

Chapter 2861: The Reunion with Murong Bing

“Are you threatening me?” Ji Fan looked incredulous. As the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, this was his first time being threatened.

“Well, you can consider it as a threat if you want. As the future Sect Leader of the Blissful Sect, you should be responsible for your words and actions... You might get yourself killed and bring trouble to the Blissful Sect,” Duan Ling Tian said confidently.

Li An’s expression soured as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. He scoffed as he looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly and said, “Master Duan, are you saying that if Fan’er were to offend you, not only will you attack him, but you’ll attack the Blissful Sect as well?”

“The Blissful Sect must be held responsible as well since they have chosen him as the next sect leader,” Duan Ling Tian said, seemingly unafraid.

Li An stared at Duan Ling Tian intently, trying to read Duan Ling Tian’s expressions and movements. He was prepared to kill Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian were to show the slightest sign of lying. However, Duan Ling Tian remained poised and confident. Therefore, Li An did not attack Duan Ling Tian even though he did not 100% believe Duan Ling Tian was from the central area. In any case, it was better to be prudent. After all, if Duan Ling Tian was telling the truth, he would definitely bring disaster to the Blissful Sect if he killed Duan Ling Tian. Since it was just a slight conflict, it was better for him to just disregard this matter. In the end, he only scoffed and gave Duan Ling Tian a pointed look before he said, “Fan’er, let’s go!”

Then, Li An left with Ji Fan and the others from the Blissful Sect

“Grandmaster, do you really believe him?” Ji Fan asked, clearly frustrated.

“No.” Li An shook his head. “I don’t believe him... However, unless we’re certain he’s lying, it’s unnecessary to take the risk. I’ll send a Communication Celestial Talisman back to the sect and ask the sect leader to send someone to investigate his background. I’ll search through the entire Wasteland to find out everything about him if that’s what it takes! If he’s really from the Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky in the central area, then I’ll let the matter go. However, if I find out he’s lying, I’ll definitely kill him!” Li An said murderously, clearly enraged by Duan Ling Tian’s act of threatening Ji Fan!

Ji Fan’s eyes gleamed with killing intent as he turned back to look at Duan Ling Tian from afar. “I hope you’re not lying, Duan Ling Tian... Otherwise, once we find out the truth, you’ll die!”

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After the people from the Blissful Sect left, the people from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect shifted their attention back to Duan Ling Tian. They were still in shock that Duan Ling Tian had such an extraordinary background!

“Master Duan, forgive us for being unaware of your identity.” Chai Kong Yu and Jian Qiu Luo, the respective Sect Leaders of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, were even more courteous toward Duan Ling Tian now. Unlike Li An and Ji Fan, they did not doubt Duan Ling Tian’s words. After all, Duan Ling Tian was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill and was also a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial even though he had not reached the age of 100. These were remarkable feats! A person like him must be rare even in the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory. How could they not believe him?

At this moment, Chai Kong Yu’s eyes suddenly lit up when he noticed something in the distance. “Master Duan, Senior He Shan, Sect Leader Jian, I see some of my acquaintances, I’m going over to greet them. Farewell.” He quickly excused himself and left with his disciples.

Then, one of the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect said, “Sect leader, the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect are here.”

A group of ten people, comprised of women, had just arrived in the Alchemy Square. The leader was a beautiful woman. Standing at her back were three old women, two middle-aged women, three young women, and a young girl. The young girl who was dressed in a green robe began to look around curiously as soon as they arrived.

At this moment, Huan’er suddenly asked, “Brother Ling Tian... Isn’t that the girl I met previously?”

“Yes.”

The green-clad girl was none other than Lyu Luo, a disciple of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. Previously, she had visited the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s temporary residence in Alchemy City to verify that Huan’er was, indeed, more beautiful than Murong Bing, her senior sister.

Meanwhile, He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, and Yang Chong had seen Lyu Luo as well.

“It’s that young miss...” Yang Chong smiled wryly.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was staring at the young woman who was standing next to Lyu Luo. The young woman seemed to be engrossed in a conversation with Lyu Luo. The woman wore a simple purple robe. Her eyebrows were perfectly arched, and her skin was radiant and unblemished. She had a wasp waist as well. She wore a translucent veil to cover the lower half of her face, but her bright eyes and elegant air were enough to make the surroundings pale in comparison. The translucent veil on her face that barely concealed her appearance filled men with the urge to remove it. She was so charming and beautiful even with the veil on, one could only imagine how much more beautiful she would be if she took her veil off.

‘It’s her!’ With just a glance, Duan Ling Tian instantly recognized Murong Bing, a disciple of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and the woman whom he had sex with before. She was dressed exactly the same as when he first met her.

Meanwhile, Murong Bing who was talking to Lyu Luo felt Duan Ling Tian's eyes on her. She turned to look at him, and their eyes met. A tingling sensation akin to a jolt of electricity ran through her body. She unconsciously stopped in her tracks.

'Third Senior Sister?' Lyu Luo knew something was amiss when she discovered Murong Bing had suddenly stopped moving. She followed the direction of Murong Bing's gaze and discovered Duan Ling Tian and Murong Bing staring at each other.

'That's why she's distracted... It's all because of this womanizer!' Lyu Luo thought to herself. After learning about what happened, she was of the opinion that Duan Ling Tian was irresponsible, unreliable, and had failed his duty as a man.

It did not take long before the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, who was in the lead, discovered Murong Bing and Lyu Luo had stopped moving. She looked at them and asked in confusion, "Hm? Bing'er, Lyu Luo, why aren't you..." She trailed off when she saw the expression on Murong Bing's face. She had seen this expression before on the face of her twin sister, who was also Murong Bing's mother. Her sister would have this expression whenever she thought about the man she loved. She followed the direction of Murong Bing's gaze and saw Duan Ling Tian.

'It's him!' The Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's expression changed drastically as soon as she saw Duan Ling Tian. She did not expect to see the man from the portrait that she had previously seen. She had sent an elder to kill this man previously for defiling her beloved niece. The elder who had returned to the sect after failing her mission had shown her a portrait of the man and told her his name was Duan Ling Tian. 'No wonder I found the name Duan Ling Tian familiar. He's the one who took Bing'er's virginity. So he's the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!' She had already heard about Duan Ling Tian, and now that she had seen the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect with him, it was not difficult to figure out he was the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect who had recently become famous in Alchemy City!

Chapter 2862: Nangong Xiu, The Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!

When the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was looking at Duan Ling Tian, her eyes gleamed with killing intent.

'No!' Zhou Shu Qiu exclaimed inwardly, and her face paled. It was obvious to her that the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect had detected something amiss through Murong Bing's expression when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect must have heard about him from the elder she sent to kill him. Perhaps, when the sect leader heard the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was called Duan Ling Tian, she did not make the connection that it was the same man who had taken Murong Bing's virginity. However, now that the sect leader had seen Murong Bing's expression as she gazed at Duan Ling Tian, there was no doubt the sect leader had made the connection with her intelligence.

Worried that the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect would kill Duan Ling Tian at lightning speed, Zhou Shu Qiu quickly called out through Voice Transmission, "Junior Aunt Nangong!" After all, she knew if Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, made a

move to kill Duan Ling Tian, there was nothing He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, could do since Nangong Xiu was a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke. Although Nangong Xiu was slightly weaker than Li An, the Old Ancestor of Blissful Sect, who was also a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke, she was still stronger than He Shan.

Zhou Shu Qiu's master and Murong Bing's master, Wang Dan Feng, had a good relationship and would refer to each other as sisters. They had wandered the outside world in their early years together. For this reason, Zhou Shu Qiu addressed Nangong Xiu as junior aunt. Since Wang Dan Feng was slightly older than Nangong Xiu, Murong Bing would address Wang Dan Feng as junior aunt as well.

"Hm?" Nangong Xiu was successfully distracted by Zhou Shu Qiu's Voice Transmission. When she looked at Zhou Shu Qiu, the killing intent flashing in her eyes had disappeared. She smiled and said, "Little Shu Qiu, you're here as well!"

"Junior Aunt Nangong, I... I assume you're... y-you're aware that Master Duan from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is B-bing'er's.. m-man?" Zhou Shu Qiu asked tentatively through Voice Transmission.

"You're aware of Bing'er's matter as well?" Nangong Xiu narrowed her eyes that were flashing with killing intent again and bluntly said, "You're right! It doesn't matter if he's a member of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, I'll kill him today!"

