lunatics to come again in two days to cause a commotion. I’ll show everyone once and for all that I, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, am capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills. Our sect isn’t breaking any rules by selling Overarching Heaven Pills in Alchemy City!”

“Who did you call a lunatic?” Guan Qi Fei’s expression darkened. His eyes were brimming with killing intent when he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, even Tan Zheng Ye’s expression had turned gloomy. After all, Duan Ling Tian had indirectly called him a lunatic as well. He took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in his heart before he said in a deep voice, “Young man, you’re overthinking things. As long as you refine an Overarching Heaven Pill in front of me, Master Guan, and everyone present, the people from the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions will be convinced that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is qualified to sell Overarching Heaven Pills in Alchemy City.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Tan Zheng Ye intently as he asked, “Vice Sect Leader Tan, are you sure you’re qualified to speak on behalf of the major Celestial Sects of the Six Southeastern Regions?”

“Brat!” Guan Qi Fei said coldly, “Don’t think I’m unaware that you’re just trying to stall for time. I don’t understand why you’re still so stubborn when things have reached this point. What’s the point of stalling for time? I advise you to confess to your mistake. If you humble yourself and admit your mistakes, the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions might be lenient to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and give the sect a lighter punishment.”

Duan Ling Tian ignored Guan Qi Fei and vehemently said, “I, Duan Ling Tian, will not refine Overarching Heaven Pills unless all the representatives of the top Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions are present.”

Without waiting for Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei’s response, Duan Ling Tian continued to say, “Naturally, if you’re going to insist that I refine Overarching Heaven Pills right now, I will oblige as long as you give me some kind of reward. I, Duan Ling Tian, won’t refine pills for no good reason!” Then, he looked at Guan Qi Fei provocatively.

“Reward? What reward?” Guan Qi Fei sneered. He was certain Duan Ling Tian was only stalling for time and calling his and Tan Zheng Ye’s bluff. He did think a brat under the age of 100 was capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!

“I heard that there’s a double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method, an offensive and defensive type, in the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect...” Duan Ling Tian looked at Guan Qi Fei and Tan Zheng Ye as he said, “I also heard there’s a double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability, an offensive and movement type, in the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. As long as you give these two things to me... I’ll refine the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, in front of everyone right now! Naturally, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect won’t be unfair or shameless. If I fail, our sect will give you one Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities. I’m sure you’ve heard of our sect’s Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities.”

The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect had a double-trait, offensive and defensive, Duke Grade Celestial Method. The Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect had a double-trait, offensive and movement, Duke Grade Divine Ability. He Shan had informed Duan Ling Tian of these things before they came out of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop.

It was Duan Ling Tian’s decision to gamble with the people from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect who came to stir up trouble. He wanted to try and win the two sects’ double-trait Celestial Method and Divine Ability. However, he was not certain if Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei would agree to the bet. After all, they would need the permission of those with a higher ranking in their respective sects. They would need to seek consent from their respective sect leaders even if they wanted to bet.

Duan Ling Tian was clearly provoking them as he said, “How about it? Do you have the guts to accept the bet? If you don’t, you can summon the representatives from the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions. Although it would take some time, at least you don’t have to worry about losing your sects’ double-trait Celestial Method and Divine Ability.”

Chapter 2843: Test

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, silence descended on the entire place. Nobody expected Duan Ling Tian would suggest such a bold bet.

Even He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists of the sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, were stunned by Duan Ling Tian’s sudden decision. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian would try to obtain double-trait and triple-trait Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities from the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions before the Alchemy Conference even started. He really did not play by the rules! Did they not agree that they would only put their plan in motion during the Alchemy Conference?

Realization dawned on He Shan at this moment. ‘No wonder he asked me about the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect’s Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities before we came out of the shop. As it turns out, he was already scheming to obtain the double-trait Celestial Method and Divine Ability from the two sects.’ Duan Ling Tian had asked, and he had told Duan Ling Tian

about the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect's offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect's offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability.

"Master Duan..." Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing smiled wryly when they returned to their senses. They really did not think Duan Ling Tian would take advantage of the two people's pettiness.

"Are you saying..." Guan Qi Fei, who had returned to his senses first, looked at the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect before looking at Duan Ling Tian and coldly asked, "Are you saying that you want the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect to give you to an offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and an offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability respectively if you successfully refine an Overarching Heaven Pill in front of us? If you fail, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will compensate us with one Duke Grade Celestial Technique and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities?" He stared at Duan Ling Tian's expression intently as though he was trying to read Duan Ling Tian's mind. Alas, there was nothing he could glean from Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian's gaze and expression were calm from beginning to the end. He stood motionlessly like an old monk.

"Yes, how smart of you to understand what I mean," Duan Ling Tian said derisively, "How about it? Do you have the guts to gamble with me? If not, just scram! Go summon the representative of the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions. At that time, even without a reward, I'll refine an Overarching Heaven Pill in front of everyone to clear the accusations toward the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!" He ignored Guan Qi Fei whose expression had turned gloomy. Instead, he looked at Tan Zheng Ye and said with a smile, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, please invite the representatives of the major Celestial Sects of the Six Southeastern Regions here."

Then, Duan Ling Tian turned to Huan'er and said softly with a smile, "Huan'er, let's return to the shop. We'll wait for Vice Sect Leader Tan and Master Guan to invite the representatives from the major Celestial Sects in the Six Southeastern Regions here." Then, he turned around and entered the shop with Huan'er.

After Duan Ling Tian entered the shop, his voice and laughter rang clearly from inside. "Unfortunately, I think they would only be able to gather everyone by tomorrow!"

Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei's expressions soured even more as they exchanged a glance.

Tan Zheng Ye asked Guan Qi Fei through Voice Transmission, "Master Guan, you're a prominent Celestial Alchemist... Do you think there's a possibility that he might be a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills?" Regardless of his question to Guan Qi Fei, he really did not think Duan Ling Tian was a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill. After all, Duan Ling Tian was not even 100 years old, how could he be so skilled in alchemy? When Duan Ling Tian said he wanted to bet with them, his first thought was Duan Ling Tian was trying to call their bluffs and scare them. Moreover, although they were just single-trait Celestial Method and Divine Abilities, he was still tempted by Duan Ling Tian's offer. After all, none of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions would refuse getting their hands on more

Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. He did not agree to Duan Ling Tian's bet immediately because he was just being cautious.

"Impossible!" Guan Qi Fei said confidently, "He's not even 100 years old. Even if he's lucky enough to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire, it would take him years upon years to gain the experience to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. There has never been a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine Overarching Heaven Pill before they reach the age of 100 in the history of the Southern Heaven Territory, let alone the Six Southeastern Regions. In fact, there's no one who has successfully become a prominent Celestial Alchemist before the age of 100. Like I said earlier, at most, there are some who managed to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire. However, they could hardly be considered as prominent Celestial Alchemists since they didn't have the skills to refine ordinary prominent Celestial Pills, let alone the Overarching Heaven Pill. I can't deny there are prominent Celestial Alchemists younger than 100 years old, but they are few and far in between in all of the Spirit Overarching Heaven. Even then, I've never heard of a prominent Celestial Alchemist younger than 100 years old who's capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill! Well, that's just my ignorant opinion. After all, I'm just a prominent Celestial Alchemist who had spent more than 100 years in the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory before returning to the borderlands. What do I know?" He did not forget to blow his own horn at the end of his speech.

Indeed. Guan Qi Fei had left the Six Southeastern Regions and the borderlands to go to the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory 200 years ago. When he was there, he discovered that he, a revered prominent Celestial Alchemist in the borderlands, was a nobody in the central area. After all, prominent Celestial Alchemists were a dime in a dozen in any clans or sects that had even the slightest bit of standing, let alone the strong forces. Although the central area broadened his horizons and had superior cultivation and alchemy resources compared to the borderlands, he returned to borderlands because he did not get the attention and recognition that he thought he would get there. Moreover, his cultivation base was only average. All he had was his skills in alchemy. As the saying went, 'It's better to be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion'. After his return, he joined the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect of the Shadow Region as a Celestial Alchemist.

