

Chapter 2881: The Box's Content

Upon hearing the Chaos Divine Flame's words, Duan Ling Tian was reminded of the mysterious old and quaint box that he had obtained by trading a single-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. It was deemed as useless by many people, including the deceased He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He had insisted on trading for the box since he trusted the Chaos Divine Flame when it said the box's content would benefit him, and it was imperative for him to obtain it. The Chaos Divine Flame also said that the Profound Divine Metal and it could open the box for him. According to the Chaos Divine Flame, only Celestial Lords or those who were stronger would be able to detect the content of the box and open it. Anyone weaker than a Celestial Lord would not be able to see through the Formations that concealed the content of the box.

"Senior Chaos Divine Flame... Is Senior Profound Divine Metal awake?" Duan Ling Tian asked immediately after he stopped in his tracks.

As soon as he finished speaking, a weak voice that sounded as though it belonged to a middle-aged man said, "Young lad, I won't be able to stay conscious for long. Find a quiet and secluded spot immediately. If we open the box in public, it'll definitely attract trouble." It was the Profound Divine Metal.

"Alright!" Duan Ling Tian sensed the urgency in the Profound Divine Metal's voice so he did not hesitate and called out to Huan'er. Both of them quickly left and made their way to a secluded place in a corner of the Alchemy Square.

Almost a month had passed since Duan Ling Tian shot to fame in the Alchemy Conference. Therefore, people were paying him less attention than before. He could walk freely without attracting too many people's attention.

In just a short moment, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er found a deserted corner where a few giant boulders were lying around. The duo went behind one of the giant boulders and turned their backs to the Alchemy Square.

"Huan'er, alert me if someone is approaching," Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er, reminding her to keep a lookout. Although he did not know what the box held, he knew it had to be valuable since the Chaos Divine Flame had said so. Moreover, the Profound Divine Metal had also reminded him to be careful.

"Yes, Brother Ling Tian." Huan'er took Duan Ling Tian's words seriously and began to scan their surroundings.

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Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Lyu Luo, a disciple of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, had seen Huan'er and him hiding behind one of the giant boulders. She quickly said to Murong Bing, "Third Senior Sister... That wo... Duan Ling Tian is not a decent man. He just took that woman and hid behind the giant boulders. They must be up to no good."

Fortunately, Duan Ling Tian did not hear Lyu Luo's words. Otherwise, he would have been furious.

...

Behind the boulders.

Duan Ling Tian had taken the old and quaint box from his Spatial Ring so he said to the Profound Divine Metal and Chaos Divine Flame, "Seniors, the box is in my hand now."

Whoosh! Whoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, a grey and a golden streak of light that were intertwined shot out of his chest into the box, disappearing from sight in just a blink of an eye.

"Hm?"

It did not take long before the box began to vibrate violently. A grey and golden light shrouded the seal of the box. In just a matter of seconds, the lights grew brighter.

Crack!

A loud and crisp sound rang in the air suddenly. The tightly sealed box sprung open. The grey and golden light shone brilliantly in the box as well and took a while before they finally dimmed, revealing the box's content.

At this moment, the Chaos Divine Flame spoke again. "Young lad, the Profound Divine Metal and I are about to fall into a deep slumber again... We've inspected the object in the box. It's a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. You can use the Royal Grade Celestial Weapon up to three times. Every time you use it, you'll have strength comparable to an ordinary Celestial Lord... Your soul and Celestial Origin Energy will be at the level of a Celestial Lord until its effect wears off. You should use this Royal Grade Celestial Weapon..." Before the Chaos Divine Flame could further explain, it suddenly fell silent.

"A consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon?"

An intricate hairpin lay in the box. The hairpin had a three-petal flower that was an eye-catching blood-red. It shimmered in the box. Its blood-red color looked fearsome.

"The Chaos Divine Flame said it's a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon?" Duan Ling Tian's expression was solemn as he studied the hairpin in the box. He was no longer the same clueless young man he had been when he had first ascended to the Devata Realm. He had gained a level of understanding of the Celestial Weapons in this Devata Realm. Consumable Celestial Weapons were only of the royal grade or the emperor grade. Most of them could be used as little as one time up to a maximum of five times.

"I can use this Royal Grade Celestial Weapon thrice. It seems like each flower petal will give me strength comparable to an ordinary Celestial Lord until its effect wears off and the petal wilts!" Duan Ling Tian inhaled sharply, stunned by this discovery. When he regained his senses, he surveyed his surroundings intently before he furtively put the hairpin away, afraid of being seen.

A Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, consumable or not, was more than enough to cause an uproar in the Alchemy Square. Moreover, for someone with Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base, a consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon was much more beneficial to him compared to an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon. Due to his cultivation base, he would not be able to unleash an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon's full potential. He was only a Profound Stage Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial, after all. On the other hand, the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon would directly increase his strength to that of an ordinary Celestial Lord. In other words, whenever he used the Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, he was no different from an ordinary Celestial Lord. Even if the weapon only granted him strength comparable to a One Basic Celestial Lord without any powerful Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities, his Celestial Origin Energy would be powerful enough for him to conquer the Six Southern Regions and the entire borderlands of the Southern Heaven Territory!

'The Chaos Divine Flame has no reason to lie to me. It should be true that I'll gain the strength of an ordinary Celestial Lord when I use this consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon even if the effect only lasts a short time! Moreover, according to the Chaos Divine Flames, there are no side effects to using it at all,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes shone. He could vividly imagine possessing the strength of an ordinary Celestial Lord after using the weapon. This was too good to be true!

The Royal Grade Celestial Weapon was a life-saving tool, and it was extremely precious since it could only be used thrice. Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian definitely would not use it unless it was absolutely necessary and he was in a dire situation. 'There's no need to use this Royal Grade Celestial Weapon unless it's a life-or-death situation.'

Chapter 2882: Duan Ling Tian's Confidence

"Huan'er, let's go." Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath to suppress the excitement brewing in him before he called out to Huan'er. Soon after, both of them returned to the center of the Alchemy Square that was bustling with people.

"Brother Ling Tian, did you manage to open the box?" Huan'er asked curiously.

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission as he nodded slightly, "Huan'er, It's imperative that no one finds out about the box's content. That's why I had to find a place to hide before opening it."

Huan'er nodded obediently even though she did not fully understand Duan Ling Tian's words. She asked through Voice Transmission, "Brother Ling Tian, I saw something in the box when you opened it. I thought it was empty..."

When Duan Ling Tian first received the box from the old man, Huan'er had probed the box with her Divine Consciousness. Just like everyone else, she discovered it was empty. Although she thought the box was worthless as well, she remained silent when he insisted on obtaining the box. In her opinion, even if it was a worthless box, it was worth the trade as long as it made Duan Ling Tian happy. It was only natural that she was shocked when she discovered the box was not empty.

"Oh, you saw it?" Duan Ling Tian did not deny it and proceeded to tell Huan'er everything the Chaos Divine Flame had said to him.

“A consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon that can be used thrice and will grant you the strength of an ordinary Celestial Lord? Brother Ling Tian, this means you’re given three life-saving talismans!” Huan’er’s eyes lit up as she spoke.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded with a smile. “This trip to the Alchemy City in the Barren Land has been fruitful... On top of this consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, I also obtained a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability!” Previously, Duan Ling Tian had obtained two Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons, the Mystical Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring and the Mystical Yin Nine Water Chestnut Ring. Alas, they did not belong to him.

“Brother Ling Tian, does this mean we can return to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect now?” Huan’er asked.

“No... Although it’s safe for us to travel on our own now that I have the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, we still need to wait for the others,” Duan Ling Tian replied. Initially, he had toyed with the idea of leaving for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect first. However, after giving it some thought, he dismissed the idea. He was not afraid of the cultivators from the top sects or the sectless cultivators, but he was worried about the vicious bandits he might meet during his journey back. Previously, he had He Shan’s protection. Unfortunately, He Shan had passed away. As a precaution, he had decided to tag along with the party from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect when they returned to the Wasteland. He did not think any sect would reject his request since most sects were clamoring to do him a favor. The Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect would certainly be more than happy to do him a favor now that they had seen his alchemy skills. Moreover, they were under the impression that he came from a powerful clan in the central area. He decided to speak to the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect after the Alchemy Conference ended.

‘For now, I’ll just have to wait until the Alchemy Conference ends...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he walked around the lively Alchemy Square.