Upon noticing this, Zhou Shu Qiu hastily said through Voice Transmission, "Junior Aunt Nangong, if you don't want disaster to fall on the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, it's better to leave him alone!"

"What do you mean?" Nangong Xiu looked at Zhou Shu Qiu apprehensively. "Little Shu Qiu, are you trying to scare your junior aunt in order to protect him?"

"Junior Aunt Nangong, I might lie to you, but my senior sister definitely won't lie to you. You can verify my words with her later. You can even verify it with the people from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect" Zhou Shu Qiu smiled wryly.

Zhou Shu Qiu's senior sister was Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

Then, Zhou Shu Qiu quickly recounted what happened earlier with the people from Blissful Sect and Duan Ling Tian's background.

'Li An actually held back?' The killing intent in Nangong Xiu's eyes vanished and was replaced with a hint of fear after she heard Zhou Shu Qiu's words. She knew Li An's character very well. Unless he really believed there was a high chance Duan Ling Tian was from a powerful clan in the central area, Li An definitely would not have held back! When she calmed down slightly, she asked through Voice Transmission again, "How did he prove his identity and background?"

"He did no such thing," Zhou Shu Qiu replied.

Nangong Xiu frowned. "He didn't have evidence to prove his identity? Based on what I know about Li An, he definitely wouldn't hold back unless he was presented with irrefutable evidence."

“In fact, there’s no need for him to present evidence to prove his identity. After all, it’s impossible for someone like him who’s highly skilled in alchemy and also possesses a high cultivation base to come from an ordinary background,” Zhou Shu Qiu replied.

“High cultivation bases? I heard about his skills in alchemy. He’s a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill even though he hasn’t even reached the age of 100. It would be amazing enough even if he’s just a Great Overarching Golden Celestial,” Nangong Xiu said.

“Earlier, he revealed his cultivation base to us. Apart from being a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill, he’s also a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial!” Zhou Shu Qiu replied.

“Pro... Profound Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial?!” Nangong Xiu widened her eyes in shock. She tried to extend her Divine Consciousness to probe Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base.

“Junior Aunt Junior Aunt, he has a way to conceal his cultivation base. We were only able to confirm his cultivation base because he intentionally let us sense his soul aura,” Zhou Shu Qiu quickly said as though she already knew beforehand that Nangong Xiu would try to investigate Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base.

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While Zhou Shu Qiu was conversing with Nangong Xiu through Voice Transmission, Murong Bing who had been staring at Duan Ling Tian returned to her senses. She quickly pulled Lyu Luo along to catch up with the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. She discovered her sect leader and her aunt, Nangong Xiu, had stopped moving and was looking at Zhou Shu Qiu, her best friend. She frowned, worried. It was clear they were both communicating through Voice Transmission about Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally greeted Murong Bing through Voice Transmission. “It’s been a long time since we last met.”

However, Murong Bing did not respond to Duan Ling Tian until she saw him taking two strides in her direction. Her face, hidden under the veil, turned pale immediately. She hastily warned him through Voice Transmission. “Don’t come over!”

Murong Bing’s sudden warning caused Duan Ling Tian to instinctively stop in his tracks. He smiled and said through Voice Transmission, “You’re willing to speak to me now?”

“If you don’t want to die, don’t come over...” Murong Bing said coldly, “Moreover, what happened previously in the Little World left behind by the Celestial King from the Blissful Celestial Sect was purely an accident. I’ve thrown it out of my mind. Don’t have any ideas of being with me. I know you’re the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, but I still don’t like you. It’s better for you to give up. I’d rather die than to become your woman!” Her gaze was indifferent when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was as though she was looking at a stranger.

Duan Ling Tian trembled for a moment upon listening to her words, he felt his heart ache. He inhaled deeply as he stared at Murong Bing who wore a determined and cold expression on her face. His heart ached. “I don’t care if you like me or not. You can’t change the fact that you’re my woman. You might not

like me now, but I'm certain you'll like me in the future. In any case, I'm going to bring you away from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and the Six Southeastern Regions."

Duan Ling Tian's words to the people from the Blissful Sect were not complete lies. He had decided to bring Murong Bing away from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and borderlands and head to the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory for Murong Bing's safety after the end of the Alchemy Conference. After all, who knew when Murong Bing's master would find out about the fact that Murong Bing had lost her virginity? At that time, her master would surely injure, if not kill, her. Therefore, he was determined to bring Murong Bing away as soon as he could. If it were not for her, he would have stayed a little longer in the Six Southeastern Regions until he had another breakthrough. Alas, he could not afford to stay any longer since Murong Bing's situation was like a ticking time bomb.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Murong Bing's seductive body trembled slightly. She had to admit she was moved by his words. She knew Duan Ling Tian wanted to bring her away since Zhou Shu Qiu had told Duan Ling Tian about her situation. However, due to her feelings for him, she was extremely reluctant to become a burden to him. It would suffice for her to suffer alone. She took a deep breath to suppress her emotions before she coldly said, "I won't leave. The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect is my home... Even if I die, I'll die in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!"

Murong Bing's expression changed when she saw Duan Ling Tian try to take another step forward. "Don't come over! If you dare to take another step forward, I'll die in front of you right now!" Her tone was resolute, there was no doubting that she meant what she said.

Duan Ling Tian knew Murong Bing was not joking when he heard how resolute her tone was. He stopped moving immediately and sent a Voice Transmission Murong Bing to placate her, "I won't go over... Don't... Don't do anything reckless!"

"Hm?" At this moment, Duan Ling Tian who had been distracted by Murong Bing finally discovered the killing intent from Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

'Is it possible that Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, knows that I'm the one who took Murong Bing's virginity?' Duan Ling Tian had learned the name of the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect from He Shan. Based on Nangong Xiu's murderous gaze, it was clear to him that Nangong Xiu knew something.

Chapter 2863: Laying It Out In The Open

'After all, she's the one who sent the Celestial Duke after me. That Celestial Duke not only knows my name, but she knows how I looked as well. It's not difficult for her to draw a portrait of me since she has seen me.' Taking all these things into consideration, Duan Ling Tian did not find it surprising that Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, had recognized him.

'Her eyes were brimming with killing intent when she looked at me earlier, it only dissipated after she looked at Zhou Shu Qiu. Zhou Shu Qiu must have recounted what happened earlier to her... Since even Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, didn't dare to simply make a move against me, it's likely that she won't recklessly make a move against me as well. As the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, she won't act recklessly until she thoroughly confirms my background. After all, if I'm truly

from a clan in the central area, and she acted against me, it'd bring calamity to the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect." Having seen the lightning-fast exchange between Nangong Xiu and Zhou Shu Qiu, it was not difficult for him to deduce the conversation between the duo.

At this moment, a voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind. "Brother Ling Tian, she... Is she Sister Bing whom you told me about?"

The person who had spoken was none other than Huan'er.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded faintly. As he looked at Murong Bing again, Huan'er followed the direction of his gaze as well. He noticed that Murong Bing had intentionally avoided Huan'er's gaze. He thought to himself resolutely, 'I have to think of a way to persuade her to come with me. The Alchemy Conference is a good opportunity. If I miss this chance, it'll be extremely difficult to find another chance.'

Meanwhile, Nangong Xiu led the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect to the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. She greeted He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. "Junior Uncle He Shan, it's been a long time since we've met." Since He Shan had a higher seniority than her, she had to address him as junior uncle.

"Little Xiu, we haven't seen each other since you've become the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, right?" He Shan looked at Nangong Xiu and sighed. He recalled the last time he had met her was years ago. At that time, she was just a young girl and had yet to become the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect. In just a blink of an eye, she had grown up. Not only did she become the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect, but her cultivation base had also surpassed his.

"Indeed, it has been a few years. Junior Uncle He Shan, have you been well these years?" Nangong Xiu asked with a faint smile. Her master and He Shan had a friendly relationship. Although their friendship was not deep, she still had to give him his due respect since he was her master's friend. It should be known that with her current status and cultivation base, even if she did not take the initiative to greet He Shan, he would still have to greet her. After all, this world was one where strength was the most important.

"Well, it's the same as always," He Shan replied, not daring to put on any air. He knew Nangong Xiu was already being considerate by taking the initiative to greet him and address him as junior uncle. Although he was friendly with her master, they were just mere acquaintances after all. Even if Nangong Xiu was not considerate or respectful, there was nothing he could say or do.