Tan Zheng Ye, as the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, was privy to this. Therefore, he had decided to ask Guan Qi Fei for his opinion. After all, in regard to alchemy, he was indeed less knowledgeable compared to Guan Qi Fei. He asked for confirmation again, "So this young man is just deliberately trying to stall for time and calling our bluffs?"

"Of course!" Guan Qi Fei replied without any hesitation. Then, his eyes lit up as he added, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, I don't know if you noticed... When that brat said he wanted to bet with us, the Old Ancestor and the prominent Celestial Alchemists of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect looked stunned. It's obvious they were blindsided by the brat's words. With that, I'm even more certain that brat is only putting up an act to scare us away. He probably thinks we won't dare to accept the bet. However, if we don't agree to his bet, we would only be embarrassed."

Then, Guan Qi Fei tried to persuade Tan Zheng Ye. "Vice Sect Leader Tan... If you plan to accept his bet, I'll return and persuade my sect leader to agree to the bet as well. Not only will this prevent us from embarrassing ourselves, but we'll be able to gain one Celestial Method and two Divine Abilities for our

respective sects as well. Even a sect as strong as the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect wouldn't refuse more Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, right?" Although he was keen to accept Duan Ling Tian's bet, he knew he would need Tan Zheng Ye's agreement as well. If Tan Zheng Ye refused, Duan Ling Tian would not agree to bet with him alone.

Seeing Tan Zheng Ye hesitating, Guan Qi Fei hastily said, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, if you don't feel at ease... I'm willing to take the risk and test the brat. I'll tell him the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect won't get involved, but the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect would accept his bet. Naturally, if he agrees to it, when I win the bet, the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect will have no part of the reward. However, if he declines and insists on betting with two sects or none at all, it'll show that he's only calling our bluffs and trying to stall for time. At that time, you can agree to the bet without any worries!"

Tan Zheng Ye was inclined to agree to Duan Ling Tian's bet. However, after much consideration, he decided to play it safe. "In that case, you should test him first."

Meanwhile, the crowd who was unaware of Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei's conversation through Voice Transmission was baffled when they saw both of their inaction.

"No way!"

"The Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leavens Celestial Sect and the prominent Celestial Alchemist of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect are going to let that kid off just like this?"

Chapter 2844: The Two Sect Leaders

"Why are they so foolish? It's obvious that the kid from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is only calling their bluffs. How could they be intimidated by that kid's act?"

"It's only natural that they would hesitate. After all, the best Celestial Method and Divine Ability from their sects are at stake."

"Even so, that kid is clearly lying. Those two are sure to win the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Celestial Method and Divine Abilities if they only agree to that kid's bet."

"That kid's talking nonsense. He's not even 100 years old. How dare he use the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities as stakes without asking for permission? Those are the treasures of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!"

"I really don't know what the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect's prominent Celestial Alchemist and the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect are thinking. Why are they hesitating when someone's handing a Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities on a platter to them!"

The crowd could not help but whisper among themselves. Most of the men in the crowd were against Duan Ling Tian even though he had no enmity with them. These men were hostile purely because they were jealous of Duan Ling Tian who had Huan'er's affection. They wanted to see Duan Ling Tian being humiliated. However, how could they see such a sight if Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei did not agree to the bet? As dissatisfied as they were, they did not dare to directly rebuke Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei, they could only furtively whisper among themselves.

Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er who had crossed the threshold of the shop suddenly came to halt when a sharp voice rang in the air. "You dirty swine, stop right there!"

Everyone fell silent immediately. It was so quiet that one could hear a needle drop. Their eyes turned to the person who had spoken. It was none other than Guan Qi Fei, the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect!

With this, the eyes of the dissatisfied men lit up immediately.

"Things are getting heated!"

"It looks like we're going to have a good show to watch!"

Meanwhile, after a beat, Duan Ling Tian ignored Guan Qi Fei and continued walking. However, he said, "Huan'er, I seem to hear a dog barking behind us... I wonder who the dog is barking at?" Although he was speaking to Huan'er, his words were clearly directed at Guan Qi Fei.

"Brat, you're seeking death!" Guan Qi Fei finally lost control of his temper after listening to Duan Ling Tian's words. Celestial Origin Energy began to roil as his eyes turned red. It seemed like he was about to attack Duan Ling Tian.

Soon enough, another angry voice resonated in the air. "I think you're the one who's seeking death!"

Boom!

"What—?!" Guan Qi Fei cried out before he screamed in pain.

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had only flicked his sleeves, but a vast and peerless force charged toward Guan Qi Fei like a thousand galloping horse before it sent him flying back.

Guan Qi Fei's Celestial Origin Energy was suppressed, causing his body to tremble violently before he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"How dare you disrespect the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect? If it were someone else, I would've already killed them. You should be thankful you're a Celestial Alchemist in the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect!" He Shan said coldly.

At this moment, the people who came with Guan Qi Fei cried out in unison. "Master Guan!" They hurried toward him in a panic. However, they obviously did not care about his injuries. This was because all of them hid behind him as soon as they approached him, clearly frightened by He Shan. These people were not members of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect. They were only mediocre and primitive Celestial Alchemists who had flattered Guan Qi Fei and followed him here to watch a show. Without Guan Qi Fei, they would not be able to stir up trouble for a top sect like the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. This was enough for them to brag for a lifetime. However, they realized now that if they were killed, no one would stand up for them.

Since He Shan had restrained his strength, it did not take long for Guan Qi Fei to heal his injuries. However, he did not show his anger to He Shan. He only said angrily, "Duan Ling Tian, I'll bet with you!"

Duan Ling Tian who had entered the shop finally turned to look at Guan Qi Fei. "Finally, you're being reasonable."

Guan Qi Fei said coldly, "I agree to your bet. However, are you sure you can use the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities as stakes? When you lose, I'm afraid you won't hand over the promised reward."

He Shan looked at Guan Qi Fei coldly and interjected, "I can represent the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. I vouch for him and give him permission to use the sect's Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities as stakes. If he loses, the sect and I won't have any complaints."

"Did you hear that?" Duan Ling Tian asked Guan Qi Fei. Then, without waiting for Guan Qi Fei to respond, he looked at Tan Zheng Ye and asked, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, Master Guan has agreed to bet with me... What about you?"

Guan Qi Fei interjected before Tan Zheng Ye could respond, "Vice Sect Leader Tan won't bet with you! I will!"

"Just you?" Duan Ling Tian sneered before he said disdainfully, "I'm sorry... If it's just you, then, I have no interest in betting."

Guan Qi Fei burst into laughter for a moment before he said, "You're just afraid of being exposed!" Then, he said to Tan Zheng Ye, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, do you feel at ease now?"

Tan Zheng Ye looked at Duan Ling Tian pointedly and said, "Master Duan, since you want to bet with us... Then, I'll gladly oblige!"

Duan Ling Tian looked at Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei with a hint of derision. "Sure... However, both of you should ask permission from your respective sect leaders before you agree to the bet. Otherwise, your sects might refuse to give me the prize when both of you lose. That would be very annoying!"

"I don't need to return to obtain the sect leader's permission... I'll recount what happened to him through a Communication Celestial Talisman, and he's sure to reply to me," Tan Zheng Ye said.

"The same goes for me," Guan Qi Fei said.

"In that case, you should invite your sect leaders over through the Celestial Communication Talismans. After all, I'm afraid if they don't witness this with their eyes, they might not hand over the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability later," Duan Ling Tian said, "I don't feel at ease without their presence. After all, if the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect weren't here today, I'm sure you won't believe me as well when I said that I'll use the sect's Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities as stakes. My request isn't too excessive, right" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and smiled faintly after he finished speaking.