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Over the past few days, Duan Ling Tian had approached Murong Bing and tried to persuade her to leave with him. Alas, she remained stubborn and resolute, leaving Duan Ling Tian helpless.

‘Looks like I’ll have to visit her master at the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and warn her not to harm Murong Bing!’ Duan Ling Tian was now confident he could protect Murong Bing since he had obtained the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon. ‘With the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon, I’ll be able to annihilate the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect if I so wish... I’m sure her master won’t dare to harm her if I warn her!’

Despite his thoughts and confidence, Duan Ling Tian was still worried about Murong Bing’s safety. What if her master killed her before he could save her? Therefore, he decided to speak to Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

“Sect Leader Nangong,” Duan Ling Tian greeted Nangong Xiu with a smile. Although there was enmity between him and Nangong Xiu because she had sent someone to kill him in the past, he was still grateful that she did not reveal Murong Bing and his affair to her master.

“Master Duan,” Nangong Xiu replied, “What brings you here?” Her hostility toward Duan Ling Tian seemed to have vanished after witnessing Duan Ling Tian’s talents in alchemy and discovering he might be from a powerful clan in the central area. As someone who had lived a long time, she had developed a discerning eye after meeting so many people in her lifetime. Although her interactions with Duan Ling Tian were brief, she could tell that Duan Ling Tian was a man of integrity. He was responsible and worthy of Murong Bing. She was not sure if Duan Ling Tian truly came from a powerful clan in the central area, but she did not place much importance on it. After all, with his talent in alchemy, so long as he was willing to join the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, she would help him and Murong Bing get married. After all, she believed their marriage would benefit the sect.

Duan Ling Tian did not beat around the bush and said, “Sect Leader Nangong, I believe you’ve learned about what happened between your beloved disciple, Murong Bing, and I. I’m truly grateful that you’ve been keeping her safe all this while. However, I’m afraid this matter can’t be hidden from her master for long. Therefore, I’d like to ask for a favor from you. Can you please stop Murong Bing’s master from harming her if her master finds out about our affair? If the Ten Directions Celestial Duke from your sect intervenes, please tell them my clansmen are very capable, and I will never let them go if Murong Bing is harmed! I’d also like to ask you to send someone to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to inform me of this if it should happen.” His tone was cold when he spoke.

Nangong Xiu gasped inwardly when she heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. A hint of fear could be seen in the depths of her eyes when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. She was even more certain of Duan Ling Tian’s background after listening to his words. Otherwise, why would he be so confident if he was not from a powerful clan in the central area? In the end, she sighed in relief and nodded as she said, “I’ll bear your words in mind, Master Duan. I’ll dissuade them and stop them from harming Bing’er...”

Duan Ling Tian was right. Nangong Xiu was capable of protecting Murong Bing from her master. However, Nangong Xiu would be helpless if the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect’s Ten Directions Celestial Duke intervened. Now that she had seen how determined Duan Ling Tian was to protect her niece, she was, naturally, relieved.

One could see how determined Duan Ling Tian was to protect Murong Bing based on how willing he was to use the precious consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon.

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After a few days, the Alchemy Conference was finally coming to an end.

On the final day of the Alchemy Conference, according to the traditions, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemists from the Alliance of Celestial Masters would announce the few Celestial Alchemists who had performed outstandingly during the Alchemy Conference.

Since Duan Ling Tian’s extraordinary performance had outshone everyone in the Alchemy Conference, it was not a surprise that his fame had even surpassed Sun Chao, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blazing Sun Supporting Sect, who was selected as the best prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions during the last Alchemy Conference!

“As we all know, thirty years ago, Master Sun Chao made his mark in the Alchemy Conference of the Six Southeastern Regions and is widely regarded as the top prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southern Regions! This time we have the dark horse who’s remarkably talented; Master Duan from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in the Wasteland!”

Chapter 2883: Bai Wu Xuan Faked His Death

“Master Duan Ling Tian managed to heat a prominent Celestial Cauldron with a prominent Celestial Fire in half an hour...”

“Master Duan Ling Tian successfully refined thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills...”

“Master Duan Ling Tian...”

“Most importantly, Master Duan Ling Tian is not even 100 years old!”

The announcer was Zhong Shang, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters. He was also the witness for Duan Ling Tian’s bets with the Blissful Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

After Zhong Shang’s announcement, the crowd turned to look at a purple-clad young man. He had sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes. He was tall and handsome with an extraordinary bearing. He remained poised even though everyone’s attention was on him. It was as though he would remain unfazed even if Mount Tai were to collapse before him. He seemed unfettered like a martial elite with no worldly desires.

“Duan Ling Tian...” Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, looked at Duan Ling Tian with a gaze as sharp as daggers. It was clear he wished to kill Duan Ling Tian. Alas, he could not act recklessly before he ascertained Duan Ling Tian’s true identity.

Meanwhile, Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, glared at Duan Ling Tian. ‘He’s not even 100 years old, how did he become an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial and a prominent Celestial Alchemist at the same time? Moreover, he’s capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pills, and his alchemy skills are comparable to a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist!’ His eyes were brimming with jealousy. He had always regarded himself highly as though he was the son of heaven. Previously, he stood out among his peers and was in a league of his own. However, ever since Duan Ling Tian appeared, things had changed. He was nothing more than ordinary when compared to Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, due to his mistake and careless judgment, he had cost the Blissful Sect its triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method. For these reasons, similar to Li An, he wished he could kill Duan Ling Tian.

Ji Fan’s eyes that were filled with jealousy flashed with killing intent as he thought to himself, ‘For your sake, you’d better come from a powerful clan in the central area. If not, the day we find out otherwise will be the day you die!’

Duan Ling Tian felt as though he was being watched by a venomous serpent so he turned to have a look. ‘The Arhat of the Blissful Sect?’ Upon discovering it was Ji Fan, he only glanced at Ji Fan briefly before

looking away. He might have been slightly worried if it were Li An. He could not be bothered about Ji Fan at all.

'H-how dare he look down on me!' Ji Fan was infuriated. He could, naturally, tell Duan Ling Tian did not take him seriously. The killing intent intensified in his eyes as he clenched his teeth in anger.

Meanwhile, Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, who was also looking at Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'Xuan'er might not be as capable as Duan Ling Tian, but he definitely had the potential to improve the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect in the future if he were still alive.' Although he had lost the sect's triple-trait Divine Ability to Duan Ling Tian, he did not have any animosity toward Duan Ling Tian. In fact, he rather admired the young man.

'Duan Ling Tian must really come from a powerful clan in the central area... Otherwise, he wouldn't be so confident to say such words at that time.' Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, looked at Duan Ling Tian with a slight smile on her face. 'Bing'er will be in good hands. She'll be able to lead a happy life with Duan Ling Tian. Her deceased mother will be able to rest in peace now.'

Meanwhile, Murong Bing who was standing next to Nangong Xiu appeared to be in a dilemma. It did not matter to her if Duan Ling Tian was from a powerful clan in the central area or not, she wanted to obtain her master's permission to be with Duan Ling Tian. She had been orphaned since she was young, and in her heart, she had long regarded her master as her mother, even more so than Nangong Xiu who treated her like her child. In her opinion, if her master had not adopted her and brought her up, she would have died after her parents passed away. Therefore, she would oblige if her master wanted her to atone for her sin with her life.

Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, thought to herself, "Thank heavens Duan Ling Tian will leave the Wasteland soon... Otherwise, the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect will be suppressed by the Tai Yi Celestial Sect with his presence."

At the same time, a bashful expression could be seen on Zhou Shu Qiu's face when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was difficult not to notice the hints of affection flashing in the depths of her eyes. Even a woman with a high standard like her had fallen for Duan Ling Tian's remarkable talent and charm.

At this time, after Zhong Shang finished speaking, the remaining three supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemists from the Alliance of Celestial Masters took turns to give their speech on the ruined stone platform.

Soon after, the Alchemy Conference had officially come to an end.

After the Alchemy Conference ended, Duan Ling Tian brought Huan'er and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect with him as he approached the party from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. "Sect Leader Jian, since the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect has passed away, it'll be too slow for us to travel alone... Do you mind taking us with you back to the Wasteland?"

Jian Qiu Luo was stunned by Duan Ling Tian's sudden request so she hesitated for a moment. As Zhou Shu Qiu looked at her with an anticipatory gaze, she said, "Since Master Duan has personally requested this, I'm more than glad to do so. However, I'm doing this out of respect for you, not the Tai Yi Celestial Sect."

