

Chapter 2981: The Realms of Gods and Apex Powerhouses!

After the energy withdrew into Duan Ling Tian's body, he could still feel the life force and vitality coursing through his veins even though the force had mellowed down slightly. He felt as though he had been reborn.

"What's the Divine Tree of Life? I feel a great surge of vitality flowing through my body. I wonder if I'm able to recover just like the main branch did during the auction?" Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself as he recalled the scene where the host of the auction in the Solitary Nation held the almost-severed branch as it repaired itself to its original state.

With this thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian looked at his left hand and decisively raised his right hand that was glowing with a faint light and brought it down to his left hand, leaving an-inch-deep laceration. With his peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial's cultivation base, this injury would take a day to heal if he did not actively use his Celestial Origin Energy or consume any medical pills to heal it. For this reason, he was shocked to see his skin knitting itself back together in just two breaths. His injury was completely healed! He was thoroughly shocked; he did not expect to gain the regenerative ability from the main branch of the Divine Tree of Life!

At this moment, the Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice resounded in Duan Ling Tian's mind. "The Divine Tree of Life has already acknowledged you as its master. That's why you gained the regenerative ability from one of its branches."

"One of its branches? How many branches are there?" Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

"The Divine Tree of Life has 80 branches, excluding the tree trunk. All in all, there are 81 parts, similar to how there are 81 Devata Realms. Your remarkable healing ability is only from one of the 80 branches. Can you imagine how vast the power of the complete Divine Tree of Life is?" The Chaos Divine Earth's voice trembled slightly at the end of its sentence, clearly in awe of the complete power of the Divine Tree of Life.

'What I obtained is only one of 80 branches, excluding the tree trunk?' Duan Ling Tian was shocked. He had assumed that the main branch he obtained was a great part of the Divine Tree of Life. Who knew there were another 79 branches and none of them were as important as the tree trunk?

"Although one out of 80 branches might seem insignificant, you're extremely lucky to be able to obtain even one of the branches. Ordinary people couldn't even hope to get close to a branch! You've already been granted such a remarkable regenerative ability with just a branch, can you imagine how much power the Divine Tree of Life has? The Divine Tree of Life can only be found in the Realms of Gods, and there's only one tree in each realm..."

"The Realms of Gods?" Duan Ling Tian exclaimed. He recalled the Divine Offering Land where Ke'er, his family, and friends were being held hostage. Could the Divine Offering Land be one of the Realms of Gods mentioned by the Chaos Divine Earth? The people from the Divine Offering Land were extremely

powerful. The subordinate of Yun Qing Yan, Ke'er's cousin brother in her past life, had effortlessly defeated his mentor, Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang, and forced his mentor to flee to the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. One had to know that Feng Qing Yang was the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven!

'The Divine Offering Land isn't part of the Devata Realms or the mundane realms. It's a realm created by an apex powerhouse...' Duan Ling Tian remembered the words of Xia Jie, Ke'er's uncle in her past life. Therefore, he instantly thought of the Divine Offering Realm when the Chaos Divine Earth mentioned the Realms of the Gods.

"Boy, you've never heard of the Realms of Gods before? Hmmm, I supposed that's no surprise since you're still far from the level where you need to know about the Realms of the Gods," the Chaos Divine Earth said.

"Is the Realms of Gods a realm beyond the Devata Realms?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Well, you can say so," the Chaos Divine Earth replied.

"What do you mean?" Duan Ling Tian frowned slightly in confusion.

"The Realms of Gods are far smaller than Devata Realms. However, the powerhouses in the Realms of Gods are in a different league from those in the Devata Realms. There have been 18 Realms of Gods since the beginning of time. It's said that the 18 Realms of Gods were created by 18 apex powerhouses," the Chaos Divine Earth explained.

"Apex powerhouses..." Duan Ling Tian's heart skipped a beat. It seemed like the Divine Offering Land was one of the Realms of Gods. There were another 17 Realms of Gods similar to the Divine Offering Land.

"In the beginning, only friends and family of the apex powerhouses inhabited the Realms of Gods. However, as time passed, their population expanded as their direct descendants ascended to the Devata Realms and brought their spouses back to the realm. Many people in the know yearn to break through the Celestial Emperor stage and become a god so they could enter the Realms of Gods. There are many beings in the Realms of the Gods who are much more powerful than Celestial Emperors; they're called gods. They're so powerful that they can easily defeat Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms!" the Chaos Divine Earth said. A hint of caution could be heard in its voice as it continued to say "Therefore, boy, you must know that the Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms are not invincible. As the saying goes, 'There are mountains beyond mountains and heavens beyond heavens!'"