Guan Qi Fei and Tan Zheng Ye looked at each other and conversed through Voice Transmission again.

"Vice Sect Leader Tan, the more requests he makes, the more obvious that he's afraid!"

"I agree. Since he wants our sect leaders here, let's do as he asked. Otherwise, he'll think we're afraid of him."

"That's right!"

After that, Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei did not hesitate to use the Communication Celestial Talismans to invite their respective sect leaders over.

The three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, were stunned when they saw Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei did not hesitate to invite their respective sect leaders over. They looked at the two men as though the two men were fools. Did they not see how confident Duan Ling Tian was? And yet, they still dared to bet with Duan Ling Tian. How could they carelessly use their sects' offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and offensive-movement Divine Ability as stakes?

Alas, Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei mistaken the three prominent Celestial Alchemist's reactions for them being afraid.

...

Meanwhile...

"Someone who's not even 100 years old refining Overarching Heaven Pills? How's that possible?!"

"A prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pills even though he's not even 100 years old? Ridiculous!"

These were the reactions of the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect after receiving Guan Qi Fei and Tan Zheng Ye's message. Both of them did not hesitate and made their way to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop. Similar to Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei, they thought it would be a loss not to accept the bet. After all, it was akin to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect freely handing over their Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities.

Chapter 2845: Disrupting the Peace

'If the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect are giving their Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities for free, there's no reason to refuse them!' This was the thought of the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. Therefore, they wasted no time after receiving the messages from Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei and made their way to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop in Alchemy City.

...

Meanwhile, not only did the crowd in front of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop not dispersed, but the crowd grew even bigger. More and more people came to watch the excitement.

"This time, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect has landed themselves in big trouble... Perhaps, even the Old Ancestor did not expect Master Guan and Vice Sect Leader Tan would really invite their respective sect leaders over."

“The purple-clad young man from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect has done it this time! I wonder who he is? He even got the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to go along with his crazy plan!”

“I didn’t expect to see such drama before the Alchemy Conference even begins... This trip to Alchemy City in the Barren Land is truly worthwhile.”

Apart from the crowd who came to watch the excitement, Guan Qi Fei, the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, and his people, and Tan Zheng Ye, the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, and his two disciples were standing outside the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop as well.

As for the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, they had gone into the inner chamber of the shop, away from prying eyes.

Since He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was here, everyone, including Tan Zheng Ye, did not dare to recklessly extend their Divine Consciousness in there to find out what was happening.

However, in the eyes of the people outside, the actions of the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect made them look guilty.

...

In the inner chamber of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop.

“Old Ancestor, when the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect arrive, there’s a possibility they might not agree to my bet,” Duan Ling Tian looked at He Shan and said, “At that time, I hope you’ll cooperate with me to put on a show...”

“At that time, please do this...” Duan Ling Tian revealed his plan to He Shan to ensure the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, would not refuse to bet.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian’s plan, Situ Ming smiled widely. “If you do this... the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect will definitely take the bait!”

Yang Chong said with a smile, “We’re going to have a good start ahead of the Alchemy Conference... Perhaps, we can even win a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability for the sect in the future!”

On the contrary, He Shan frowned as he said, “Master Duan, it’s not difficult to ensure the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect to take the bait... As long as they confirm you’re not even 100 years old, they won’t believe you’re a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills. However, if you refine pills publicly, won’t everyone find out about your heating speed? If that happens, it’d be difficult to make a bet with others in the future.”

Initially, He Shan had hoped to obtain double-trait Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. However, with this bet, he no longer felt the same way. After all, the sect was about to obtain a double-trait Celestial Method and Divine Ability from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the

Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. At this moment, his goal had changed to obtaining triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities for the sect!

“You can rest assured, Old Ancestor.” Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly when he heard He Shan’s concern. A shrewd look flashed briefly in the depths of his eyes as he said, “I have complete control over my cauldron-heating speed. Although the same can’t be said for increasing my speed, it’s easy for me to slow my speed. I’ll keep my heating speed to eight hours after this. With that, we can still continue with our plan.”

“That’s right! We can prolong the time if we want. With Master Duan’s skills, slowing down and prolonging the time cannot be any easier,” Situ Ming said.

“Don’t worry, Old Ancestor.” Yang Chong chimed in.

“That’s good.” He Shan sighed in relief when he heard their words. His eyes brightened as he said, “After today, our Tai Yi Celestial Sect will have an offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and an offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability!”

Once the Tai Yi Celestial Sect obtained the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, the improvements in the sect would not be immediately apparent. However, with time, the overall strength of the sect would surely improve. At that time, even if the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect joined forces, they still might not be able to suppress the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

As an old generation powerhouse of Tai Yi Celestial Sect, He Shan, naturally, hoped to see the Tai Yi Celestial Sect rise higher before he had to leave the sect and the borderlands. As he looked at Duan Ling Tian, he found Duan Ling Tian becoming more and more pleasing to the eyes. ‘All this is thanks to this Celestial Alchemist...’

...

About a quarter of an hour later.

Tan Zheng Ye’s voice rang from outside the shop. “Senior He Shan, my sect leader is here!”

Guan Qi Fei’s voice sounded in due course as well. “The Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect is here as well.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at He Shan and solemnly said, “Old Ancestor, the sect leaders are here. Whether they agree to my bet or not, it’ll depend on you...”

“Don’t worry, Master Duan, I’ll make sure to succeed. After all, whether our sect can obtain a double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability hinges on this!” He Shan replied.

Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief inwardly. Then, he, Huan’er, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing followed He Shan out of the shop.

“So many people have gathered here!” Situ Ming was shocked when he saw the crowd in front of the shop had grown bigger.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian and the others walked out, two strangers stepped forward and took the initiative to greet He Shan. "Senior He Shan."

With Guan Qi Fei and Tan Zheng Ye standing at the back of the two strangers, it was not difficult to figure out their identities. They were obviously the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect respectively.

The person standing in front of Guan Qi Fei was a middle-aged man with a sturdy body who was dressed in a flaming red robe. His face looked stern, and his eyes radiated power.

On the other hand, the person standing in front of Tan Zheng Ye was an elegant middle-aged man dressed in a white robe. He was handsome. He held a folding fan in his hand, making him look like a scholar.

'Lian Cheng Yi, the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, and Xiao Teng, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect.' When they were in the shop, He Shan had briefly spoken about the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect to Duan Ling Tian. He Shan also informed Duan Ling Tian that Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng were both Eight Trigrams Celestial Dukes as well. However, although their cultivation bases were similar to He Shan, they were lower in seniority since He Shan was the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

"Sect Leader Lian, Sect Leader Xiao, it has been a while since we last met," He Shan responded to Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Ten. He feigned a helpless expression as he spoke.

He Shan's helpless expression, naturally, did not escape Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng's notice even though He Shan's expression had quickly returned to normal.

"Senior He Shan, I heard about what happened. This is just a trivial matter. Why don't you order Master Duan to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills to clear Tai Yi Celestial Sect's name? There is no need for a bet," Lian Cheng Yi said to He Shan.

"That's right," Xiao Teng chimed in, "Senior He Shan, why don't we forget about the bet? You can just order your sect's Celestial Alchemist to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill."

Upon hearing Liang Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng's words, He Shan seemingly sighed in relief. He hurriedly said to accept their proposal, "Well, since the two sect leaders have spoken..."

However, before He Shan could finish his sentence, Guan Qi Fei looked at He Shan seriously as he interjected, "Senior He Shan! Earlier, your Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Master Duan proposed a bet, and you've said that you'll support him. It seems like you're regretting your words now and planning to go back on them. Isn't it... inappropriate?" He smiled smugly when he finished speaking as though he was certain of his success.