Duan Ling Tian nodded and replied, "I understand... I owe you a favor, Sect Leader Jian." He could not help but sigh inwardly. Jian Qiu Luo was, indeed, smart. Although she was not 100% certain about Duan Ling Tian's identity and background, his extraordinary alchemy skills alone were compelling enough for her to agree to his request.

"When do you intend to leave, Master Duan?" Jian Qiu Luo asked.

"I'll leave it for you to decide, Sect Leader Jian," Duan Ling Tian replied.

"We plan to leave after a few days... Why don't all of you come stay at the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence in Alchemy City? It'll make things more convenient when we depart later," Jian Qiu Luo said.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate and agreed immediately.

When Duan Ling Tian and the others left the Alchemy Square with the party from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, a few people looked at Duan Ling Tian greedily. However, none of them dared to act recklessly. Not only were they afraid of the people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and Tai Yi Celestial Sect, but they were even more afraid of his true identity. What if his clansmen were secretly protecting him in the dark?

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In a restaurant near the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence in Alchemy City.

A young man sat by the windows in a private room as he observed the group of people who had arrived in the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence. His expression was gloomy as he cursed, "Damn it! Duan Ling Tian and that woman are staying with the people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect! How am I supposed to abduct her?"

The young man was none other than Bai Yu Xuan, the seemingly-deceased Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He was clearly alive and well.

At this moment, Bai Yu Xuan looked at the old man standing next to him and solemnly asked, "Elder Tan... Are you confident in pulling this off?"

"Young Master, Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, is a Seven Stars Celestial Duke... Although I'm also a Seven Stars Celestial Duke, my strength is no match for hers since I've only broken through recently... I'm afraid she'll discover me as soon as I enter their residence." This old man next to Bai Yu Xuan was an elder of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He was one of the Three Heroes of Huang Jiang in charge of Bai Yu Xuan's safety. When Duan Ling Tian had met Bai Yu Xuan previously, he was absent because he was cultivating in seclusion since he was close to a breakthrough. Although he had broken through and successfully became a Seven Stars Celestial Duke, he could not help but smile bitterly when he heard Bai Yu Xuan wanted him to abduct Huan'er from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence in Alchemy City.

Bai Yu Xuan's expression soured. He was extremely displeased. "So... Am I supposed to just sit by and watch her slip through my fingers?"

Chapter 2884: Frightened Yet Thankful

“Young master, why don’t you... seek help from the sect leader?” Elder Tan tentatively suggested after he sensed the displeasure in Bai Yu Xuan’s tone.

“My father?” Bai Yu Xuan glared at the old man and scoffed. “If my father finds out that I faked my death, he would severely reprimand me... Do you still think it’s wise to ask him for help? It’d be good if he doesn’t discipline me after learning about what I’ve done. Ask him for help to get that woman? You must be kidding me.” After taking a deep breath, he muttered, “Just forget about it... I faked my death not entirely because I want that woman. The death of He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, has almost assuaged my anger and hatred. As for that woman, I’ll get her when the time’s right...”

At this moment, a voice rang from outside the private room. “Young master.”

Soon after, a young man entered after Bai Yu Xuan granted him entry to the room. The young man was none other than the person who accused He Shan of killing Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect had called him Xiao Liu.

“Why are you here, Xiao Liu? Didn’t I tell you not to come see me for the time being?” Bai Yu Xuan frowned immediately when he saw the young man. “If you’re not cautious, you might expose me. My father would be furious if he finds out I’m still alive. Moreover, most of the people from the top sects are still around. If they find out I’m alive as well, they might pressure my father into killing me to seek justice for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!” Bai Yu Xuan said with a grim expression.

“Young master, I know you’re trying to snatch Duan Ling Tian’s woman away. There’s something you need to know beforehand...” Xiao Liu said with a bitter smile.

“Why must you tell me now? Can’t it wait until we return to the sect?” Bai Yu Xuan asked impatiently with a frown on his face.

“Young master, I have to tell you this before you offend Duan Ling Tian...” Xiao Liu replied.

“Hm?” Bai Yu Xuan finally sensed something was amiss from Xiao Liu’s tone. “Why are you so afraid of me offending Duan Ling Tian? He’s just a prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, isn’t he?”

Bai Yu Xuan had been secretly staying in Alchemy City of the Barren Land since he faked his death. However, since he and Elder Tan did not step foot outside, they were both unaware of the incidents that happened during the Alchemy Conference. All they knew was that He Shan had been killed by Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

“Young master, during the Alchemy Conference, Duan Ling Tian...” Xiao Liu began to recount everything that had happened during the Alchemy Conference to Bai Yu Xuan.

“Duan Ling Tian had won a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method from the Blissful Sect? He also won our sect’s triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability by competing against Master He? How... How’s that

possible?! Master He's a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, and Duan Ling Tian's just a prominent Celestial Alchemist. How's it possible for him to best Master He? ... There's a possibility that Duan Ling Tian comes from a powerful clan in the central area?" Bai Yu Xuan's face turned pale. He was in disbelief and shock after hearing Xiao Liu's words. Previously, he had already suspected Duan Ling Tian's identity and background when he saw how skilled Duan Ling Tian was in alchemy. After all, it was normal for direct descendants from powerful clans to train outside the central area. It seemed like his suspicion was true. He was intimidated just by the thought of it. The consequences of kidnapping Duan Ling Tian's woman and offending Duan Ling Tian would be disastrous! Not only would his father be unable to save him, but even the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would suffer the consequences! Although there might be some quasi Celestial Kings protecting their sect in the dark, they were still no match for powerhouses from powerful clans in the central area. Moreover, based on how talented Duan Ling Tian was, it was highly likely that his clan was extraordinary. Who knew if Duan Ling Tian's clan had Celestial Kings and Celestial Lords?

'Thank goodness! Thank goodness Duan Ling Tian and the woman decided to stay in the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence. Otherwise, it'll be disastrous if Elder Tan makes a move. I'll definitely be implicated as well!' When Bai Yu Xuan regained his senses, a sense of immense relief washed over him. He was glad he could not make a move that he would regret due to Duan Ling Tian's decision to stay with the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

"Elder Tan!" Bai Wu Ji glared at the elder as he furiously asked, "When I ordered you to tail Duan Ling Tian earlier, didn't you hear about what happened during the Alchemy Conference? If you'd reported this back to me, I wouldn't even think about kidnapping Duan Ling Tian's woman! Do you know your mistake could've cost me my life?! If I die because of you, don't even think about getting away with it!" He was clearly venting the frustration and fear in his heart on the elder.

Similarly, Elder Tan was in shock as well after hearing Xiao Liu's words. After Bai Yu Xuan was done venting, he smiled wryly and said, "Young master, I was too caught up in following Duan Ling Tian so I didn't pay attention to the rumors. Thank goodness we didn't make a move on Duan Ling Tian because he's staying with the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. Otherwise, it'd be disastrous!" He wiped off the beads of cold sweat on his forehead. He felt as though he had barely escaped from the jaws of death.

Bai Yu Xuan sighed before he said, "Xiao Liu, I don't care what you do, just make sure my father and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect are the last to leave Alchemy City. I don't want to return on my own... The safest way is for me to return with the sect." He knew he would not be in a favorable situation if it was made known to the people from the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions that he was still alive. He knew he would have to wait for time to pass. As long as enough time passed, even if the truth came to light at that time, the matter would not be so serious. He had even planned for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect to compensate and given an explanation to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect so he could further secure his safety.

"Yes, young master." After receiving orders from Bai Yu Xuan, Xiao Liu left immediately.

After Xiao Liu left, Bai Yu Xuan slumped back into his seat and looked out the window in the direction of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence again. The fear swirling in his eyes was now replaced

with relief. "I didn't expect my suspicion to be right and that Duan Ling Tian really came from a powerful clan in the central area... Looks like I won't be able to get my hands on that woman." He was so terrified that it seemed like he had been shocked into being sensible. With Duan Ling Tian's formidable background, he knew Huan'er was strictly off-limits. Huan'er might be a peerless beauty, but he, naturally, cherished his life above everything else.

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Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Bai Yu Xuan had faked his death. Otherwise, he would have sought justice from Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and force him to kill his son. Alas, he was currently cultivating in a room with Huan'er, oblivious to what was going on in a restaurant nearby.