At this moment, Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, called out, "Junior Aunt Nangong!" Similar to Zhou Shu Qiu, she addressed Nangong Xiu as junior aunt.

Upon hearing this, Nangong Xiu faintly nodded at He Shan before she turned her attention to Jian Qiu Luo. She said with a faint smile, "Qiu Luo, it's been thirty years since we last saw each other. It was during the previous Alchemy Conference, right?"

"Indeed. Thirty years passed in just a blink of an eye, but Junior Aunt Nangong's appearance didn't change in the slightest," Jian Qiu Luo said with a smile.

The two made some small talk for a little while.

Then, Nangong Xiu's eyes eventually shifted to Duan Ling Tian. She asked with an indifferent smile on her face, "This gentleman, you're the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, right?"

Duan Ling Tian smirked faintly, radiating a cold air. He bluntly said, "Sect Leader Nangong, you should know that very well. After all, didn't you send a powerhouse to kill me?"

Nangong Xiu, naturally, did not expect Duan Ling Tian to lay everything out in the open. For a moment, she was at a loss for words.

On the other hand, Murong Bing's expression changed drastically as she hastily sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Why are you mentioning this matter? Are you seeking death?" Her tone was laced with anxiety, and it was obvious she was worried about him.

"She knows who I am. If it weren't for your best friend, she would've made a move earlier," Duan Ling Tian replied. Then, a brilliant smile bloomed on his face as he asked, "Are you worried about me?" Naturally, their conversation was carried out through Voice Transmission.

"O-of... Of course not!" Murong Bing stammered. Her beautiful face that was partially hidden under the veil flushed red. Then, she quickly averted her eyes from Duan Ling Tian before she looked at Zhou Shu Qiu and spoke to Zhou Shu Qiu through Voice Transmission.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's words to Nangong Xiu caused a commotion among the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

"Sent someone to kill him?"

"Sect Leader Nangong actually dared to send someone to take Master Duan's life?"

"Is... this true? With Master Duan's background, she still dares to go after him? Is she not afraid that the Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky would annihilate the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect?"

None of them had expected there was such a huge grudge between Duan Ling Tian and the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. He looked at Nangong Xiu coldly and said, "If it weren't for Murong Bing's sake, I wouldn't have stopped my clansmen from killing that Celestial Duke from your sect. You should know that to stop my clansmen from killing that old woman, I had to waste a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman!" His eyes were brimming with confidence, and not a hint of fear could be seen in them at all.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Nangong Xiu's expression changed dramatically. When Zhou Shu Qiu had told her about his background earlier, it had also crossed her mind that if Duan Ling Tian was truly from a powerful clan in the central area, he must have strong powerhouses secretly guarding him. She had been confused about why he had escaped at that time. After all, the powerhouses guarding him would definitely step forward to protect him if he was being attacked. Now that she heard Duan Ling Tian's words, her questions were answered. 'Although I still don't completely believe him, what he said makes sense. Moreover, if he has an ordinary background, it would be difficult for him to obtain a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman.'

Then, Nangong Xiu said, "If that's the case, I thank you for showing mercy to my subordinate." At the same time, she began to study Duan Ling Tian before she nodded inwardly. "Indeed. He's a peerless talent. He's not even 100 years old, but he's already become a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill and has already become a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. Even if his background isn't extraordinary, he can still be considered as a good match for Bing'er."

Although no one knew Nangong Xiu was Murong Bing's biological aunt, the latter being the daughter of Nangong Xiu's twin sister, she had always treated Murong Bing like her niece. If there were no way to kill Duan Ling Tian, it would not be bad if her niece could live a happy life with this man.

"If you want to thank someone, then, you should thank her," Duan Ling Tian said. He could clearly see the killing intent in Nangong Xiu's eyes had disappeared and was replaced by a hint of tenderness.

At this time, Murong Bing finally learned about what happened from her best friend, Zhou Shu Qiu. She still did not dare to meet Duan Ling Tian's gaze as she asked through Voice Transmission, "You... are you really from a powerful clan in the central area?" She clearly remembered when she first met this purple-clad young man, his strength was rather pathetic. However, in just three years, he had successfully become a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. Moreover, he was also a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill. He had achieved all these feats even before reaching the age of 100. A person like him had to be rare like a dragon horn or a qilin's feather even in the Southern Heaven Territory. How could she not be shocked?

Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed briefly as he asked in return, "If I am, are you willing to come with me?"

"I...I...I'll have to ask my master..." Murong Bing replied as she lowered her head.

In the beginning, when they met, Murong Bing was standing high up while Duan Ling Tian was at the bottom. Currently, he had climbed high enough that he was, at least, standing on equal ground with her if not higher. After all, even if his cultivation base was not as high as hers yet, he was also a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill.

"Your master?" Duan Ling Tian cocked an eyebrow when he heard Murong Bing's reply. He asked in a grim tone, "What if she disagrees and wants you to atone for your supposed sin with your life?"

"Then I'll atone with my life!" Murong Bing replied, filled with conviction. It was as though she did not place much value in her life.

Chapter 2864: The Alliance of Celestial Masters Arrives

"You're so... stubborn!" Duan Ling Tian felt helpless when he heard Murong Bing's reply. He did not answer her question of whether he was from a powerful clan in the central area. He did not want to lie to her, but he had a feeling if she learned of the truth, she would not have any hope of them being able to be together. Although she treated him coldly, it was not difficult for him to see that she was truly concerned about him. Previously, he had learned from Zhou Shu Qiu that Murong Bing cared about him, but at this moment, he could finally see it with his own eyes. He was certain Murong Bing was not completely unmoved by him.

This woman was not completely unmoved by him.

At this moment, a familiar voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Pretty boy!" He instinctively turned to look at the green-clad figure standing next to Murong Bing.

The person who had called out Duan Ling Tian was none other than Lyu Luo, a disciple of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and Murong Bing's junior sister.

"If you're a man, take responsibility and bring Third Senior Sister away from the Six Southeastern Regions back to your clan. I'm afraid the matter of her losing her virginity wouldn't be hidden from our master for long," Lyu Luo said in a grave tone, "With our master's temperament, if she finds out Third Senior Sister no longer has the chance of becoming the sect leader, she would definitely not hesitate to kill Third Senior Sister! A long time ago, I had a senior sister who experienced this. My master didn't hesitate to kill her." At the end of her sentence, her voice trembled slightly. It was clear she was truly worried for Murong Bing. After all, she had grown up with Murong Bing. She had spent more time with Murong Bing than her master. She treated Murong Bing as her biological sister, it was only natural that she did not want any harm to come to Murong Bing.

Then, Lyu Luo added in a compromising tone, "If you're willing to bring her away, not only will I stop calling you pretty boy, I'll even address you as brother-in-law!"

Upon hearing Lyu Luo's words, Duan Ling Tian discovered she must have found out about the matter between him and Murong Bing. He was certain she must have only found out about it after her visit to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's temporary residence in Alchemy City. "If your Third Senior Sister knows how much you care about her, I'm sure she'll be very happy." Although Lyu Luo's words were rather childish, Duan Ling Tian could feel the sincerity of her words. Lyu Luo truly wished for the best for Murong Bing. He said, "I just asked her to come with me, but she's unwilling... She said that she has to ask for her master's permission. If her master is unwilling and wants her life, she's willing to die!"

Lyu Luo fell silent when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. She shifted her gaze to Murong Bing and looked at Murong Bing with a helpless expression not dissimilar to the one Duan Ling Tian wore on his face. Indeed, this was her senior sister's character.

At this moment, Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, called out to Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. Then, both people from the two sects walked away, leaving the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect behind.

After the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect left, He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Master Duan, is it true that Nangong Xiu sent someone to kill you?"

Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing turned to look at Duan Ling Tian as well, curious about what had happened. What was the reason the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect sent someone to kill Duan Ling Tian?

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded faintly.

"Why?" He Shan asked again.

“Because if I’m alive, Murong Bing won’t be able to become the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect...” Duan Ling Tian said as he stared at the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect who were standing at the other side of the square.

“If you’re alive, Murong Bing can’t be the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect? Why?” He Shan was baffled. Although he had been in seclusion all this time, he was not unaware of the matters of top forces in the Six Southeastern Regions. He knew Murong Bing was selected as a candidate for the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. He heard that more than 90% of the high-ranking officials in the sect wanted her to be the next sect leader. Barring any accidents, she was certain to become the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. How could he not be confused by Duan Ling Tian’s words?

Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently, “Because... Murong Bing is my woman, and apparently, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect isn’t allowed to have a relationship with a man.”

Upon hearing these words, the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect grew even more confused. They furtively looked at Huan’er who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian and discovered that she was extremely calm. It was as though she did not care that Duan Ling Tian had proclaimed that Murong Bing was his woman.

He Shan, naturally, did not expect that Duan Ling Tian and Murong Bing already slept together. He assumed both of them had feelings for each other, and as long as Duan Ling Tian was alive, Murong Bing was unwilling to become the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. He said, “So, Nangong Xiu thinks that after she kills you, Murong Bing would have no choice but to obediently accept the position of the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

Faced with He Shan’s question, Duan Ling Tian remained silent. What could he say? Could he say that he and Murong Bing had slept together and regardless, if he were dead or alive, Murong Bing could never become the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect since she had lost her virginity?

He Shan took Duan Ling Tian’s answer as a tacit confirmation.

At this moment, Situ Ming who was looking at the stone platform in the center of Alchemy Square suddenly exclaimed, “The Alliance of Celestial Masters is here!”

Duan Ling Tian and the others instinctively turned to look at the stone platform in the center of the square.

A middle-aged man and an old man descended on the platform first.

The middle-aged man held a folded fan in his hand and looked like a scholar. His face was like a chiseled jade, it was clear that he must have been exceptionally handsome in his youth.

On the other hand, the old man who was dressed in a gray robe had turbid eyes, and his face was expressionless. His appearance was that of an ordinary old man.

Despite the old man's ordinary appearance, as soon as he appeared, many people swarmed to the platform and greeted him reverently.

"Master Ke!"

Among the people who swarmed over to greet the old man, most of them wore the Celestial Alchemist's uniform from the Alliance of Celestial Masters. Based on their uniforms, it could be seen there was no lack of prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions.

Duan Ling Tian was familiar with some of the people who swarmed over to greet the old man. Those people were the Celestial Alchemists from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

As Duan Ling Tian looked at the old man, He Shan said, "This gray-clad old man is Ke Xuan. He's a supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters. Although he's rather weak in the alliance, since the number of supreme Celestial Alchemists can be counted on one hand in the Six Southeastern Regions, he's highly revered here."

He Shan continued to explain, "The middle-aged man is a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke. His name is unknown, but Master Ke addresses him as Little He. Therefore, we only know his surname is He."

Soon after, a group of people descended on the stage, and He Shan began his introduction again.

The newcomers were another supreme Celestial Alchemist, a few prominent Celestial Alchemists, and a group of people who were clearly there to protect the Celestial Alchemists. It was worth noting that one of the Celestial Alchemists' guards looked identical to the Celestial Alchemist he was protecting. They were clearly twins. Most importantly, the guard was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke!

"Master Zhong!"

As soon as the twins appeared, several prominent Celestial Alchemists took the initiative to greet the twin who was a Celestial Alchemist.

"Lord Zhong Ji!"

Soon after, the people below the stone platform greeted the other twin as well. After all, he was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke! In the Six Southeastern Regions, Ten Directions Celestial Dukes were the most powerful existence!

"Zhong Shang, Zhong Ji..." Duan Ling Tian stared at the twins. He had heard about them from He Shan previously. Zhong Shang was the elder twin brother and the Celestial Alchemist while Zhong Ji, the younger twin brother, was the Ten Directions Celestial Duke.

Chapter 2865: The Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect Is Dead?

Among the party from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, there were four supreme Celestial Alchemists. Apart from that, there were three Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes and a Ten Directions Celestial Duke accompanying the Celestial Alchemists. They were all invited here by the top forces in the Six Southeastern Regions to preside over the Alchemy Conference.

The four seats on the stone platform in the center of the Alchemy Square were prepared for the supreme Celestial Alchemists from the Alliance of Celestial Masters.

At this moment, He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Master Duan, let's go over there and greet the Celestial Alchemists from the Alliance of Celestial Masters." Then, he walked toward the stone platform without waiting for the others.

Duan Ling Tian, Situ Ming, and the others did not hesitate and followed He Shan.

From the beginning to the end, Huan'er stayed by Duan Ling Tian's side. However, her eyes would stray, once in a while, to the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. To be precise, she would look at Murong Bing who wore a veil to conceal her face. A hint of envy could be seen in the depths of her eyes when she looked at Murong Bing. Duan Ling Tian had told her about his affairs with Murong Bing. Therefore, she was envious of Murong Bing whom Duan Ling Tian considered as his woman. After all, she could feel that he was deliberately avoiding her, and to a certain extent, only treated her sincerely as a younger sister. This was not something she wanted.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of Huan'er's current thoughts. He was unaware that she had gained more and more experience in the world and was no longer unaware of the matters between men and women. In a way, she was currently experiencing her first love and found it difficult to extricate herself from these feelings.

When Duan Ling Tian and the party from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect arrived at the stone platform, many of the others from the top forces of the Six Southeastern Regions, excluding a few top sects that had yet to arrive, were already gathered there, crowding around the four supreme Celestial Alchemists to greet them. The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect from the Cross Region, which was widely acknowledged as the strongest sect among the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions, were among those who had not arrived.

"Master Zhong!"

"Master Ke!"

"What a beauty!"

Huan'er who did not wear her veil and hat, naturally, attracted everyone's attention.

"She must be the rumored peerless beauty from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!"

If it were not for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, many impulsive young men would have tried to lay their hands on her.

Meanwhile, Lyu Luo, who was standing at the side with the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, said to Murong Bing, "Third Senior Sister, in my eyes, you're the most beautiful. She's not as beautiful as you, in my opinion."

Upon hearing Lyu Luo's words, Murong Bing smiled faintly and said, "Lyu Luo, when did you learn to lie? Lady Huan'er's beauty is unrivaled. I'm far from being comparable to her. I'm, at least, aware of this." Then, she glanced at Duan Ling Tian and thought to herself, 'With such a peerless beauty by his side, I'm

afraid it won't take long for him to forget about me, right?" She felt a pang of despair in her heart when she thought about this. Before she met him again, she had longed for him and worried about his safety. Now that she had met him, she realized that, unbeknownst to her, her feelings for him had grown deeper than she had expected.

At this moment, several people cried out one after another.

"The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect has arrived!"

"It's the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect!"

In just a blink of an eye, everyone shifted their attention to the group of newcomers who had arrived at the Alchemy Square.

A middle-aged man with a majestic air despite his medium build and ordinary appearance led the group of people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

When Duan Ling Tian saw the middle-aged man, he vaguely found the middle-aged man familiar. After a brief moment, he realized why he had found the middle-aged man familiar. 'He must be Bai Yu Xuan's father, Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect!'

Indeed, Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, bore some resemblance to the middle-aged man. Moreover, the middle-aged man was clearly the leader of the group from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Therefore, it was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to deduce that the middle-aged man was Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

He Shan had briefly spoken about Bai Wu Ji to Duan Ling Tian. 'The Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke. The sect has three Ten Directions Celestial Dukes and quite a few other Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes.'

He Shan's voice rang in a timely manner in Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Master Duan, he's Bai Yu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The azure-clad old man behind him is one of the four Great Protectors of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He's a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke as well."

Upon hearing He Shan's words, Duan Ling Tian shifted his eyes to the azure-clad old man standing behind Bai Wu Ji. He Shan had previously mentioned that there were three Supreme Elders in the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect who were Ten Directions Celestial Dukes and four Great Protectors who were Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes. The Great Protectors were known individually as the Azure Dragon Protector, the White Tiger Protector, the Vermilion Bird Protector, and the Black Tortoise Protector.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'This old man must be the Azure Dragon Protector...' When he saw the old man looking at him pointedly with his turbid eyes, he felt a chill running up his spine. His heart raced as he shuddered inwardly, acutely aware of the terrifying strength of a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Bai Wu Ji led the group of people over to the stone platform. As they neared the stone platform, eight people who were on the stone platform descended one after another to greet and welcome them. It should be noted that when the people from the Compassionate Celestial

Traveller Sect and the Blissful Sect had arrived near the stone platform earlier, these people did not leave the stage to greet them. Based on this, one could see that the status of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was far higher compared to the Compassionate Celestial Traveller Sect and the Blissful Sect.