"Who do you think you are?!" He Shan looked at Guan Qi Fei coldly and rebuked him, "I'm talking to the two sect leaders. It's not your place to interrupt me and order me around!" His expressions were colorful as he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian who was standing close to He Shan saw the various expressions flitting across He Shan's face, and he could not help but sigh inwardly. 'The Old Ancestor's acting skills are really quite impressive!'

“Senior He Shan!” Tan Zheng Ye seized the opportunity and chimed in, “It’s as Master Guan said, the bet was proposed by Master Duan. Even if you plan to go back on your words, I think you should speak to Master Duan before agreeing to anything.” Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

Soon enough, everyone shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian.

“Vice Sect Leader Tan,” Duan Ling Tian fearlessly met Tan Zheng Ye’s gaze and loudly said, “I agree with Sect Leader Lian and Sect Leader Xiao... Making a bet out of this will disrupt the peace between our Tai Yi Celestial Sect and your two sects.”

Upon hearing this, Tan Zheng Ye and Guan Qi Fei could not help but curse Duan Ling Tian for being so shameless.

On the other hand, He Shan, Situ Ming, and others looked stunned as well.

‘What’s Master Duan doing? Isn’t he afraid the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect would really give up on accepting the bet?’

Chapter 2846: The Bet Goes On!

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had said such words earlier to mislead the people from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect into thinking he was feeling guilty and frightened. His words would not affect the outcome as long as Duan Ling Tian followed the agreed-upon script and refused to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill in public without a prize. He was confused when he saw Duan Ling Tian veering off the plan and agreeing with Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng, the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect.

‘What’s Master Duan doing?’ Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing were perplexed.

On the other hand, everyone, including Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng who had just met Duan Ling Tian, felt Duan Ling Tian was really shameless.

Before Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng arrived, they had already heard about Duan Ling Tian. Now that they arrived, they confirmed with their Divine Consciousness that he was truly not even 100 years old. With this, they were completely convinced that Duan Ling Tian was not a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone one who could refine Overarching Heaven Pills. When Duan Ling Tian agreed with them, they were completely certain the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were afraid of being exposed and had regretted their earlier actions.

Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng had said those words earlier to He Shan only to test the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. They would not just take their subordinates’ words as it was. They had to personally confirm it as well. After all, they were afraid of ‘going out for wool only to come home shorn’. Their most precious Celestial Method and Divine Ability were at stake so it would pay to be cautious.

Now that Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng were certain the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was guilty, they, naturally, grew anxious when it seemed like the people from the Tai Yi Celestial had no intention of going through with the bet. After all, one Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities were at

stake. They quickly transmitted their voices to their respective subordinates, urging them to find a way to make the Tai Yi Celestial Sect continue with the bet.

“Master Guan!”

“Zheng Ye!”

Due to Duan Ling Tian’s shamelessness, Guan Qi Fei and Tan Zheng Ye were in a conundrum. They racked their brains, finding a way to ensure Duan Ling Tian would continue with the bet.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian spoke up again. “Well, it’s fine if you refuse to bet. I will refine the Overarching Heaven Pill for everyone to see. However, my words from before still stand. I’ll only refine it when you gather the representatives from all the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions. In any case, since you have no intention of betting, you can all get lost!”

Duan Ling Tian’s words caused an uproar among the crowd.

“I thought he has already admitted defeat... However, it seems like he has no intention of backing down?!”

“I really don’t see the purpose of him stalling for time... He won’t be able to refine Overarching Heaven Pills anyway.”

“Perhaps, he thinks stalling for time can delay the ruin of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s reputation.”

The crowd waited excitedly for the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect’s response to Duan Ling Tian’s words. Were they going to give up and gather the representatives from the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions? It was a tall order to gather representatives from all of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions before the Alchemy Conference. After all, there might be some sects that had not arrived in Alchemy City or the Barren Land.

Meanwhile, upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, He Shan, Situ Ming, and others finally sighed in relief. For a moment, they were worried about losing this golden opportunity.

Lian Cheng Yi narrowed his eyes as he looked at He Shan and said, “Senior He Shan, your Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s... Master Duan... seems insistent on making a bet with us.”

He Shan, back in his acting mode, glanced at Duan Ling Tian who was standing at his right and sighed before he said, “Master Duan... Let’s forget about this...” A hint of helplessness could be heard in his voice when he spoke.

Upon seeing He Shan’s reaction, everyone was convinced He Shan was telling Duan Ling Tian it was futile to continue putting on a tough front and it was better to confess that they had broken the rule. It was clear to everyone that He Shan did not want to continue with the bet.

“Old Ancestor!” Duan Ling Tian cried out as he looked at He Shan with a grave expression on his face. After that, he did not speak again. However, his expression changed a few times.

This made everyone think Duan Ling Tian was conversing with He Shan through Voice Transmission.

Indeed. Duan Ling Tian was conversing with He Shan through Voice Transmission at this moment.

For a moment, He Shan's expression turned seemingly grim. His eyes inadvertently landed on Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng. Then, his attitude seemed to have made a 180-degree turn as he said, "Sect Leaders, I support Master Duan... Either accept the bet or return to your residences. When the Alchemy Conference begins, Master Duan will naturally clear the name of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in front of the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions!"

He Shan's change caused everyone to feel baffled. It was too sudden and drastic!

Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng were certain He Shan's 180-degree change was due to He Shan and Duan Ling Tian's recent secret conversation. It was not difficult to guess the general gist of their conversation. They were convinced Duan Ling Tian had implored He Shan to help him turn down the bet. He Shan's words were only to confuse them and call their bluffs.

"Senior He Shan, since you want to bet... I'll respect you and give in to your wish. The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect accepts the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's bet!" Lian Cheng Yi said loudly. Then, he looked at the Duan Ling Tian with a gaze similar to that of a cat toying with a mouse.

"The Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect accepts the bet as well!" Xiao Teng chimed in as soon as Lian Cheng Yi finished speaking.

With these words, the crowd broke into an uproar again.

"They accepted the bet?"

"Finally! This has dragged on for too long. I've been waiting for this moment for a long time!"

"That Master Duan is going to be exposed! How dare that kid who's still wet behind the ears claim to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist who can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill?"

The crowd had no intention of leaving. All of them were eagerly waiting to watch a show. Earlier, the three sects were dilly-dallying for such a long time that they were not sure if the bet would go through. However, with the two sect leaders' words, the show they were eagerly anticipating was finally about to begin.

At this moment, Guan Qi Fei looked at Duan Ling Tian and sneered. "Brat, did you hear what Sect Leader Lian and Sect Leader Xiao said? The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect accept the bet! No more excuses. You can start refining the Overarching Heaven Pill now. I want to see how brat who's not even 100 years old is going to refine an Overarching Heaven Pill!"

The others remained silent. However, all of them were looking at Duan Ling Tian intently.

Duan Ling Tian, who had become the center of attention, grinned triumphantly and said, "Since the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect are eager to give their Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, we, naturally, will not refuse."

Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng had noticed Duan Ling Tian's triumphant smile and confident words. They were taken aback as a vaguely ominous feeling rose in their hearts. Was it possible for a kid who was not even 100 years old to refine the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill?

At this time, Guan Qi Fei sneered and said, "Brat, you're still talking glibly at such a moment? Stop wasting time and refine the Overarching Heaven Pill now!"

Upon hearing Guan Qi Fei's words, Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng calmed down again. That was right. The other party was not even 100 years old. How could he be a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone refine Overarching Heaven Pills?

Duan Ling Tian ignored Guan Qi Fei. He raised his hand, drawing out a gray flame. The gray flame was the third form of the Chaos Divine Flame.

Whoosh!

At the same time, a cauldron appeared in Duan Ling Tian's other hand before it swiftly flew in front of Duan Ling Tian and hovered in midair there.

Upon seeing this, many people began to discuss heatedly among themselves.

"It's a prominent Celestial Fire!"