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Although Zhou Shu Qiu had long heard from Lyu Luo that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er shared a room, she was still shocked when she witnessed it for herself. "He... He's sharing a room with that woman?!"

Chapter 2885: Zhou Shu Qiu's True Feelings

Zhou Shu Qiu had long heard from Lyu Luo that Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er shared a room. However, she was still taken aback when she witnessed it for herself. She stood at the entrance of Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er's room, pondering on what she should do before she decided to silently walk away.

Meanwhile, the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming and Yang Chong, were passing by the courtyard and saw Zhou Shu Qiu leaving with a dejected expression on her face.

"The little princess of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect seems to have fallen for Master Duan..." Yang Chong said to Situ Ming as they watched Zhou Shu Qiu slowly disappear from their sight.

"It's no surprise," Situ Ming said, "Master Duan's not even 100 years old, and he's achieved such remarkable feats... Apart from that, he's from a powerful clan in the central area. Most women would fall for such an outstanding young man. I've long heard that this little princess has high standards when it comes to men... Only a perfect man would make her fall head over heels in love."

"Master Situ, you seem to understand the minds of women?" Yang Chong said, slightly taken aback.

"Of course. After all, I've had my fair share of relationships when I was a young lad," Situ Ming proudly said. He puffed out his chest and held his head up high as they returned to their courtyard.

"Fair share of relationships?" It took a while for realization to dawn on Yang Chong. 'Master Situ seems very straight-laced. I didn't expect him to be an expert in relationships.' His impression of Situ Ming had changed drastically at this moment.

...

A few days later, Duan Ling Tian and the people of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect gathered at the front courtyard of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's residence in Alchemy City, preparing to depart from the city.

"Brother Ling Tian, how long would it take you to completely master the Celestial Method and Divine Ability you obtained?" Huan'er sent Duan Ling Tian a Voice Transmission as they waited to depart.

"I'm not sure... I'd be able to master them faster if I put in more effort to comprehend them," Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission. He had been spending his time cultivating and comprehending the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he had won from the Blissful Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect respectively during the Alchemy Conference. His winning record was unprecedented in the history of the Six Southeastern Regions.

'The Eastern Purple Qi is mediocre but well-balanced... It shouldn't take me long to comprehend them since it bears similarities to the Divine Abilities that I'd comprehended. As for the Duke Grade Celestial Method, the Immobilization King Method... I'm afraid I'll need to spend more time on it. If it's a Celestial Method suitable for swords, it'll only require half the effort from me since I have the knowledge I gained from mastering the Sovereign Heart Sword. Alas, it's not related to the swords at all. Just as the moon waxes and wanes in cycles, things won't always go my way... I should be grateful and content for obtaining the Celestial Method and Divine Ability,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

During the past two days, Duan Ling Tian had been comprehending the Celestial Method, the Immobilization King Method, and the Divine Ability, the Eastern Purple Qi. He discovered that in the Devata Realm, as long as the Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities were of the same types, they would share a lot of similarities. For example, the Eastern Purple Qi was a mediocre and well-balanced Divine Ability with no distinctive characteristics, and it bore similarities to the Divine Abilities he had mastered in the past. Thus, it was easier for him to comprehend it.

'I should choose the same type of Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities if conditions permit. It'll help me to comprehend them faster.' Duan Ling Tian came to this conclusion after thinking about it. Previously, although he was aware of this, now that he was experiencing it, he could acutely feel the difference.

Soon enough, Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, and few others finally arrived.

"Master Duan." Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, and her disciples greeted Duan Ling Tian.

"Sect Leader Jian." Duan Ling Tian responded with a smile. Then, he looked at Zhou Shu Qiu and nodded slightly. After all, it would be rude if he did not acknowledge an old acquaintance. He saw her nodding back at him in response and thought about her drastic change in behavior over the past few days. She had been rather friendly, but she had suddenly become cold and indifferent. He was truly confused by her sudden change in behavior. He only thought to himself with a sigh, 'A woman's heart is like a needle at the bottom of the ocean!'

Jian Qiu Luo was quick to notice Zhou Shu Qiu's indifferent attitude toward Duan Ling Tian. She asked through Voice Transmission, "Junior sister, what's wrong? You like Master Duan, don't you?"

Zhou Shu Qiu's face flushed red as soon as she heard Jian Qiu Luo's words. She quickly retorted, "Senior Sister, you must be joking! That womanizer? I won't like him even if the entire male population is dead."

"What's wrong? Are you jealous of Miss Huan'er?" It was easy for Jian Qiu Luo to see through Zhou Shu Qiu's thoughts. She advised Zhou Shu Qiu, "Junior sister, in this world, strong and powerful men rarely settle down with just one woman. Master Duan is a good man, you should grab hold of it if an opportunity comes your way." Although she had no prior experience in relationships, as the saying went, 'One might not have seen it but one must have heard about it'. She had been in a sect where women made up the majority of it for so many years, it was only natural for her to know a thing or two about relationships.

"Senior sister, it's not what you think..." Zhou Shu Qiu wanted to explain herself but found herself unable to find the words for it.

At the same time, a voice suddenly rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind. "Master Duan, I assume you're aware that the little princess of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect is suddenly being cold to you?"

"Hm?" Duan Ling Tian looked around and discovered the Voice Transmission was sent by Situ Ming. "Master Situ, do you know why she's giving me the cold shoulders?" Although he was aware of her sudden change in attitude, he did not pay any attention to it. Since Situ Ming seemed to be aware of the reason, his curiosity was suddenly piqued.

"Master Duan, three days ago..." Situ Ming proceeded to recount how Zhou Shu Qiu had discovered Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er cultivating in the same room.

"What does it have to do with her sudden change of attitude?" Duan Ling Tian asked, puzzled.

"Master Duan, aren't you aware that she has feelings for you?" Situ Ming stared at Duan Ling Tian in disbelief.

"What?!" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback. He instinctively glanced at Zhou Shu Qiu before he turned back to look at Situ Ming and said, "She...she has feelings for me? Master Situ, there must be a misunderstanding."

"It's definitely not a misunderstanding!" Situ Ming shook his head and said, "Master Duan, it seems to me that the little princess of the Thousand Spider Celestial Sect is an old acquaintance of yours... If I'm not mistaken, her current attitude is totally different from when both of you were in the Wastelands, right?"

"It seems like it..." Duan Ling Tian realized that Situ Ming was right. He turned to look at her again and coincidentally caught her looking at him. She averted her eyes immediately as her face flushed red. He sighed inwardly upon seeing this, realizing Zhou Shu Qiu did, indeed, have feelings for him. He did not expect this at all since he had only treated her like Murong Bing's best friend. He had assumed her positive attitude toward him was due to Murong Bing as well.

'I should keep a distance from Miss Zhou...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He already had enough on his plate. His two wives, partner, parents, children, and friends were waiting for him to rescue them in the Divine Offering Land. In the next 900 years, he would need to increase his strength as fast as

possible so that when the spatial tunnel connecting the Divine Offering Land to Devata Realms opened again, he could go to the Divine Offering Land to rescue them all! Even if he did not have to rescue his loved ones, he would still avoid Zhou Shu Qiu, similar to how he used to avoid the women surrounding him in the mundane realm. He loved his wives very much and did not want to hurt them because of another woman. Murong Bing was an exception due to the accident. He had to be responsible for his action after all. Even with a peerless beauty like Huan'er, he had been consciously keeping a distance from her as well.

Chapter 2886: Return to the Wasteland

'This is bad, how can I avoid her forever?' Duan Ling Tian knew that it was impossible to sever all ties with Zhou Shu Qiu. However, he would have to exercise caution during their interactions. If there was an opportunity, he thought it would be best if he made it clear to her that there was no chance of them being together.

After half an hour, when the remaining people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect finally gathered, Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, said with a faint smile, "Master Duan, we're planning to leave now. Do you have any business left to attend to in Alchemy City? If you do, we can wait for you."

"No, we're ready to leave as well..." Duan Ling Tian replied as he shook his head.

"In that case... Let's leave Alchemy City and the Barren Land, and return to the Wasteland!"

Under Jian Qiu Luo's lead, the people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect along with Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect departed for the Wasteland.

The group attracted quite a fair bit of attention when they left due to Duan Ling Tian's presence. Many of them coveted the things in Duan Ling Tian's possession, but they, naturally, did not dare to act recklessly. Put aside the presence of the Thousand Spiders Sect and the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's support, they would still be afraid to act against him since he might be from a powerful clan in the central area. That alone was more terrifying than the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

...