As the eight people and the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect were about to exchange greetings, a voice laden with anxiety rang in the air. "Sect leader! Sect leader!"

Although the voice was not particularly loud, everyone clearly heard it due to the silence that had descended upon the arrival of the party from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

A few moments later, everyone saw a young man whose face and robes were stained with blood limping into the Alchemy Square.

When a silver-clad middle-aged man from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect saw the young man, his expression changed drastically as he cried out, "Little Sixth!" The young man was his direct disciples. He was rather talented and was ranked in the top three among the younger generation in the sect.

Meanwhile, a slight frown could be seen on Bai Wu Ji's face. "Hm?"

"Master!" Upon hearing the silver-clad middle-aged man's voice, the young man who was stained with blood immediately flew toward the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He did not seem to hear his master as he shot toward Bai Wu Ji.

Thud!

The young man fell to his knees immediately in front of Bai Wu Ji. An aggrieved expression could be seen on his face as his mouth opened and closed a few times, seemingly unable to find the right words to say.

"Little Sixth, what happened to you?" Bai Wu Ji asked with a frown.

"Little Sixth?" The silver-clad middle-aged man felt uneasy when he saw his direct disciple's actions. He knew his disciple very well. If it were not for something important, his disciple would not act in this manner.

Eventually, the young man said in a trembling voice, "S-sect... S-sect leader, Senior Brother Yu Xuan... he... he..."

"Xuan'er? What about him?" Bai Wu Ji's expression turned grim. He quickly took out Bai Yu Xuan's Soul Pearl. When he saw the Soul Pearl was intact, he sighed in relief. However, in just a blink of an eye, his expression changed again. He discovered the energy in his son's Soul Pearl seemed to have disappeared. This meant the Soul Pearl could no longer tell him if his son was dead or alive.

At this moment, the young man finally finished his words. "It's... I-it's the Old Ancestor from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect! He... He killed Senior Brother Yu Xuan!"

Chapter 2866: The Death of the Old Ancestor of Tai Yi Celestial Sect

The Soul Pearl stored one's energy and was able to show if one was dead or alive. However, the energy in the Soul Pearl would dissipate over time, and thus, losing its use. One would need to infuse the Soul Pearl with energy from time to time to keep it functioning.

Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, did some mental calculations and discovered his son was due to infuse his energy into the Soul Pearl half a month ago. His expression became extremely grim at this moment.

"Senior Brother Yu Xuan... He's dead! It's the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect! He killed Senior Brother Yu Xuan!" The young man's words resounded through the Alchemy Square that was quiet as a graveyard.

"Hm?" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback when he heard the young man's words. Then, he instinctively turned to look at He Shan, the Old Ancestor of Tai Yi Celestial Sect, who wore a shocked expression on his face.

The young man's words caused a commotion among the crowd in the Alchemy Square. It did not take long before everyone turned to look at He Shan. They looked at him as though he was a dead man walking as they fervently discussed among themselves.

"Senior Brother Yu Xuan? That's Bai Yu Xuan, right? The Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect? He Shan from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect killed him?"

"Is He Shan crazy? Bai Yu Xuan is the only son of the Sect Leader of Profound Heaven Celestial Sect!"

"Why did He Shan kill Bai Yu Xuan? Is it due to their conflict a month ago?"

"That's possible!"

"But, why did He Shan let this young man live after he killed Bai Yu Xuan? Isn't this just digging a hole for himself?"

"Look at how wretched the young man looks. It's obvious that he barely escaped with his life. Can't see you the wound on his chest? It's obvious it's meant to be a killing blow, but the wound is slightly to the side of his heart. That's probably why he survived..."

"You're right..."

Meanwhile, Bai Wu Ji glared at He Shan before he bellowed, "He Shan!"

Boom!

Bai Wu Ji's Celestial Origin Energy surged out without any warning. In just a blink of an eye, he disappeared from where he was standing, leaving only a pit and his afterimage in his wake. Cracks appeared on the ground and began to spread outward.

The people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect took to the air as the ground caved in due to Bai Wu Ji's force.

Boom!

Another explosion resonated in the air before Bai Wu Ji's afterimage even disappeared. The crowd saw Bai Wu Ji appearing in front of He Shan before he sent He Shan flying back.

Cracks similar to spider webs formed on the ground where He Shan stood as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The force was so powerful that half of He Shan's body was buried in the ground after he landed. He spat out a mouthful of blood, staining the ground a dazzling red. He struggled to catch his breath as he said with great difficulty, "S-sect... Sect Leader Bai, I... I didn't... kill your s-son..." He might have resigned to his fate if he had really killed Bai Yu Xuan, but the truth was he did not kill Bai Yu Xuan.

He Shan was about to speak again when the young man coldly said, "He Shan, I bet you didn't expect things to turn out this way, right? You missed when you tried to pierce my heart! You probably think no one would find out after you killed me and Senior Brother Yu Xuan, right?" His eyes flashed with hatred, and his body trembled violently as he pointed at He Shan. "Fortunately, I survived. Senior Brother Yu Xuan isn't as lucky and was killed by you!"

He Shan looked at the young man pointedly and asked in a grim tone, "Who are you? Why are you slandering me?"

"He Shan!" Bai Wu Ji cried out as his body flickered out of sight and appeared near He Shan again. "A month ago, your disciple had a conflict with my son... Indeed, my son was at fault at that time. I had ignored him even though he had asked for my help. Regarding that matter, I think I've shown enough respect to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. However, you dare to kill my son? I would be doing my son an injustice if I don't kill you today! An eye for an eye!" He looked at He Shan murderously as his Celestial Origin Energy violently surged out from his body.

"Sect Leader Bai, I've already said I didn't kill..." Before He Shan could finish explaining himself, Bai Wu Ji attacked him at lightning speed. He could only struggle to defend himself against Bai Wu Ji's attack.

"It's too fast!!"

Bai Wu Ji and He Shan's movements were so fast that some people, including Duan Ling Tian, were unable to clearly see them. Nevertheless, the force of their collision was so strong that it felt like there were 10,000 horses stampeding across the Alchemy Square.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The wind blew violently at the crowd, and a seemingly bottomless pit appeared on the ground where the two men exchanged blows. The pit was so big that half of the stone platform was destroyed. The eight chairs that were placed on the stone platform were blasted away and destroyed as well.

'Something's not right...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself skeptically when he recalled the genuine shock on He Shan's face as he denied killing Bai Yu Xuan. Naturally, he had no way of knowing if He Shan truly killed Bai Yu Xuan or not since he was not always with He Shan. However, based on He Shan's reactions, it seemed unlikely that He Shan had killed Bai Yu Xuan. If He Shan had truly killed Bai Yu Xuan, logically, He Shan would have killed that bloodstained young man as soon as he appeared for fear of

being exposed. After all, even if the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was infuriated that He Shan had killed that young man, it was unlikely that they would kill He Shan over the young man. After all, compared to the young man, He Shan's status as the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was higher. In this world where the strong were revered, this was not a surprising thing. In line with that, if He Shan had killed Bai Yu Xuan, Bai Wu Ji had more than enough reasons to kill He Shan. Moreover, as long as Bai Wu Ji left the rest of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect alone after killing He Shan, the hidden powerhouses secretly protecting the Tai Yi Celestial Sect might not even make a move since Bai Wu Ji's actions were justified.

Bai Wu Ji had probably lost his rationality after hearing that his son had been killed. If he had thought about it with a clear mind, he would realize that since his son's Soul Pearl was intact, there was a possibility that his son was alive. The Soul Pearl had only just lost its energy, after all. If he was not consumed by anger, it might cross his mind that the young man from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect could have lied as well. Alas, the only thought he had in his mind now was to kill He Shan to avenge his son!

Bang!

The battle continued for roughly ten more breaths before it abruptly came to an end.

"Bai Wu Ji, I didn't kill your son!" He Shan's voice that was laden with resentment rang thunderously before blood rained down on the Alchemy Square.

Bai Wu Ji finally reappeared in the midst of the blood fog as a Spatial Ring fell in the air.

Chapter 2867: Quasi Celestial Kings

"It's the Old Ancestor's Spatial Ring!"

"The Old Ancestor... is dead?!"

Duan Ling Tian, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing's expressions changed drastically when they saw the Spatial Ring that fell in the mist of blood.