"It's a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron!"

"He... He actually possesses a prominent Celestial Fire?"

One of the primitive Celestial Alchemists who had followed Guan Qi Fei here said enviously and spitefully, "He's not even 100 years old but he managed to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire! He's extremely lucky. I spent 10,000 years searching for Celestial Fire, but I only came across a primitive Celestial Fire."

Guan Qi Fei scoffed. "So what if he possesses a prominent Celestial Fire? It only shows that he's lucky. He's definitely not skilled enough to heat the prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron in less than ten hours." Guan Qi Fei gave a cold snort and said.

Duan Ling Tian feigned an expression of surprise as he asked, "How do you know that it takes me more than ten hours to heat up the cauldron?"

"You're not even 100 years old. With your alchemy skills, it's impossible for you to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist... Even if you have the best prominent Celestial Fire, it'll take more than ten hours to heat the prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron," Guan Qi Fei said disdainfully, "If you have a lower-grade Celestial Fire, it would take even longer!"

Chapter 2847: It Suddenly Dawned on Her

Guan Qi Fei was certain Duan Ling Tian's alchemy skills were not as great as Duan Ling Tian tried to make them believe they were.

Duan Ling Tian, who was beginning to heat the cauldron, said with a slight smile, “Just because I take a longer time to heat the cauldron, it doesn’t mean that I can’t refine the Overarching Heaven Pill.” When he finished speaking, the third form of the Chaos Divine Flame flew into the cauldron at lightning speed.

Swoosh!

Flames rose inside the cauldron.

Everything was under Duan Ling Tian’s control.

Meanwhile, everyone’s attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian’s cauldron. However, about a quarter of an hour later, the crowd began to get distracted.

Many of the mediocre Celestial Alchemists and primitive Celestial Alchemists who had followed Guan Qi Fei here were whispering among themselves.

“The time it takes to heat a cauldron reflects the alchemist’s speed. There are no prominent Celestial Alchemists capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills in the Six Southeastern Regions who take more than seven hours to heat a cauldron.”

“Yes. The speed of heating the cauldron not only shows the grade of a Celestial Fire, but it also shows the skills of a Celestial Alchemist. Both of these factors affect the time to heat a cauldron.”

“A high-level Celestial Alchemist with a high-grade Celestial Fire would definitely have a swift cauldron-heating speed. Since Duan Ling Tian takes more than ten hours to heat his cauldron, there’s no way he can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill!”

“He said it takes more than ten hours for him to heat the cauldron? How can he be so delusional to say he can refine Overarching Heaven Pill with such a slow heating speed? What a lunatic!”

“Who cares about what he said? He’s just a brat younger than 100 years old who lucked out and obtained a prominent Celestial Fire. He won’t be able to refine a prominent Celestial Pill at this age.”

“That’s right! I’m sure he can’t even refine ordinary prominent Celestial Pills, let alone the Overarching Heaven Pill that’s one of the most precious prominent Celestial Pills!”

The mediocre and primitive Celestial Alchemists were confident Duan Ling Tian could not refine Overarching Heaven Pills!

Since they were Celestial Alchemists, most people did not doubt their words, and their gazes toward Duan Ling Tian turned even more scornful.

“I really don’t know what’s going through his mind... He should just tell the truth if he really can’t refine the pills. Why is he trying to delay the inevitable?”

“If he keeps stalling, it’ll be even more embarrassing for him when he fails!”

“Yes! It’s not only him, but even the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will suffer from humiliation!”

“I really don’t know why the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect blindly supports him. I can’t believe the Old Ancestor agreed to use their sect’s Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities as stakes!”

Duan Ling Tian clearly heard the discussions in the surroundings, but he paid them no mind. He had no intention of explaining himself. He was focused on refining the Overarching Heaven Pill without revealing his true heating speed and winning his bet with the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect! At that time, he and the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would obtain an offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and an offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability. He Shan and Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had promised to give him priority to comprehend the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability first.

“Huh?”

Meanwhile, Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng were slightly taken aback when they saw the calm expression on He Shan’s face. No hint of panic could be seen on He Shan’s face at all. He did not look like someone who was about to lose his sect’s treasured Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities. Both of them exchanged a worried glance.

Lian Cheng Yi said through Voice Transmission, “Sect Master Xiao... Everything will go as planned, right?”

“I guess so... Both of us had investigated that Master Duan with our Divine Consciousness. There’s no doubt he’s not even 100 years old. At this age, even if he was lucky enough to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire, it’s highly unlikely for him to possess the skills to become a prominent Celestial Alchemist or refine prominent Celestial Pills, let alone one of the top prominent Celestial Pills, the Overarching Heaven Pill!” Xiao Teng responded through Voice Transmission. Apart from reassuring Lian Cheng Yi, his words also served to reassure himself.

“I hope you’re right... I just find it strange that Senior He Shan and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect are so calm,” Lian Cheng Yi said apprehensively.

Xiao Teng instinctively turned to look at Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing. It was just as Lian Cheng Yi said, three of them looked calm as though they were not worried Duan Ling Tian would fail to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. With this, the ominous feeling in his heart intensified. In the end, he said, “Let’s just wait while he heats the cauldron first... All the Celestial Alchemists present have said that among the prominent Celestial Alchemists capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills in the Six Southeastern Regions, even the slowest of them takes seven hours at most to heat a cauldron. The young man just said he takes more than ten hours to heat a cauldron... Based on his own words, it’s impossible for him to refine Overarching Heaven Pill!”

“You’re right.” Lian Cheng Yi gradually felt more at ease after listening to Xiao Teng’s words.

Meanwhile, the crowd continued to stay outside the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop. Everyone fell silent as they stared at Duan Ling Tian and the cauldron hovering in front of him. However, once in a while, there would be a commotion in the periphery of the crowd. This was caused by new people coming to watch the show. News of this matter had spread through Alchemy City like a wildfire after all. Almost everyone downtown of the city had heard about this matter. After about seven or eight hours, everyone in

Alchemy City, except for those in closed-door cultivation, had heard about what was going on outside Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop.

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As one of the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions, the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect from the Wasteland also had its own residence in Alchemy City.

The news of the incident outside of Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop had spread like a wildfire. It was only natural it had spread to the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence as well.

In a spacious, quiet, and elegant courtyard, a green-clad girl registered a shocked expression on her face when she heard the news. Then, her expression turned disdainful as she said, "How dare that pretty boy lie about being able to refine the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill? He's not even 100 years old!"

A beautiful purple-clad woman frowned slightly as she said reproachfully, "Lyu Luo, this is the last time... Don't be rude!"

Upon hearing this, the green-clad girl chuckled sheepishly before she said, "Senior Sister, I was too excited I forgot to address him by his name."

Meanwhile, there was a third woman in the courtyard as well. The woman narrowed her eyes as she murmured to herself, "Overarching Heaven Pill? He... can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill? I heard master saying that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect had amassed a large number of Overarching Heaven Pills from an unknown source recently. As it turns out, it's from him! No wonder... No wonder the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect acknowledge him as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect." Realization dawned on her at this moment.

Although the woman's voice was not loud, it sounded clear in the quiet courtyard.

"Sister Shu Qiu... Are you saying the pretty bo... I mean, Duan Ling Tian, can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill?" the green-clad girl asked immediately. She was shocked.

Based on the three women's words, their identities were clear. They were none other than Murong Bing, Zhou Shu Qiu, and Lyu Luo.

Murong Bing turned to look at Zhou Shu Qiu as well. Although Zhou Shu Qiu had told her that man was the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in the Wasteland, she did not know how skilled he was. She was surprised to find out he was capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!

Even in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, only one prominent Celestial Alchemist was capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill. For that reason, that prominent Celestial Alchemist was given a high status in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. To a certain extent, that prominent Celestial Alchemist's status was almost equal to her master's.