Meanwhile, in a private room of a restaurant in Alchemy City.

An old man was reporting to a young man at this moment. "Young master, Duan Ling Tian and that woman have left with the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect."

This young man was none other than Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The old man was Elder Tan who usually accompanied him.

"Understood." Bai Yu Xuan nodded without any changes in his expression when he heard Elder Tan's report. Ever since he learned that Duan Ling Tian might come from a powerful clan in the central area, he no longer dared to have any thoughts about Huan'er. Although he could not forget about a peerless beauty like Huan'er, his life was, ultimately, still much more important. In this regard, he had his

priorities straight. At the very least, before confirming Duan Ling Tian's identity, he did not dare to have any covetous thoughts. He turned to Elder Tan and asked, "How many top sects from the Six Southeastern Regions are still in Alchemy City?"

"Now that the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect has left, there are seven sects, including our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, in the city," Elder Tan replied.

"Okay." Bai Yu Xuan faintly nodded and waved his hand dismissively. "Continue paying attention to the whereabouts of the six remaining sects. Once they leave, I'll return to my father and the others."

...

At this moment, Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, was still unaware that his son was alive. He wanted to leave Alchemy City as soon as possible since the city reminded him of how his only son was killed by He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

"Master He and the others said they want to stay longer in Alchemy City. However, over the past few days, they didn't go out at all. What are they doing?" Bai Wu Ji was rather confused.

Naturally, Bai Wu Ji was unaware that, at this moment, the entire party from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, except for him, knew that Bai Yu Xuan was still alive. They were stalling for time and had said they wanted to stay in the city for a little longer only so Bai Yu Xuan could return to them once the dust had settled.

Put the others aside, if it were before, He Pei Yuan, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, would not have agreed to this. However, due to the incident during the Alchemy Conference, he could not help but feel responsible for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect losing their triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability. On top of that, the sect leader refused to take his King Grade Celestial Weapon as a compensation. Apart from feeling guilty and ashamed, it had increased his sense of belonging to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Therefore, upon learning that Bai Yu Xuan was alive and had requested him to pacify Bai Wu Ji, he agreed without any hesitation.

...

When Duan Ling Tian and the others traveled to Alchemy City, they were brought by He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Since He Shan was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, his speed was rather fast. Their speed when they were returning to the Wasteland was, naturally, slower since Jian Qiu Luo was only a Seven Stars Celestial Duke.

When they finally arrived in the Wasteland, Jian Qiu Luo asked Duan Ling Tian, "Master Duan, do you really intend to leave for the central area soon?" Initially, she was glad to hear that he was returning to the central area soon since that would mean he was leaving the Tai Yi Celestial Sect as well. However, at this moment, she wished Duan Ling Tian would stay longer in the Wasteland or the Six Southeastern Regions. After all, she had done him a favor by bringing them back to the Wasteland so he owed her a favor. It would be easier for her to collect the favor if he stayed in the Wasteland. Moreover, she was still uncertain about what she would ask from Duan Ling Tian.

"I won't be leaving so soon." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. Indeed, he had planned to leave the Six Southeastern Regions when the Alchemy Conference concluded. However, that was only if Murong Bing

had left with him. Since she did not want to leave with him, he was in no hurry to leave the Six Southeastern Regions. He had already planned his next step. After returning to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, he would continue to comprehend the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability that he obtained. Then, after mastering them, he would try to raise his cultivation base before finally heading to the central area.

‘It’s better for me to stay for a little longer. After all, who knows when Brother Pei will show up?’ Duan Ling Tian had not forgotten the man with the surname Pei whom he had encountered quite a while ago. He was still in the possession of the man’s two Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons: the Mystical Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring and the Mystical Yin Nine Water Chestnut Ring.

Jian Qiu Luo inwardly sighed in relief when she heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. Then, she said, “The borderlands are quite good. It might be difficult for you to return once you leave. Therefore, if you have time, it’s best if you stay a little longer.” Then, she jokingly said, “Moreover, the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect would love for you to visit. You should visit our sect at least once before you leave. You won’t think our humble sect is too small for a great man like you, right?”

“Sect Leader Jian, you really know how to joke! Since you’ve spoken, I’ll definitely visit your sect,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile as he shook his head.

At this moment, an ancient voice rang in the air. “We’ve arrived!” It was an old woman from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. She was an elder with a high status in the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. Although her cultivation base was lower than Jian Qiu Luo’s, Jian Qiu Luo was still respectful to her.

At the same time, Situ Ming said, “Master Duan, it’s the sect leader and Elder Tie!”

Duan Ling Tian looked up and saw two figures at the border of the Wasteland and the Barren Land. He was rather familiar with these two figures.

The two individuals were none other than Bai Ping and Tie Tai He, the Sect Leader and the Supreme Elder of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect respectively.

Soon enough, the people from the two sides met up.

Bai Ping did not waste time as he looked at Jian Qiu Luo and said with a hint of gratitude, “Sect Leader Jian, many thanks for bringing them along... My Tai Yi Celestial Sect will not forget this favor.”

However, Jian Qiu Luo did not respond kindly to Bai Ping’s words. She said, “Sect Leader Bai, there’s no need for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to remember this favor. After all, I did Master Duan a favor, not the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.” Her attitude toward Bai Ping was no longer cordial like before. After all, He Shan, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s strongest powerhouse, was dead. With He Shan’s death, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was sure to decline. At this moment, out of the Three Major Sects of the Wasteland, only two sects had an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke. Therefore, her change in attitude was not completely unexpected.

After replying to Bai Ping, Jian Qiu Luo looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Master Duan, since Sect Leader Bai is here to receive you, we’ll part ways here... Keep in mind your promise to visit our Thousand Spiders Sect!” Then, she left with her sect members in tow.

Zhou Shu Qiu, who was next to Jian Qiu Luo, felt slightly reluctant to leave.

After Jian Qiu Luo left, a self-mocking smile could be seen on Bai Ping's face. "It seems like as soon as the Old Ancestor is gone, my Tai Yi Celestial Sect is no longer the same in the eyes of Sect Leader Jian."

Chapter 2887: Bai Wu Ji is Furious

Bai Ping and Situ Ming, the Sect Leader and the Supreme Elder of the Tai Yi Celestial respectively, had come to receive the party from the sect that had gone to participate in the Alchemy Conference because Situ Ming, the prominent Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had sent them a Communication Celestial Talisman. Through the talisman, Situ Ming had told them about the death of He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, during the Alchemy Conference and that they would be returning with the party from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

Upon receiving the Communication Celestial Talisman, Bai Ping brought Tie Tai He to the border to wait for Duan Ling Tian and the others' return. They waited at the border of the Wasteland and the Barren Land for three days before Duan Ling Tian and the others arrived.

Tie Tai He said, "This is only to be expected. After all, with the death of the Old Ancestor, our Tai Yi Celestial Sect no longer has an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke. This makes our sect weaker than the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. Therefore, the attitude of Sect Leader Jian is rather normal."

"Yes." Bai Ping nodded faintly. He, naturally, understood this. He had only said such words to relieve himself of the adverse feelings swirling in him. Then, he looked at Situ Ming and grimly asked, "Master Situ, in the talisman, you said that the Old Ancestor killed the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and thus, was killed by Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. However, you didn't go into details. Why would the Old Ancestor kill the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect? Moreover, why would he leave behind such a huge loose end if he really killed the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?!"

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had lived for a long time and had many experiences. If he were to kill someone, he definitely would not leave any clues behind that would point to him.

Situ Ming said, "According to the young man who accused the Old Ancestor, the Old Ancestor had thought he had successfully killed him. However, the young man's heart was located slightly to the side so the Old Ancestor's attack missed, and he survived."

"His heart is positioned slightly to the side?" Upon hearing Situ Ming's words, Bai Ping's expression turned blank for a moment before he sneered. "Master Situ, do you think the Old Ancestor would make such a rudimentary mistake? If he truly did kill the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect and his companion, do you think he wouldn't have confirmed if they were truly dead or alive with his Divine Consciousness?"

Situ Ming remained silent. In fact, he had also found the entire incident rather suspicious.

Bai Ping turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Master Duan, do you think the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was killed by the Old Ancestor?"