'Old Ancestor...' Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian at this moment. He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had been killed by Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect! In roughly a dozen breaths, He Shan, an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, was killed by Bai Wu Ji who was a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke. However, he knew that the reason He Shan was killed in such a short time was due to Bai Wu Ji's sudden first attack that seriously injured He Shan. Regardless, there was no changing the fact that He Shan, an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, had died. He felt keenly aware of his insignificance when he recalled how an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke whom he looked up to was killed in just a dozen breaths.

Meanwhile, the crowd on the Alchemy Square, who had just regained their senses, inhaled sharply. All of them were shocked that He Shan was killed in such a short time. After all, He Shan was widely regarded as one of the top Eight Trigrams Celestial Dukes, if not the top, in the Six Southeastern Regions.

“He’s dead?”

“The Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, He Shan... He’s dead?”

“Good heavens! He Shan was one of the strongest Eight Trigrams Celestial Dukes but Sect Leader Bai killed him in just a dozen breaths?”

“This is the difference between an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke and a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke!”

“Wait, He Shan was definitely unprepared for Bai Wu Ji’s sudden attack so he lost most of his strength. Otherwise, I don’t think he would’ve died so quickly.”

“You’re right, I forgot about that. He Shan must have been caught off guard. After that sudden attack, He Shan could not have been in peak condition to fight.”

“If He Shan was in peak condition, Bai Wu Ji might not be able to kill him under fifty breaths!”

Regardless, there was nothing that could bring He Shan back to life now.

From the beginning until the end, none of the people from the top forces in the Six Southeastern Regions dared to intervene nor speak up, this included sects that were friendly with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. After all, in their opinion, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was at fault.

“He Shan was unlucky... The young man survived and exposed his deed of killing the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.”

“Perhaps, he didn’t expect his attack to miss the young man’s heart by a hairbreadth.”

“Well, although the person that the Old Ancestor of Tai Yi Celestial Sect killed had a low cultivation base, that person was the only son of the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The Tai Yi Celestial Sect is clearly at fault.”

“That’s right... It’s only normal for a father to avenge his son. In fact, this can be considered as a grudge between Bai Wu Ji and He Shan and has nothing to do with both sects...”

“Even if the hidden quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect find out about this matter, they have no grounds to avenge He Shan.”

“That’s right. So long as Bai Wu Ji doesn’t attack the Tai Yi Celestial Sect after killing He Shan, the quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect probably won’t make a move.”

Almost everyone from the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions felt that He Shan’s death was justified and should not affect the relations between the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect whom they mentioned were powerhouses who chose to stay in the Six Southeastern Regions instead of going to the central area of the South Heaven Territory. Since they did not head to the central area, their cultivation bases reverted to that of a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Even then, they were far stronger than ordinary Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the borderlands. Therefore, they were called quasi Celestial Kings in the borderlands.

At this moment, Bai Wu Ji looked at Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect before he loudly announced, "I'd like my fellow comrades to know that today's incident between me and He Shan has nothing to do with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. My actions are only to avenge my son." Although the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was weaker than the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, he had heard that the quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect had stepped forward in the past when one of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions tried to annihilate the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. For this reason, he was careful not to provoke the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in fear of incurring the wrath of the quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, who had a conflict with Duan Ling Tian earlier looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully as he said, "Rest assured, Sect Leader Bai, the Blissful Sect will vouch for you."

Soon after, the other sects that Duan Ling Tian was unfamiliar with spoke up one after another in support of Bai Wu Ji.

Meanwhile, although the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect from the Wastelands were inwardly happy about He Shan's death, they did not openly say they would vouch for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect to avoid offending the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. A bad relationship between the Three Major Sects of the Wasteland was unnecessary and unproductive since they would regularly meet in the Wasteland.

Likewise, the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect did not speak up due to their numerous conflicts with the Blissful Sect. Moreover, the master of Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, had been friends with He Shan. It would have been inappropriate for them to vouch for Bai Wu Ji.

"Thank you, everyone," Bai Wu Ji said as he cupped his fists together. Then, he raised his hand before a gust of wind appeared and brought the Spatial Ring to Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He said, "I only killed He Shan to avenge my son. There might be treasures in the ring that belong to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, and I have no interest in them."

"Sect Leader Bai is really magnanimous. He even returned He Shan's Spatial Ring to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect."

Bai Wu Ji's generosity won the hearts of the people. However, the sentiment was short-lived.

"The Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect must have returned the Spatial Ring because it contains the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Sect Guarding Celestial Weapon!"

"Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Sect Guarding Celestial Weapon? The King Grade Celestial Weapon?"

"Rumors have it the King Grade Celestial Weapons is left behind by one of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's quasi Celestial Kings when the Celestial Kings came out of seclusion to protect the sect from being annihilated."

"The sect that tried to annihilate the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and was subsequently annihilated by those quasi Celestial Kings at that time was even stronger than the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect... When they left the King Grade Celestial Weapon to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, they mentioned that unless the

Sect Leader or the strongest powerhouse in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect decides to give away the King Grade Celestial Weapon, those who try to forcibly take it away would be killed by them!”

“I heard about that as well. Therefore, not only the forces of the Six Southeastern Regions, but all the forces in the borderlands of the Southern Heaven Territory daren’t rob the Tai Yi Celestial Sect of their King Grade Celestial Weapon.”

“That’s right! No one would dare to take the King Grade Celestial Weapon unless they aren’t afraid of the quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. However, those who aren’t afraid of the quasi Celestial Kings are probably not interested in a King Grade Celestial Weapon.”

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by the conversations in his surroundings. He had heard about all these things from He Shan during their journey to Alchemy City. At that time, he had asked He Shan if the sect was capable of protecting the King Grade Celestial Weapon.

The King Grade Celestial Weapon in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would always be in the possession of the strongest powerhouse in the sect. Only the strongest powerhouse or the sect leader had the right to give the King Grade Celestial Weapon away. Although many years had passed, everyone still feared incurring the wrath of the quasi Celestial Kings from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect if they tried to forcibly take the King Grade Celestial Weapon away! They, naturally, did not dare to take the risk since it could cost them their lives.

Chapter 2868: The Chief Celestial Alchemist of Blissful Sect, Xiao Gang Yu!

The Spatial Ring of He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, hovered in the air in front of Duan Ling Tian and the members of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, but no one made a move to claim the ring. Eventually, Duan Ling Tian broke the silence first as he said, “Master Situ, please hold onto the Old Ancestor’s Spatial Ring... Hand it to the sect leader after we return to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s estate.”

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Situ Ming, with a heavy heart, stepped forward and took He Shan’s Spatial Ring before he put it away.

Although Duan Ling Tian was not particularly close to He Shan, as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, he could not help but feel angry when he saw He Shan being killed. Nevertheless, there was nothing he or the sect could do for now since their strength was limited and the situation was not in favor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

‘It seems like I’m right. There’s more than meets the eyes...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the injured young man from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The whistleblower was the cause of Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, flying into a violent rage, and subsequently, killing He Shan. He had been keeping an eye on the young man since he felt something was amiss. At this moment, he saw a flash of guilt on the young man’s face when the young man looked at the spot where Bai Wu Ji had killed He Shan. If He Shan had truly killed Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, what was there for the young man to feel guilty about? ‘It seems like Bai Yu Xuan’s death has nothing to do with the Old Ancestor. This young man must know the truth!’

Up until now, it did not cross Duan Ling Tian's mind that Bai Yu Xuan might be alive. After all, he was unaware that Bai Yu Xuan's Soul Pearl had lost its energy. He was only certain that He Shan had nothing to do with Bai Yu Xuan's death. Alas, he had no evidence so he knew no one would believe him even if he spoke up. Moreover, how could the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect believe an outsider over their sect's disciple?

'Old Ancestor, although we've only known each other for a short time, and you only protected me because of my value to the sect, I'll do my best to prove your innocence,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he gazed at the spot where He Shan was killed.

After two lifetimes, Duan Ling Tian had witnessed too many deaths, especially after he had ascended to this Devata Realm. For this reason, he had grown slightly numb to the deaths of his acquaintances. However, regardless of He Shan's motives, there was no doubt that He Shan had treated him well. Moreover, as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, he felt he had to do something for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He would wait until he was powerful enough before he investigated the matter and revealed the truth to prove He Shan's innocence.