Zhou Shu Qiu solemnly replied, "Although I'm not 100% certain, considering what I've heard, I'm, at least, 80% certain."

After all, when Duan Ling Tian was strangely given the title of Chief Celestial Alchemist in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, the three prominent Celestial Alchemists in the sect were, oddly, not dissatisfied.

Moreover, they seemed to wholeheartedly acknowledge him as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect. At that time, everyone in the Wasteland was baffled by that.

Now that Zhou Shu Qiu heard about the incident in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop, the puzzles began to fall in place. 'If he can really refine the Overarching Heaven Pill... It makes sense why the three prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect easily accepted him. That's why the three Prominent Celestial Alchemists continued staying in the sect even after he was made the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!'

Chapter 2848: Eleven Hours?

'The weak respect the strong. This is not just the case for strength but also alchemy. Since Celestial Alchemists can share their knowledge and help each other improve, the weaker Celestial Alchemists have great respect for knowledgeable and skilled Celestial Alchemists. It makes sense why the three prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Tai Yi Sect wholeheartedly accept Duan Ling Tian as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the sect! After all, they stand to learn a lot from Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian's so accomplished even though he's not even 100 years old. One can only imagine how bright his future is! Such a talented Celestial Alchemist, apart from those who have a personal grudge with him, I don't think there's anyone who would oppose being friendly with him. When he grows stronger, it would be harder to befriend him.' Zhou Shu Qiu was confident Duan Ling Tian was capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pills.

"80% certain?" Lyu Luo was shocked by Zhou Shu Qiu's words. She did not expect Zhou Shu Qiu to think so highly of Duan Ling Tian. She asked, "Sister Shu Qiu, are you sure? He's not even 100 years old. How is it possible for him to refine the Overarching Heaven pills?"

Zhou Shu Qiu replied, "The world is so vast. Nothing's impossible. Moreover, I've met him a few times and conversed with him. I'm certain he's not someone who would make empty promises or the type to eat his words!" Then, she murmured to herself as her eyes flashed, "I'm afraid, this time, the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect from the Shadow Region and the Thousands Leaves Celestial Sect from the Light Region are going to have a tough time. The offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method and the offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability will surely fall into Duan Ling Tian and the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's hand." When a purple figure appeared in her mind, she instinctively looked at Murong Bing. A hint of envy flashed in her eyes, and it disappeared as quickly as it appeared when she looked at Murong Bing.

Murong Bing who was standing at the side fell into a daze when she heard Zhou Shu Qiu's words. "His skills and knowledge of alchemy are so high?" Although she had learned from Zhou Shu Qiu that Duan Ling Tian possessed a prominent Celestial Fire and was the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, she did not expect him to be able to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill.

It was widely known in the Six Southeastern Regions that prominent Celestial Alchemists and prominent Celestial Alchemists capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill were highly respected. This was especially true for the latter. Their statuses were almost god-like even in the strongest sect of the Six Southeastern Regions, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Even the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would have a certain measure of respect for them.

'Most importantly, he's not even 100 years old! He's really impressive!' Murong Bing was certain Duan Ling Tian would be unrivaled in the future. Even in the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory, she was sure he would make a name for himself. This was the first time she felt admiration toward him. It was easy for a woman to fall in love with the man they admired.

Although Mu Rong Bing was a genius among the younger generation in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, she was still a woman and could not escape from emotional trappings. Moreover, she had even had sexual relations with Duan Ling Tian before. How could her heart not be moved?

'The woman whom, I, Duan Ling Tian, slept with can only belong to me!' When Murong Bing recalled Duan Ling Tian's domineering words, her face flushed red.

At this moment, Lyu Luo said to Murong Bing and Zhou Shu Qiu, "Third Senior Sister, Sister Shu Qiu, let's go have a look! I still don't believe Duan Ling Tian is capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill."

"Well, if your senior sister is going, then, I'll come along. Otherwise..." Zhou Shu Qiu replied.

Lyu Luo instantly turned to look at Murong Bing. "Third Senior Sister, you didn't visit the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's residence with me. This time, you must accompany me to visit their store!"

Murong Bing pondered on it for a moment before she shook her head and said, "No." Before Lyu Luo could protest, she added, "Even if we go there, there's no guarantee you'll be able to see anything since it's so crowded." Naturally, if she was truly keen on taking a look, as long as she revealed their identities, the crowd would surely make way for them. However, she did not want to meet Duan Ling Tian. She felt nervous whenever she thought about meeting him.

"Lyu Luo, your Third Senior Sister is right. Let's wait for news here," Zhou Shu Qiu chimed in. Then, she said to comfort Lyu Luo who was clearly upset, "It would take one day, at most, before we get the results."

...

In the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect's residence in Alchemy City.

Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, had also heard about what was happening in front of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop. He was slightly surprised to find out the purple-clad young man was the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

Bai Yu Xuan was extremely jealous of Duan Ling Tian. After all, the beautiful white-clad woman next to Duan Ling Tian had left a lasting impression on him. He wished he was Duan Ling Tian so that he could receive that peerless beauty's affection.

His eyes were brimming with scorn as he muttered to himself, "A brat who's not even 100 years old claims he can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill? He's either delusional or a liar! I'd like to see how the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is going to dig themselves out of this hole!"

Then, his eyes flashed coldly as he said through gritted teeth, "The Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will die during the Alchemy Conference!"

Bai Yu Xuan had come up with a perfect plan to kill He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, He Shan would definitely die during the Alchemy Conference.

“As long as that old geezer is dead, the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would be like ants! That peerless beauty will become mine!” His expression was lecherous when he thought about the white-clad beauty. He wanted to kill He Shan not just because He Shan had humiliated him the other day, but also because He Shan was an obstacle that stood in his way of obtaining the beauty. As long as he got rid of the obstacle, it would be easy for him to get his hands on the beauty.

...

Outside the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop.

It felt time passed in just a blink of an eye. Nine hours had passed since Duan Ling Tian began to heat his prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron.

The crowd watched as they discussed among themselves.

“It has been nine hours, and he’s still not done with heating his cauldron!”

“With this speed, he thinks he can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill?! Is he dreaming?!”

“Based on his speed, even if his prominent Celestial Fire is not too bad, he still won’t be able to refine ordinary prominent Celestial Pills, let alone the Overarching Heaven Pill.”

“Well, it seems like he’s not lying when he said it takes him more than ten hours to heat a cauldron.”

“With this kind of skills, he dares to claim he’s capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill? Moreover, he even dared to bet with the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect? Is he seeking death?”

Clearly, none of them thought Duan Ling Tian was capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill.

Guan Qi Fei looked at Duan Ling Tian who was focused on heating his cauldron and said disdainfully, “As the saying goes, ‘Calves aren’t afraid of tigers’. I want to see how you’re going to get yourself out of this mess!”

Cheng Da Gang who stood behind Tani Zheng Ye looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully as well.

After nine hours Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng, the respective Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, were no longer as anxious as before. They felt completely at ease now. When they look at the calm expressions of He Shan and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, the duo thought they were only putting on a tough front.

Lian Cheng Yi sneered inwardly. “Let’s see how long you’ll be able to pretend!”

...

Another two hours passed in just a blink of an eye.

At this time, the crowd saw Duan Ling Tian finally taking out ingredients and putting them into his cauldron.

“Eleven hours! It took him eleven hours just to heat the cauldron!”

“Ha! With this kind of speed, no matter how extraordinary his prominent Celestial Fire is, he would only be a mediocre Celestial Alchemist at best. It would be impossible for him to refine prominent Celestial Pills, let alone the Overarching Heaven Pill!”

“Now that he’s done heating the cauldron. Based on the number of ingredients he had thrown into the cauldron, we’ll have the result in two to three days at most. He won’t be able to stall for time any more than that.”