Duan Ling Tian had been standing at the side, listening to Bai Ping and Situ Ming's conversation. Upon hearing Bai Ping's question, he shook his head and said, "Sect leader, in my opinion, it's unlikely that the Old Ancestor killed the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. When the young man first arrived in the Alchemy Square and before he made his accusations, the Old Ancestor's expression showed that he didn't recognize the young man at all. The Old Ancestor likely had no knowledge about the death of the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Sect. There's a possibility that the death of the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was only a means to kill the Old Ancestor." Then, he paused for a moment before he continued saying with a sigh, "Regardless of my suspicion, in the absence of evidence, there was nothing I could do. Moreover, Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, is a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke. When he attacked the Old Ancestor, I couldn't stop him."

Bai Ping's eyes flashed murderously as he said in a cold voice that made one feel as though winter had arrived, "Master Duan, if you think the Old Ancestor didn't kill the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, then, it must be the case. The Tai Yi Celestial Sect will not take this lying down. We'll investigate the matter and seek justice for the Old Ancestor!"

The atmosphere turned somber and only dissipated until Bai Ping spoke again. He inhaled deeply, trying to suppress his anger. His furious expression was replaced with a faint smile as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Master Duan, I heard Master Situ said you gained a lot during the Alchemy Conference. However, he didn't say exactly what you gained."

"Yes, the gains are pretty good." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly before he told Bai Ping about the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he won from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect respectively. Then, he also told Bai Ping about the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he won from the Blissful Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

It was still within Bai Ping's expectation for Duan Ling Tian to best the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect. After all, even before He Shan and Duan Ling Tian left for Alchemy City, they were all certain Duan Ling Tian would be able to win some high-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. However, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian to win an offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability as well. This triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability were rare among Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, after all.

An expression of awe could be seen on Tie Tai He's face as he said, "The Blissful Sect's Immobilization King Method and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect's Eastern Purple Qi... This Celestial Method and Divine Ability are highly coveted in the Six Southeastern Regions and the borderlands! I didn't expect Master Duan to win both of them!" Then, he added with a sigh, "With this, to a certain extent, at least the Old Ancestor did not die in vain."

Bai Ping seemed to be stunned speechless by Duan Ling Tian's gains as well. The fury in his heart due to He Shan's death seemed to have been temporarily flung to the back of his mind at this moment.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Bai Ping and said, "Sect Leader, according to our prior agreement, I'll share the Celestial Method and Divine Abilities I won during the conference with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. After I've mastered them, I'll leave them for the sect before I leave."

"Master Duan, you.....are going to leave?" Bai Ping's expression changed drastically. Duan Ling Tian was going to leave? If Duan Ling Tian left, the sect would be receiving another blow.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly.

At this moment, Situ Ming who was standing at the side told Bai Ping about Duan Ling Tian's identity.

"The Crimson Sky's Duan Clan in the central area?" Bai Ping jolted when he found out Duan Ling Tian was from a powerful clan in the central area. With this, he seemed to accept Duan Ling Tian's impending departure. Since Duan Ling Tian was from the central area, it was inevitable that Duan Ling Tian would leave at some point. Moreover, he was also keenly aware that with Duan Ling Tian's alchemy skills and talent, even if Duan Ling Tian were not from the central area, Duan Ling Tian still would not stay with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

Soon after, under Bai Ping's lead, all of them returned to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's estate.

...

Alchemy City, the Barren Land.

After the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions finally left Alchemy City, Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, returned to his father, Bai Wu Ji.

"Father." Bai Yu Xuan kowtowed as soon as he appeared in front of Bai Wu Ji. He kept his forehead to the ground, too afraid of lifting his head.

"This... What's going on?" Bai Wu Ji's dull gaze turned into one of confusion. Over the past days, he had already come to terms with the fact that his son had been killed by He Shan. He was even thinking of having another son after returning to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect to ensure the continuity of his bloodline. How could he not be dumbfounded when he saw his son alive and well?

"Master He..." Bai Wu Ji looked at He Pei Yuan, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, with a bewildered expression on his face.

"Sect leader, I only recently found out the young master is alive." He Pei Yuan sighed as he looked at Bai Yu Xuan who was still kowtowing. "Young master, the sect leader is your father, after all. As the saying goes, 'Even a tiger wouldn't eat its cubs'. Why don't you tell your father everything?"

"Yes, Master He." Bai Yu Xuan trembled slightly before he disclosed how he and Xiao Liu had plotted against He Shan. Then, he concluded the story by saying, "Father, I've lived for so long but I've never felt so angry before. I... I really hated He Shan! When I recalled my Soul Pearl would be running out of energy at that time, I came up with the plan." He did not dare to lift his head and meet his father's gaze at all when he spoke.

“You faked your death and put the blame on He Shan so you could borrow my hands to kill him?” Upon hearing Bai Yu Xuan’s explanation, Bai Wu Ji’s body trembled from anger. He pointed at Bai Yu Xuan and angrily roared, “You should know once news of you being alive spreads out, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will surely make you pay for it with your life!”

Bai Yu Xuan replied, “F-father, I’ve already thought about this. We can just say that He Shan failed to kill me, similar to how he failed to kill Xiao Liu. We can just say I was grievously injured but survived due to luck.”

Bai Wu Ji sneered. “You think the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will believe such nonsense? He Shan was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke! You’re saying he failed to kill two people? It’s still somewhat believable if one survived, but you want me to tell the world that both are alive and kicking?”

Chapter 2888: Bai Yu Xuan Didn’t Die?

“Preposterous!” Bai Wuji roared as he glared at his son.

“Father.” Bai Yu Xuan mustered up his courage and lifted his head to meet his father’s gaze. “Even if the Tai Yi Celestial Sect doesn’t believe us, they don’t have any evidence. At most, our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would just have to compensate them. If they refuse the compensation, it’d only be their loss. The Tai Yi Celestial Sect won’t dare to wage a war on our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Put aside the fact that their only Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke is gone, even if he were alive, they still won’t have the courage to go against our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect! So long as our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect doesn’t completely annihilate the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, even the quasi Celestial King from their sect wouldn’t interfere in the matter. No matter how unresigned the Tai Yi Celestial Sect feels, they can only grit their teeth and endure it. After all, they have no evidence to prove He Shan didn’t try to kill me! I intentionally waited until the top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions had left Alchemy City before I returned so I could keep the news of me being alive a secret for a little longer. With time, they won’t care anymore. Moreover, all of them are concerned with their own regions, they won’t pay any attention to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect even if the Tai Yi Celestial Sect knocks on their doors and asks for help.” Based on his words, it was clear he had carefully considered the consequences.

Upon hearing Bai Yu Xuan’s words, Bai Wu Ji’s gaze turned complicated, and his anger was replaced with helplessness. “It seems like father has underestimated you. You’ve considered everything.” Although he felt his son was wrong, and he was also cheated by his son, it was just as He Pei Yuan had said, even a tiger would not eat its own cub. After all, how could he kill his son to compensate for the death of the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?

Bai Wu Ji sighed helplessly as he thought to himself, ‘My reputation is finally destroyed by my unfilial son...’ He had lived his life in an upright manner. Although his reputation was not exceptionally spotless, it was not lackings by any means. Outsiders would surely connect his son’s deeds to him. Nobody would believe he was unaware of his son faking his death. They would surely think he had deliberately targeted He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Regardless, he knew the Tai Yi Celestial Sect would not be able to do anything since they did not have any evidence. He could easily dismiss their words as forced logic and hollow arguments. Due to their lack of evidence, the other sects would not stand with them as well.

In the end, Bai Wu Ji looked at Bai Yu Xuan and solemnly said, "After we return, you'll spend ten years in closed-door cultivation in Profound Heaven Limit."

"Ten years?" Bai Yu Xuan smiled bitterly when he heard his father's words. "Father, aren't ten years a bit too long?" He could still endure it if it were just three or five years. He could easily pass time by cultivating. However, ten years would be too boring.

"One more word from you, I'll increase it to twenty years," Bai Wu Ji said coldly.

Bai Yu Xuan fell silent immediately; he no longer dared to speak up despite how aggrieved he felt. He knew this was the most lenient his father would be. 'Whatever... At most, I'll just treat it as a long cultivation session. It's a pity I can't bring women with me to the Profound Heaven Limit... I can only imagine how bad it would be to go without women for ten years...'

...

In the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's estate in the Wasteland.