He Shan's death had caused a huge commotion and huge destruction to the Alchemy Square, but it did not stop the Alchemy Conference from commencing as it should. In the Six Southeastern Regions, the death of an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke was insufficient to stop a prestigious event such as the Alchemy Conference from taking place.

It did not take long before the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the top sects began to compete and bet.

Since the stone platform was damaged during the battle, the members of the Alliance of Celestial Master had lost their seats. For this reason, they made their rounds among the prominent Celestial Alchemists to make sure there was no foul play.

Meanwhile, now that He Shan had died, Duan Ling Tian could sense the predatory and greedy gazes of some of the sectless cultivators on him. These sectless cultivators were among the strongest sectless cultivators in the Six Southeastern Regions. He knew these people coveted the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability that he had won from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Sect respectively. When He Shan was alive, these people, naturally, did not dare to have any covetous thoughts. Now that He Shan died, they had begun to show their true colors. However, he did not pay them any mind. He knew they would not dare to recklessly attack him even though He Shan had died. After all, as one of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was still a force to be reckoned with. Unless they were capable of killing the entire party from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, the sectless cultivators would not act! He thought to himself, 'If anything, we should be wary of the top sects from the Six Southeastern Regions. However, based on their actions at the moment, it seems like they won't dare to rob me. There's no need for me to use the Communication Celestial Talisman for now.'

Before they left the estate of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had given Duan Ling Tian a few Communication Celestial Talismans. These were not just any ordinary Communication Celestial Talismans, they were Communication Celestial Talismans inscribed by

Celestial Kings! These talismans were left as protection by powerhouses from the sect who had become Celestial Kings before they left the Six Southeastern Regions for the central area. With these Communication Celestial Talismans, one would be able to send a message in a matter of seconds. The sectless cultivators would not be bothered about the Communication Celestial Talismans. After all, it would be difficult to identify or locate them since they were sectless. They would only be worried about Shadow Void Escaping Talismans inscribed by Celestial Kings since the talismans would allow one to escape. If their target survived, it would be easy for the sectless cultivators to be identified through means such as the Floating Image Pearls. As one of the top sects in the Wasteland, it would be easy for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to hunt them down as long as they knew what the sectless cultivators looked like. The only way the sectless cultivators could escape the sect's grasp was to escape to the central area. However, these sectless cultivators who coveted Duan Ling Tian's Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability were mediocre at best, and these included the Celestial Dukes. It would be difficult for them to leave the borderlands for the central area. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian was not worried about them at all.

At this moment, a loud and energetic voice rang in the air. "Master Duan!"

Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned to look at the source of the voice. He saw a middle-aged man walking toward him. The middle-aged man wore the earth Celestial Master's uniform, similar to the one Duan Ling Tian was wearing. These were uniforms given by the Alliance of Celestial Masters to prominent Celestial Alchemists.

Duan Ling Tian was still thinking about where he had seen the middle-aged man before since he found the middle-aged man rather familiar when Situ Ming's voice rang in his ears. "It's Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect." Upon hearing Situ Ming's words, he recalled he had seen the middle-aged man standing behind Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, earlier.

"Why is he coming here?" Yang Chong's expression turned grim. He was certain that Xiao Gang Yu had come with ill intentions.

Situ Ming said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Master Duan, Xiao Gang Yu is highly skilled in alchemy, and he's able to refine the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, as well."

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, Xiao Gang Yu was only a few feet away from him. He asked lightly, "What's the matter?"

Before Xiao Gang Yu could reply, someone scoffed coldly and said, "The Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, Master Xiao, would like to compete with you, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!" Soon after, another figure walked toward Duan Ling Tian.

Chapter 2869: Show Me Your Sincerity!

The second man who had spoken up and was walking toward Duan Ling Tian was none other than Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect.

In just a blink of an eye, Ji Fan had walked next to Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, as he looked at Duan Ling Tian condescendingly. Since he was not completely certain if Duan Ling Tian came from a powerful clan in the central area, he and the people of the Blissful Sect did not dare to provoke Duan Ling Tian outright. However, it did not stop him from mocking or taunting Duan Ling Tian, thinking it would be fine as long as he did not take things too far.

“Oh?” Duan Ling Tian only glanced at Ji Fan briefly before he shifted his eyes to Xiao Gang Yu. “Is that so, Master Xiao? How would you like to bet?”

Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian’s disregard for him, Ji Fan’s expression darkened immediately. As the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, even the sect leaders of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions were respectful to him. How could he not be angered when Duan Ling Tian blatantly ignored him? Without waiting for Xiao Gang Yu’s reply, he said coldly, “Master Xiao will compete with you to see who has a higher success rate in refining the Overarching Heaven Pills!” Then, he scoffed before he continued to say contemptuously, “It’s fine if you refuse to compete. After all, your alchemy skills are only mediocre. It’s only natural that you can’t compare to our sect’s Chief Celestial Alchemist.”

“The success rate of refining Overarching Heaven Pills?” Duan Ling Tian looked at Ji Fan as though Ji Fan was a fool as he said, “I believe almost everyone in Alchemy City is aware of my success rate in refining Overarching Heaven Pills. About a month ago, I had successfully refined three Overarching Heaven Pills outside of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s shop. I’m sure everyone knows about it, right?” He could clearly see through Ji Fan’s hidden motives.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, Ji Fan’s expression soured. Even Xiao Gang Yu who was standing next to him looked slightly embarrassed. Indeed, they had approached Duan Ling Tian because they were aware of his success rate of refining Overarching Heaven Pills. They planned to take advantage of Duan Ling Tian with the information they had. They had expected Duan Ling Tian to be provoked into agreeing to a bet; who knew Duan Ling Tian would remain calm and even openly lay out the facts.

Ji Fan and Xiao Gang Yu were certain their plan was foiled when Duan Ling Tian looked at them with great interest and said, “Continue... What do you want to use as stakes?”

“Hm?” Ji Fan and Xiao Gang Yu looked at each other in disbelief. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian to agree to the bet since Duan Ling Tian was clearly aware of what was going on.

Xiao Gang Yu sent a Voice Transmission to Ji Fan. “Arhat, under such circumstances, it’s unlikely that he’ll really agree to compete with me. It’s likely that he’s just trying to find out what we want from him.”

Ji Fan had the same thought as well. There was no way Duan Ling Tian would agree to compete with Xiao Gang Yu to see who had a higher success rate in refining the Overarching Heaven Pill. Therefore, he smirked coldly and said, “What’s the point of asking if you dare not compete with Master Xiao?”

“Dare not compete?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback by Ji Fan’s words. He looked at Ji Fan intently before he said, “Who said so? If I dare not compete, why would I ask such a question?”

Ji Fan and Xiao Gang Yu were stunned when they heard Duan Ling Tian’s reply. Did this mean Duan Ling Tian agreed to bet with them?

Ji Fan asked, somewhat skeptical, "So you accept the challenge?"

"I don't see why I shouldn't," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Ji Fan and Xiao Gang Fan fell silent as they exchanged a glance again, confused at the sudden turn of events.

Xiao Gang Yu asked through Voice Transmission, "Arhat, Duan Ling Tian is well aware that we're privy to his success rate of refining Overarching Heaven Pills, and yet, he readily accepts the challenge. Do you think he might be hiding his skills?"

Ji Fan said skeptically, "Impossible. A month ago, he had to refine Overarching Heaven Pills to prove himself to the people from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. How could he have hidden his true abilities if he was trying to prove himself at that time? Unless he could predict today's challenge from a month ago, do you really think it's possible that he's hiding his skills?"

"You're right." Xiao Gang Yu nodded in response. He felt that Ji Fan's explanation made sense. After all, there was no way Duan Ling Tian could know they would challenge him today. However, he was not completely convinced; he could not help feeling that something was amiss. He asked doubtfully, "Then, why does he seem so confident in competing with me?"

"Master Xiao, he must be putting on a front to confuse us and make us think he's hiding his true abilities. Perhaps, he's hoping to frighten us into backing off. If we back down, not only would he not suffer any losses, but people would think you're inferior to him as well!" Ji Fan said as his eyes flashed.

"That must be it." After listening to Ji Fan's speculation, Xiao Gang Yu was convinced Duan Ling Tian was only putting up a front to make them back down.