Chapter 2849: Three Overarching Heaven Pills

For Duan Ling Tian, it was extremely torturous to slow his speed and prolong the time of him heating the cauldron. It made him feel as though he was losing his mind. The feeling was similar to how if one possessed the fastest sports car but had to drive on an empty road at the speed of ten miles an hour for eleven hours straight. It was enough to drive an ordinary person insane.

Duan Ling Tian felt as though he had been given a new lease on life after he finally finished heating the cauldron eleven hours later.

‘Since I’ve decided to do it, I’ll definitely see it through!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he exhaled. A light flashed briefly in his eyes. Then, he began to refine the pills while holding back his true skills.

As the saying went, ‘Outsiders are only here to watch the show while knowledgeable people know how to look at the details’. The primitive and mediocre Celestial Alchemists who followed Guan Qi Fei here shook their heads when they saw the way Duan Ling Tian refined the Overarching Heaven Pill. Some of them even thought they were superior to him.

“What a terrible technique!”

“With this kind of skills, he claims he can refine Overarching Heaven Pills? Is he joking?”

“How did he become the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect with this kind of skills?”

One of the men standing behind Guan Qi Fei sneered. “Do you really believe he’s the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect? With these skills, he’s not even comparable to the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from Tai Yi Celestial Sect. They would not have chosen him to become the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the sect.”

“That’s right. The people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect probably made that up so they can fool us into believing there’s someone capable of refining Overarching Heaven Pills in their sect.”

“I really can’t wait to see how the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is going to dig themselves out of this hole.”

The discussion between the group of Celestial Alchemists behind Guan Qi Fei was clearly heard by everyone in the surroundings. They made no attempt to lower their voices at all. With those words, those who had no knowledge of alchemy assumed Duan Ling Tian's speed was extremely slow when heating the cauldron, and his skills and techniques of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill were awful.

"With these skills, he would be a mediocre Celestial Alchemist at most."

"Exactly. How did he even obtain a prominent Celestial Fire with these skills? He's really lucky!"

Many Celestial Alchemists present on the scene were extremely jealous of Duan Ling Tian's prominent Celestial Fire. Based on Duan Ling Tian's skills, they were certain he was just a mediocre Celestial Alchemist at best. Some of them were more skilled than him, and yet, he managed to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire.

When the people from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect saw Duan Ling Tian's alchemy skills, all of their anxieties and uncertainties disappeared.

Lian Cheng Yi, the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, said loudly as he laughed, "One Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities... Sect Leader Xiao, it seems like our trip to Alchemy City this time is rather fruitful..." At this point, he did not even bother to converse through Voice Transmission anymore.

"Indeed." Xiao Teng nodded with a smile. "Let's just treat this as a welcoming gift. When the Alchemy Conference begins, our luck might continue, and we might be able to win other things."

The battles between Celestial Alchemists in the Alchemy Conference was more like a gamble.

A small gamble would have ordinary pill formulas, a small number of Celestial Stones, or some low-grade cultivation methods, Celestial Methods, and Divine Abilities as stakes.

On the other hand, a huge gamble between Celestial Alchemists would have rare pills formulas, a big number of Celestial Stones, high-grade cultivation methods, Celestial Methods, or Divine Abilities as stakes. Some Celestial Sects would even use King Grade Celestial Weapons as stakes. However, only those from really powerful Celestial Sects would dare to use King Grade Celestial Weapons as stakes.

Although the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was one of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions, they were relatively weak compared to the other top sects. For this reason, He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, did not dare to simply bring out the sect's King Grade Celestial Weapons as a stake. Moreover, even if the Tai Yi Celestial Sect managed to win a King Grade Celestial Weapon from a powerful Celestial Sect, they might not even be able to hold onto their prize. Although there might be really strong powerhouses protecting the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in the dark, those powerhouses would definitely not step forward for a matter as trivial as a King Grade Celestial Weapon. Therefore, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect only had themselves to rely on.

"A welcoming gift?" Lian Cheng Yi laughed happily when he heard Xiao Teng's words. Then, he turned to look at He Shan, Situ Ming, and the others. When he saw their calm expressions, he sneered. "Still putting on a front?"

Meanwhile, Guan Qi Fei looked at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously and said, "What a naive brat! With this kind of skill, how dare he show off in front of me?"

Tan Zheng Ye did not comment, but a smug smile could be seen on his face.

...

Time continued to pass, and another day had gone by.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian was finally at the final step of the pill refinement process. All he needed to do now was to retrieve the pills.

The Celestial Alchemists present on the scene could, naturally, tell Duan Ling Tian was almost done.

"Based on his posture, he should be able to retrieve the pill within half an hour..."

"There's probably nothing but crumbs in his cauldron. I can't wait to see his reaction." Guan Qi Fei's eyes were brimming with disdain, and the sneer on his face deepened.

Smack!

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian smacked his palms against the cauldron, causing the cauldron to shake.

"He's almost done!"

"I thought he would continue to stall for time. I didn't expect him to finish refining the pills so soon!"

"Perhaps, he knows there's no point in prolonging the inevitable. After all, there's nothing in his cauldron. There's no difference if he finishes now or later..."

The Celestial Alchemists present on the scene looked at Duan Ling Tian with bright eyes, clearly taking delight in what they perceived would be his misfortune.

Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian was refining the Overarching Heaven Pill, quite a few people, including Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng, had tried to extend their Divine Consciousness to probe the cauldron. However, they discovered that their Divine Consciousness were blocked. Although they were shocked, they did not think it was strange. After all, there were prominent Celestial Fires that could block Divine Consciousness. Let alone a Celestial Duke, some prominent Celestial Fires could even block the Divine Consciousness of a Celestial King. This did not mean the prominent Celestial Fires were particularly powerful, it was just one of the traits that the prominent Celestial Fires possessed. It was just its nature. Regardless of how powerful one was, it would be difficult to defy nature.

Before anyone could react, three streaks of mysterious black light suddenly shot out from the cauldron into Duan Ling Tian's hand in just a blink of an eye.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Three distinct sounds of wind whistling rang in everyone's ears at this moment.

The three streaks of light had moved at light speed. For this reason, the crowd had seen the three streaks of light first before they heard sounds of wind whistling.

It was so quiet at this moment that if a needle dropped, everyone would be able to hear it.

At this moment, everyone wore a stunned expression on their faces. They looked as though they could not believe the scene before their eyes.

“Three Overarching Heaven Pills?!”

“How’s this possible?!”

“Are... are you joking?”

“H-he managed to refine the pills?”

“Are those really Overarching Heaven Pills?”

“Impossible! He doesn’t have the skills required to refine Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“That’s right! Maybe those aren’t Overarching Heaven Pills? It’s possible that he refined some other pills.”

“Impossible! The ingredients he used are for Overarching Heaven Pills... Moreover, based on the auras of the pills in his hand, there’s no doubt those are prominent Celestial Pills!”

“I just tried investigating with my Divine Consciousness. Those are undoubtedly Overarching Heaven Pills!”

Those who doubted the authenticity of Duan Ling Tian’s pills were immediately cleared of their doubts. Some of the stronger powerhouses had confirmed Duan Ling Tian’s pills were indeed the Overarching Heaven Pills.

“No! No! Impossible!” Guan Qi Fei’s face was pale as he stumbled backward a few steps. An expression of disbelief could be seen on his pale face.

Tan Zheng Ye’s expression had changed drastically as well.

Chapter 2850: Talent Poaching

Whether it was Guan Qi Fei, the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, or Tan Zheng Ye, the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, both of them had extended their Divine Consciousness as soon as the three pills shot out of the cauldron into Duan Ling Tian’s hand. Before the pills landed in Duan Ling Tian’s hand, they had thoroughly determined that the three pills were, indeed, Overarching Heaven Pills. Based on the fact that Duan Ling Tian managed to refine three pills, it showed that his success rate of refining pills was not very high. Nevertheless, even if he had only successfully refined one pill, it was enough to prove he was capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill.