Upon his return to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian only focused on comprehending the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he gained from the Blissful Celestial Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He wanted to master them as soon as he could since it would greatly improve his strength. After that, he planned to leave the Six Southeastern Regions and the Wasteland and head to the central area. There were many elites in the central area, and the cultivation environment and resources were far superior to the borderlands. Although with Huan'er's Divine Crystal he did not have to worry about the cultivation environment, he was still attracted to the superior cultivation resources in the central area. Most importantly, he no longer felt it was a challenge to stay in the borderlands. He was already a Chief Celestial Alchemist in one of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions. Although his cultivation base was lacking, with his alchemy skills, his status could be considered to be on the same level as Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Therefore, no one cared whether his cultivation base was high or low or pressured him to raise his cultivation base.

"I need to leave the borderlands and head to the central area. Without a challenge or pressure, I won't be able to cultivate and break through as easily. It's still fine for now. However, once I become a Celestial Duke, my progress would be slow." Duan Ling Tian knew very well that with his talent and sufficient Overarching Heaven Pills, since he was just an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial, his progress would not be slow. However, once he had broken through and become a Celestial Duke, pills like the Overarching Heaven Pill and Great Overarching Pill would no longer be effective. He could only solely rely on himself to progress if he stayed here. After all, pills that could help with one's cultivation after one became a Celestial Duke were extremely rare. For all these reasons, he did not hesitate over leaving the borderlands for the central area.

Duan Ling Tian had only delayed his journey to the central area because he wanted to master the triple-trait Celestial Method and Divine Ability first. Apart from that, he also wanted to wait for the mysterious man with the surname Pei so he could return the Mystical Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring and Mystical Yin Nine Water Chestnut Ring. They were Emperor Grade Celestial Weapons. He did not think Brother Pei had forgotten about the weapons. He was certain Brother Pei was delayed due to some matters.

At this moment, a figure suddenly appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind. The figure belonged to Murong Bing whom he had intimate relations with once. "I won't be able to leave until I visit the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and deal with our matters. It doesn't matter if you're willing to leave with me or not, but I definitely won't let any harm come to you..."

Duan Ling Tian was determined to use the consumable Royal Grade Celestial Weapon for Murong Bing's sake. The weapon would endow him with strength comparable to an ordinary Celestial Lord. With that strength, he could intimidate her master and her master's father who was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke!

Time continued to pass quietly, and Duan Ling Tian lost track of time as he comprehended his triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability. He was unaware that the Blissful Sect had already sent people to the places he had been in the Wasteland to investigate his background. One by one, his secrets were slowly being discovered by the Blissful Sect.

...

One day, news arrived in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and turned the entire sect upside down. Everyone, including the high-ranking officials of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was in an uproar.

"Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, is alive?"

"This... How's this possible? Then, why did they kill the Old Ancestor? Wasn't he killed because he was accused of killing Bai Yu Xuan?!"

"How's he alive? Moreover, if he's alive, doesn't this mean the Old Ancestor died in vain?"

"The Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is alive? They said the Old Ancestor failed to kill him, and he managed to survive just like his companion?"

When Bai Ping received the news, only one word flashed in his mind: Preposterous!

If the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect wanted to kill those two people, it was already quite a stretch that one of them managed to survive. How could there be such a coincidence that both of them survived? How could the Old Ancestor be so careless?

Upon hearing the news, Situ Ming immediately came to look for Bai Ping. He said with a grim expression, "Sect Leader, this must be a scheme by the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Their young master didn't die at all. They only used it as an excuse to kill the Old Ancestor!" He paused for a moment and sighed before he said, "The Old Ancestor really died an unjust death..."

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who had left his room for some fresh air finally received the news.

"What?! Bai Yu Xuan didn't die? The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is really vicious..." Flames of fury danced in Duan Ling Tian's eye. It seemed like they were capable of burning down everything that stood in their way.

Chapter 2889: Responsibility

Initially, Duan Ling Tian had suspected someone else had killed Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was used as a scapegoat. However, when he learned that Bai Yu Xuan was alive, it dawned on him that the incident was a scheme by the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Bai Yu Xuan had faked his death and Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial, had used that as an excuse to kill He Shan! He Shan was unjustly killed by the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect! He was furious by this discovery of blatant injustice.

Duan Ling Tian had been summoned by Situ Ming to calm Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Upon learning the truth, Bai Ping's Celestial Origin Energy roiled under his skin, and his eyes turned bloodshot. Clearly, he was furious beyond words. When he learned the truth about He Shan's death, he had wanted to go to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect to confront them.

Tie Tai He, Situ Ming, and the others, naturally, stopped Bai Ping.

"Sect leader," Duan Ling Tian called out at this moment.

"Master Duan." Bai Ping seemed to rein in his anger slightly when he saw Duan Ling Tian. He tried to calm his raging Celestial Origin Energy as well.

"I know what happened," Duan Ling Tian said, "The Old Ancestor is unjustly killed by the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect through their scheme! However, do you know why the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect wants to get rid of him? Was there animosity between them?" In his opinion, there must be a conflict between He Shan and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Otherwise, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would not have gone out their way to get rid of him.

"No." Bai Ping shook his head. "The Old Ancestor didn't have many interactions with those from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect... There was no enmity between him and anyone from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect."

At this moment, Situ Ming who was standing at the side spoke up, "Master Duan, I've also asked the sect leader about this. After mulling over it, it seems like the only time he had any sort of conflict with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was when we first arrived in Alchemy City. Do you remember we had a conflict with Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?"

"Master Situ... Are you saying that the reason they killed the Old Ancestor is due to that incident? They devised such a plan to kill the Old Ancestor because of that?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened when he heard Situ Ming's words. If Situ Ming was right, then, he was partially to blame for He Shan's death! After all, he was part of the reason the conflict had arisen between the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and Bai Yu Xuan. "As the strongest sect in the Six Southeastern Regions, will the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect really kill the Old Ancestor over such a trivial matter? Moreover, at that time, the Old Ancestor had shown them mercy and didn't kill any of them! If the Old Ancestor wanted them dead at that time, all of them would have died!" When he finished speaking, a dejected expression could be seen on his face.

“Master Duan, do you still remember Bai Wu Ji’s reaction when he learned his son is dead?” Situ Ming asked.

Upon hearing Situ Ming’s words, Duan Ling Tian began to recall the events from that day.

“Bai Wu Ji didn’t seem to be acting. His rage and anguish seemed real. I have lived long enough to be able to tell these things. We can assume that Bai Wu Ji didn’t know his son is alive back then,” Situ Ming continued to say.

“Master Situ, you’re saying Bai Yu Xuan planned the entire thing? He’s the culprit?” Duan Ling Tian, naturally, knew what Situ Ming’s words meant. He was not stupid, after all.

“Yes.” Situ Ming nodded as his eyes turned cold. “Bai Wu Ji has a fairly good reputation in the Six Southeastern Regions and the borderlands... It doesn’t make sense for him to kill the Old Ancestor over such a trivial matter. However, it’s in line with Bai Yu Xuan’s character to do something like this.” He paused for a moment before he continued to say, “If you remember, at that time when Bai Wu Ji brought out his son’s Soul Pearl, the Soul Pearl isn’t shattered. It had only run out of energy. The energy in a Soul Pearl has to be replenished every once in a while. Bai Yu Xuan must have known the energy in his Soul Pearl would dissipate soon and came up with this plan to borrow his father’s hands to kill the Old Ancestor. I have every reason to believe he faked his death so his father would kill the Old Ancestor out of anger and avenge him.!” He was very confident about his hypothesis.

“Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect...” Bai Yu Xuan’s figure appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s mind, and his gaze turned cold. He said in a deep voice, “Since Bai Yu Xuan is still alive when the Old Ancestor is dead... Shouldn’t the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect pay for this with Bai Yu Xuan’s life? The Old Ancestor had died because of Bai Yu Xuan’s supposed death, but now, Bai Yu Xuan is still alive and kicking.”

“Master Duan.” Situ Ming smiled bitterly. “Do you know why our sect leader is so furious? When news of Bai Yu Xuan being alive spread out, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect insisted that the Old Ancestor had truly meant to kill Bai Yu Xuan. They said the Old Ancestor’s attack missed, and Bai Yu Xuan was grievously injured but survived due to a stroke of luck.”

“Ridiculous!” Duan Ling Tian cried out. He thought the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was absolutely shameless for saying such a thing. He Shan was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, how could he miss if he really intended to kill Bai Yu Xuan? He could easily kill Bai Yu Xuan with just a snap of his fingers!