After Ji Fan finished conversing with Xiao Gang Yu through Voice Transmission, Ji Fan looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, revealing his intention, "Very well... Since Master Duan is up for it, then, you'll compete with Master Xiao to see who has a higher success rate in refining Overarching Heaven Pills. I'll be blunt; we want the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability you won from the Sun Supporting Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect."

A month ago, Duan Ling Tian had won a double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability respectively from the Supporting Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. Ji Fan clearly coveted them.

"The double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability?" Duan Ling Tian feigned surprise and shook his head as he said, "You should know the Memory Celestial Talismans I have are sole copies of the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability. If I give them away, it'd be a complete loss for me since I've yet to master them or copy them into another Memory Celestial Talisman. For this reason, their values are even higher to me!"

"Indeed." Ji Fan nodded in agreement. "Therefore, the Blissful Sect will use two double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Methods and one double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability as stakes."

Upon hearing Ji Fan's words, Duan Ling Tian burst out laughing immediately.

"Why are you laughing?" Ji Fan asked apprehensively. It was clear he knew that the two double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Methods and one double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability from the Blissful Sect were not as valuable since they were just copies. Even if he had to give them to Duan Ling Tian, the sect would not suffer any losses. On the contrary, if Duan Ling Tian lost his double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability, Duan Ling Tian would suffer a big loss.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ji Fan and said scornfully, "If this is all the Blissful Sect has to offer, then, I'm not interested in competing with Master Xiao. If you truly want to make a bet with me, you'll have to show me your sincerity!"

As time passed, Duan Ling Tian and Ji Fan's conversation drew the crowd's attention. Many people began to gather around them, attracted by the commotion. After all, they were curious about Duan Ling Tian, the talented Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect who recently became famous in Alchemy City. He was not even 100 years old, but he was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill!

Chapter 2870: Li An Compromises

The incident outside the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop in Alchemy City that happened a month ago had spread in the city. Almost everyone present in the Alchemy Square was aware that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Chief Celestial Alchemist was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, even though he was not even 100 years old.

"Sincerity?" Xiao Gang Yu frowned slightly upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words.

Ji Fan asked, "Tell me, then... What kind of sincerity do you want the Blissful Sect to show?"

Meanwhile, the people who had gathered to watch the commotion began to discuss among themselves.

"The Blissful Sect wants to compete with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to see which of their Chief Celestial Alchemists have a higher success rate in refining Overarching Heaven Pills?"

"It seems like the Blissful Sect wants Master Duan to use the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he had won from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect as stakes, right?"

"It seems like it."

"However, Master Duan seems dissatisfied with the stakes from the Blissful Sect."

"The Blissful Sect is willing to use two double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Methods and one double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability as stakes, and they want Master Duan to use his double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability as stakes... Although it seems favorable to Master Duan, the truth is it's the other way around."

“You’re right. After all, even if the Blissful Sect loses the bet, they would only lose copies of the Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Ability. However, if Master Duan were to lose, he would completely lose his double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability.”

“Master Duan only obtained the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability a month ago. It’s unlikely that he has already mastered them or copied them into another Memory Celestial Talisman. If he loses to the Blissful Sect, it’s not like the Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect would give him new copies.”

Most of the onlookers were of the opinion that the stakes from the Blissful Sect were unfair toward Duan Ling Tian. One should not just judge an object’s worth based on its appearance, one had to consider its value to its owner as well.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes imperceptibly as he replied to Ji Fan, “My request is simple...”

The onlookers’ curiosity was, naturally, piqued by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

“A simple request?”

“I wonder what Master Duan wants?”

At this moment, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing looked at Duan Ling Tian and sent a message to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission. They looked slightly worried, uncertain if Duan Ling Tian was confident he could win the bet with the Blissful Sect. Duan Ling Tian did not reply to them through Voice Transmission. He only looked at them with eyes that were brimming with confidence. Upon seeing this, the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect felt at ease. Although they did not know Duan Ling Tian for long, they knew he was a prudent and mature young man. Since Duan Ling Tian was confident, there was no need for them to worry.

Ji Fan asked, “What do you want?”

Duan Ling Tian looked at him and said in a casual tone, “I’m afraid you’re not in the position to decide if the thing I want can be used as stakes. It’s better if you invite the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect over so he can make the decision.” After he finished speaking, he smirked at Ji Fan.

Ji Fan’s expression darkened upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. His face flushed red from anger. Those words were a humiliation to him in front of such a big crowd. He said through gritted teeth, “In any case, I’d like to hear your request.”

“I heard the Blissful Sect has a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method... If the sect is willing to use it as a stake, I’ll agree to compete with Master Xiao,” Duan Ling Tian said nonchalantly, completely ignoring Ji Fan’s darkened expression.

Suddenly, the crowd that was busy discussing among themselves fell silent. They shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian in unison before they broke out in a commotion again.

“He... He wants the Blissful Sect’s triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method? Isn’t he being greedy?”

“That’s right, a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method is worth, at least, five double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Methods! How can he expect to only use his double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability as stakes?”

“His request is absurd. However, it’s not a big deal even if the Blissful Sect agrees to it. After all, they’re competing to see who has a higher success rate in refining the Overarching Heaven Pills. We’re all aware that Master Duan’s success rate is rather low.”

“I think he’s only putting up a tough front to make the Blissful Sect back down. That way he’ll be able to avoid embarrassment and humiliation. Apart from that, he can also say Master Xiao is afraid of competing with him!”

The onlookers thought Duan Ling Tian was too greedy for demanding a triple-trait Celestial Method when he was only using a double trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability as stakes.

Ji Fan’s expression darkened even more when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s request.

Xiao Gang Yu furrowed his brows as well. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and grimly asked, “Master Duan, don’t you think you’re asking for too much?”

“Too much?” Duan Ling Tian shook his head before he continued to say, “Well, that may be the case. However, this is my request. Master Xiao, feel free to reject my request. It doesn’t matter to me if we compete or not. After all, I’m not a competitive person.” He feigned an understanding expression, causing Xiao Gang Yu’s expression to sour.

“Duan Ling Tian!” Ji Fan looked at Duan Ling Tian and coldly said, “Make another request. The Blissful Sect...”

Before Ji Fan could finish his words, Duan Ling Tian ruthlessly interjected, “If the Blissful Sect is afraid to bet with me, get lost... My time is precious. Stop wasting my time.” He looked at Ji Fan impatiently.

“Who says the Blissful Sect is afraid?” Ji Fan said indignantly.

“Then, invite the Old Ancestor of your sect here. He’s the only one here who’s qualified to decide if you can use your sect’s triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method as a stake, right?” Duan Ling Tian retorted.

“You...”

Ji Fan was about to speak again when a voice rang from among the onlookers. “Since Master Duan is willing to compete, the Blissful Sect will, naturally, follow suit. I’m also curious if Master Duan had deliberately hidden his skills.”

The onlookers parted, revealing a familiar figure that was walking toward Duan Ling Tian. The figure belonged to Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect. He was a powerful Nine Palaces Celestial Duke and was widely regarded as the strongest person below Ten Directions Celestial Dukes in the Six Southeastern Regions. He had led the people from the Blissful Sect to the Alchemy City in the Barren Land this time to participate in the Alchemy Conference.

Li An walked over with the remaining people from the Blissful Sect in tow.

“Old Ancestor,” Ji Fan greeted Li An. When he heard Li An’s words, he frowned slightly. “His Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability are not worthy of our triple-trait Celestial Method. Although he hasn’t mastered them yet, it’s still not worth it!” It was clear that he was rather anxious.

“Fan’er, do you really think he’ll win?” Li An asked Ji Fan through Voice Transmission.

“Old Ancestor, although I don’t think he’ll win, we shouldn’t let him take advantage of us by agreeing to his request,” Ji Fan replied through Voice Transmission.

Upon hearing Ji Fan’s words, Li An nodded imperceptibly before he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian, who seemed surprised, and said, “Master Duan, we’ll agree to your request if you up your stakes!”

“I won’t!” Duan Ling Tian refused without any hesitation. “If the Blissful Sect isn’t going to agree to my request, I have no intention of forcing it either...” He turned around and prepared to walk away as though he could no longer be bothered to continue the conversation.

At the moment when Duan Ling Tian turned around, Li An’s eagle eyes saw the hints of fear and guilt that flashed in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He said, “Who says the Blissful Sect is afraid to bet with you? Fine, we’ll agree to your request!”