Meanwhile, the expressions of Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng, the Sect Leaders of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect respectively, were grim. Just a moment ago, they were thoroughly convinced of their victory. How could their mood not flip like a switch? A moment ago,

they were still in heaven. In just a blink of an eye, they were plunged into hell. It was, naturally, difficult for them to accept this. It made no sense at all!

“Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“H-he actually managed to refine Overarching Heaven Pills?”

The crowd outside of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop was in shock and disbelief when they saw Duan Ling Tian had refined three Overarching Heaven Pills. Most of them were puzzled by how he managed to refine the pills when his skills and techniques were mediocre, at best.

“It’s true... He managed to refine it!”

“His refining skills are terrible, and yet, he managed to refine a top prominent Celestial Pill like the Overarching Heaven Pill? Is this a joke?”

“Well, maybe it’s because he possesses an extraordinary prominent Celestial Fire? I tried to extend my Divine Consciousness into his cauldron earlier. After all, I’m a Celestial Duke, but I still can’t probe his cauldron with my Divine Consciousness!”

“An extraordinary prominent Celestial Fire? Impossible! If his prominent Celestial Fire is extraordinary, he wouldn’t have taken eleven hours just to heat the cauldron. Moreover, he’s visibly exhausted after refining the pills. It’s obvious the process has taken a toll on him.”

At this moment, it did not occur to anyone that Duan Ling Tian had deliberately hidden his skills. After all, he was young, not even 100 years old. It was already amazing that he could refine the Overarching Heaven Pill at this age. Apart from that, there was no reason for him to hide his skills at all.

While everyone’s attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly as he thought to himself, ‘Such a shame that the remaining Overarching Heaven Pills have to go to waste.’

In truth, Duan Ling Tian had refined seven Overarching Heaven Pills even though he had deliberately refined it with mediocre skills and techniques. However, he only collected three of the pills. He left the remaining four pills in the cauldron, and they were destroyed by the third form of the Chaos Divine Flame. It was not only the Chaos Divine Flame, but pills that were not collected from a cauldron would be destroyed by a Celestial Fire as well.

‘I hope the four Overarching Heaven Pills that I sacrificed will help me during the Alchemy Conference. I have to do this so people would think my success rate of forming pills is low even if they know I can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He had to downplay his strength because he did not want to expose his true alchemy skills.

The news of Duan Ling Tian successfully refining three Overarching Heaven Pills would undoubtedly spread throughout Alchemy City in due time. He had to keep his skills hidden so he could still lure other prominent Celestial Alchemists into betting with him during the Alchemy Conference. For example, he could use his seemingly low success rate to lure people to compete with him on the success rate of refining pills. Situ Ming had told him that during the Alchemy Conference, people would compete on

many different things such as heating speed and success rate of refining pills. The possibilities were endless. As such, it was better for him to downplay his skills.

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he looked at Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng before he said with a faint smile on his face, "Sect Leader Lian, Sect Leader Xiao, thank you for the Celestial Method and Divine Ability."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, a murderous rage rose in Lian Cheng Yi and Xiao Teng's hearts. Alas, they had to suppress it. They were wary of He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, after all. Although their cultivation bases were similar to He Shan in which they were all Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, He Shan who was older than them was still stronger than them. Even if both of them joined forces, they were not sure if they could defeat He Shan. Apart from that, they could not bear to humiliate themselves by going back on their words and dishonoring the bet they had agreed to.

Before Lian Cheng Yi regained his senses, Xiao Teng looked at Duan Ling Tian intently and said, "Master Duan, you finally revealed your hidden skills. Senior He Shan is right. You're truly worthy of being the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Chief Celestial Alchemist!" At the same time, he took a Memory Celestial Talisman out and tossed it over to Duan Ling Tian.

The Memory Celestial Talisman clearly contained the double-trait offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability from the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect.

As Duan Ling Tian reached out to retrieve it, Xiao Teng turned around and said to Tan Zheng Ye tonelessly, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, let's go." Although he had tried his best to suppress his anger, one could still detect a hint of coldness in his seemingly apathetic tone.

"Yes, sect leader," Tan Zheng Ye hastily replied. He could, naturally, sensed Xiao Teng's fury. Xiao Teng who rarely got angry was thoroughly infuriated at this moment. He quickly followed after Xiao Teng who had begun to walk away.

Now that Tan Zheng Ye had made a move to leave, his male and female disciples, naturally, followed suit. The male disciple, Cheng Da Gang, looked at Duan Ling Tian before he left. The disdain in his eyes had completely vanished as he looked at Duan Ling Tian warily and fearfully. After all, it did not matter if a prominent Celestial Alchemist who could refine the Overarching Heaven Pill was strong or weak. As long the prominent Celestial Alchemist wished to kill someone, there would be many powerhouses clamoring to gain favor and kill for him.

'He... Is he really younger than 100 years old?' Cheng Da Gang was perplexed. It was difficult for him to accept a brat who was not even 100 years old was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill.

The crowd obediently parted to the sides to make way for the people from the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. They fell silent for a moment and only resumed their conversations once the people from the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect faded from view.

“Those from the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect truly have gone out for wool but went home shorn... Not only did they fail to acquire Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities, but they even lost their Duke Grade Divine Ability!”

“Although it’s just a Divine Ability, the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect lost an extraordinary Divine Ability. It’s a double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability after all! It contains both offensive and defensive Divine Abilities.”

“Leave that aside for now. Look at the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect... I think Sect Leader Lian must feel like killing Master Guan now, right?”

“If you ask me, I don’t think he should blame Master Guan. After all, no one expected that a young man who’s not even 100 years old is capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!”

Guan Qi Fei felt everyone’s gaze trained on him and Lian Cheng Yi. He, naturally, heard their words as well. He cautiously looked at Lian Cheng Yi only to be met with Lian Cheng Yi’s cold eyes. His heart skipped a beat, and he hastily sent a Voice Transmission to Lian Cheng Yi to explain himself. “Sect Leader, I apologize! I really don’t know how he managed to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills when he hasn’t even reached the age of 100.” Contrary to his words to Lian Cheng Yi, inwardly, he grumbled, annoyed by Lian Cheng Yi’s gaze, ‘I can’t be held solely responsible for this matter. If you didn’t want to bet, I wouldn’t have been able to force you no matter how hard I try. It seems like I should leave the Sun Supporting Celestial Sect after the Alchemy Conference.’

Fortunately, Lian Cheng Yi could not read Guan Qi Fei’s mind. Otherwise, he might have killed Guan Qi Fei in a fit of rage. He was aware that his anger at Guan Qi Fei was not entirely justified. Therefore, he replied through Voice Transmission, “Master Guan, there’s no need to apologize. You’re not the only one to blame her.”

Alas, Guan Qi Fei remained annoyed and ignored Lian Cheng Yi’s good intentions and did not take Lian Cheng Yi’s words to heart.

After a short moment, Lian Cheng Yi said, “Master Duan, you’re too humble.” Then, he passed a Memory Celestial Talisman that contained the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect’s offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method to Duan Ling Tian. At the same time, he sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian, “Master Duan, why don’t you consider joining the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect after the Alchemy Conference? The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect is much stronger than the Tai Yi Celestial Sect... We even have a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke! If you’re willing to join us, the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect is also willing to make you our Chief Celestial Alchemist. In fact, we’ll fulfill your every wish as long as it’s within our means!”

Upon hearing Lian Cheng Yi’s words, Duan Ling Tian did not reply through Voice Transmission. Instead, he openly said, “Sect Leader Lian, you said if I join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, the sect will fulfill every demand I make as long as it’s within the sect’s means?”

“Master Duan, you...” Lian Cheng Yi, naturally, did not expect Duan Ling Tian to reveal everything. His face flushed red from embarrassment, and his expression soured. At the same time, he keenly felt He Shan’s pointed gaze.