“Indeed. However, how are we going to prove the Old Ancestor didn’t attack Bai Yu Xuan at all like the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect had asserted?” Situ Ming asked.

“I’m sure none of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions believe their words,” Duan Ling Tian said.

“Indeed.” Situ Ming nodded. “However, they won’t speak up for us against the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect if we don’t have evidence. Moreover, it has been a while since the Alchemy Conference ended, the incident has faded in importance.” A hint of helplessness could be heard in his voice when he spoke.

“So, the Old Ancestor died for nothing?” Upon hearing Situ Ming’s words, Duan Ling Tian’s expression darkened. Although he had personally witnessed He Shan being killed during the Alchemist Conference, he had only felt a hint of injustice. However, now that he learned He Shan was killed due to his part in the conflict with Bai Yu Xuan, he felt extremely guilty as well. The conflict was largely due to Huan’er. Naturally, she could not be blamed since Bai Yu Xuan was the one who provoked them, and they merely reacted. Even then, he could not help the guilt that ate at him. His eyes glinted with killing intent. It was the first time he had felt such a strong urge to kill after ascending to the Devata Realm. “Bai Yu Xuan...”

“Yes. We don’t have any evidence to disprove the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s claim that the Old Ancestor tried to kill Bai Yu Xuan. Unless Bai Yu Xuan comes clean or his men come clean, I’m afraid there’s nothing we can do,” Situ Ming said with a sigh, “The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect will continue playing the part of the victim and probably try to compensate us with some trivial things.”

“Compensation? Who needs that?” Bai Ling sneered.

“Profound Heaven Celestial Sect... Bai Yu Xuan...” Flames that seemed as though they could not be put out danced in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He swore inwardly, ‘Bai Yu Xuan must die... Otherwise, I’ll feel guilty about this for the rest of my life. After all, all this happened because of Huan’er and me.’ He was determined to kill Bai Yu Xuan to avenge He Shan. At this moment, he felt he was solely responsible for He Shan’s death.

After parting ways with Bai Ping and Situ Ming, Duan Ling Tian began to comprehend the Blissful Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability... He became even more eager to improve his strength. This was the only way for him to protect himself against those who try to harm him and those around him.

Chapter 2890: An Uninvited Guest

Soon after the news of Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, being alive spread to the Wasteland’s Tai Yi Celestial Sect, it quickly spread to the entire Six Southeastern Regions. All the major sects in the Six Southeastern Regions received word of it one after another.

“The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s Young Master, Bai Yu Xuan, is still alive?”

“Word from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Old Ancestor had missed when he attacked.”

“Missed? Do you think that’s possible? The Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Old Ancestor was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke!”

“You’re right... Although I’m just a Six Combinations Celestial Duke, I don’t think I would’ve missed if I were to kill Bai Yu Xuan and his companion!”

“There’s a small chance the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect had missed in killing the disciple from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. However, it’s highly impossible for him to fail in killing Bai Yu Xuan as well!”

“It seems like there’s more to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Old Ancestor’s death.”

“Isn’t that obvious?”

All of the top sects from the Six Southeastern Regions, similar to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, that attended the Alchemy Conference in Alchemy City of the Barren Land had no doubt the entire incident was a scheme hatched by the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect to kill He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

“I’ve always thought Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, was an honorable man. Who knew he would do such a thing?”

“As the old saying goes, ‘Looks can be deceiving’. Bai Wu Ji is a man with a fair face but a foul heart!”

“I used to wonder how a gentleman like Bai Wu Ji ended up with a son who has such absurd values... It seems like his son learned it from him. He’s just better at hiding it than his son.”

It was just Bai Wu Ji had expected, his reputation was completely ruined due to his son’s actions when news of his son being alive spread in the Six Southeastern Regions.

It was also just as Bai Yu Xuan had predicted, without concrete evidence, the top sects could only discuss this among themselves. They would not stand against the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect even if they were aware of the truth unless the Tai Yi Celestial Sect could provide them with evidence.

Since this matter was related to the death of He Shan, an Eight Trigram Celestial Duke from one of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions, it remained a hot topic for quite a while.

...

Just as Situ Ming, the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had said, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect tried to compensate the Tai Yi Celestial Sect even though He Shan supposedly attempted to kill Bai Yu Xuan to show their magnanimity. They offered to compensate the Tai Yi Celestial Sect with primitive Celestial Stones and ordinary pills.

The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect had sent one of their elders to bring the compensations over to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. However, before the elder could even step foot into the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s estate, Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had already chased him away.

“Take your things and get lost! Tell Bai Wu Ji that actions speak louder than words. The Tai Yi Celestial Sect will never let this matter go!”

Upon hearing Bai Ping’s angry words, the elder from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect scoffed with a sour expression on his face. He left in a huff after saying, “Our sect leader did say that the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect will not force the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to accept the compensation if the Tai Yi Celestial Sect refuses!”

These words angered many of the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. How they wished to chase after the elder from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect and kill him! Alas, they could not act recklessly. After all, the death of an elder of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would bring complications to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would definitely seize the opportunity and use it to condemn the Tai Yi Celestial Sect instead.

As the saying went, 'Time heals all wounds'. As time passed, the incident was gradually forgotten, and before long, nobody spoke about it anymore.

Tai Yi Celestial Sect seemed peaceful as always, but underneath this pretense, everyone in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, from the sect leader to the normal disciples, was heavy-hearted due to He Shan's death. If He Shan truly did kill Bai Yu Xuan, they would have slowly come to terms with He Shan's death even if they were sad. After all, it was only fair. However, He Shan had died unjustly. He Shan was dead, but Bai Yu Xuan was alive and living a carefree life. Moreover, it was likely that He Shan did not even attempt to kill Bai Yu Xuan. How could they not feel unresigned and frustrated?

...

One day, a sudden announcement outside of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect shocked everyone in the sect. "The Blissful Sect's Li An and Ji Fan, the Arhat, are here to visit the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!"

Everyone's hearts skipped a beat when they heard this.

"Blissful Sect? Aren't they from the Cross Region?"

"Yes! Blissful Sect is from the Cross Region... In fact, it's a powerful sect with Ten Direction Celestial Dukes!"

"Blissful Sect? As far as I know, the successor of the sect leader is known as Arhat... Why is the successor of the Blissful Sect here?"

"That's not all... More importantly, someone else brought him here."

"Who the hell is Li An?"

Many people in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were both shocked and curious about Li An. They did not know who Li An was. Although they did not know Ji Fan as well, they were familiar with the title Arhat. Therefore, they knew he was the successor of the Sect Leader of the Blissful Sect.

Naturally, this did not apply to the high-ranking officials in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. They certainly knew who Li An was.

"Li An? Isn't he the Blissful Sect's Old Ancestor? He's a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke, right?"

"The Blissful Sect's Old Ancestor? The Nine Palaces Celestial Duke? He's known as the strongest Nine Palaces Celestial Duke in the Six Southeastern Regions, right?"

"W-what's he doing here?"

"I heard before our Old Ancestor was killed by Bai Wu Ji, he was blinded by Li An!"

"I'm afraid these people from the Blissful Sect didn't come with good intentions..."

"I agree. Our Tai Yi Celestial Sect doesn't have any dealings with the Blissful Sect, after all."

It did not take long before Li An's identity spread out, and everyone in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's estate who were unaware learned about Li An's identity. It, naturally, caused an uproar. Many of them were worried.

"The strongest Nine Palaces Celestial Duke in the Six Southeastern Regions?"

"Why would someone like this come to our Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"I don't know."

"I don't think they come in peace."

Many of them began to speculate about the reasons for Li An and Ji Fan's visit.

"I remember now... During the Alchemy Conference, Master Duan won a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability from the Blissful Sect and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect respectively!"

"That's right. The triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method is one of its kind in the Blissful Sect. It is called the Immobilization King Method!"

"Did Li An come to take it back?"

"I don't think so... Although the Blissful Sect lost the bet, they did not lose their Celestial Method. They only shared it with Master Duan. Moreover, Master Duan won fair and square. The Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Master was a witness! If they truly came to take the Memory Celestial Talisman back, do you think there would be people who are willing to compete with them during the next Alchemist Conference?"

"If not, then why's he here?"

Meanwhile, when Bai Ping heard about Li An's arrival, his expression changed drastically. Although he did not attend the Alchemy Conference, Situ Ming had recounted everything that happened as soon as Situ Ming returned to the sect. "The Blissful Sect's Li An? What's he doing here?"