With this, Duan Ling Tian confirmed the Divine Offering Land was, indeed, one of the Realms of Gods.

Although there were only 18 Realms of Gods, it did not mean that there were only 18 apex powerhouses. There were only 18 Realms of Gods because the heavens and earth could only accommodate 18 Realms of Gods. If an apex powerhouse managed to kill another apex powerhouse who had created a Realm of Gods, the apex powerhouse could create his own Realm of Gods as well.

Among the 18 Realms of Gods, six realms existed parallelly in the same space. Every 10,000 years, the realms would collide with each other in pairs for a thousand years. During this time, the connection

between the Devata Realms and the Realms of Gods would disappear. Therefore, the people from the Realms of Gods would not be able to cross over to the Devata Realms at that time nor would those who were stuck in the Devata Realms be able to return.

'It seems like the Divine Offering Land has collided with another Realm of Gods. That's why I won't be able to cross over for another 1,000 years. Ke'er and the others should be safe for now since the Divine Offering Land must be in turmoil. However, when things return to normal, Ke'er would definitely be forced into a marriage... Her father and Yun Qing Yan will definitely threaten her with the lives of my family and friends!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes reddened when he thought about this. He clenched his hands into fists as he continued thinking to himself, "I'm still too weak... After all, many of the powerhouses in the Realms of Gods are stronger than Heavenly Emperors of Devata Realms!"

Duan Ling Tian acutely felt the insignificance of his existence now that he learned about the existence of the Realms of Gods. The Realms of Gods were smaller than the Devata Realms, but their Heaven and Earth Spirit Energies were far superior. It would be impossible for someone to become a god with the cultivation environment in the Devata Realms, but it would be easy in the Realms of Gods. This was the biggest difference between the Devata Realms and Realms of Gods.

"Bo, do you want to know how apex powerhouses who created the Realms of Gods come into being?" the Chaos Divine Earth asked; a hint of smugness could be heard in its voice.

"How did they come into being?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Most of the apex powerhouses possess, at least, one final form of one of the Five Divine Elements. That's where they obtained most of their power from," the Chaos Divine Earth proudly replied.

"The final forms of the Five Divine Elements?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned. He knew how difficult it was for a Divine Element to evolve to its final form.

"That's right! If one's able to obtain a Divine Element and evolve it to its final form, one would be able to become an apex powerhouse with the help of the Divine Element. When the apex powerhouse comes into being, an unknown and mysterious force would appear at the same time. At that time, the final form of the Divine Element would be able to create its own body with the help of the mysterious force. Then, the remaining force from the Divine Element would revert to the first form before scattering all over heaven and earth..."

Chapter 2982: The Four Supreme Laws

"This is how the Profound Divine Metal, Chaos Divine Flame, and I came to being. Once we evolve to the second form, we will gain sentience. Our memories and knowledge are inherited so we know what we are and what will happen in the future. There are only two outcomes for the Five Divine Elements: one, we end up being absorbed by another Divine Element. Two, we keep absorbing other Divine Elements before finally evolving to our final forms, helping our host to become an apex powerhouse. Then, we would be reborn into a new body. At that time, the remaining elemental energy would revert to the first form and return to the heavens and earth. It's a cycle. However, only a handful of the Five Divine Elements are able to successfully evolve to their final forms. I can only hope three of us would be able to

walk to the end of the road with you.” The Chaos Divine Earth did not seem confident at the end of its sentence.

Duan Ling Tian fell silent for a moment before he asked, “Why are there only 18 Realms of Gods? Why isn’t there a 19th Realm of Gods?”

“The rules of heaven and earth make it so that there can only be 18 Realms of Gods existing at one time. There’s nothing the apex powerhouses can do to change this,” the Chaos Divine Earth replied.

“The rules of heaven and earth? What is that?” Duan Ling Tian was startled.

“The rules of heaven and earth are rather vague. No one really knows what they are, but there’s no doubt that they exist. For example, the Lightning Penalty Oath in the mundane realms is one of the rules of heaven and earth. In the Devata Realms, only a handful of people are able to break through and become Gods. This also seems to be one of the rules of heaven and earth. Even apex powerhouses are as insignificant as ants faced with the rules of heaven and earth. There was once an apex powerhouse that tried to create the 19th Realm of Gods... Do you know what happened in the end?” the Chaos Divine Earth asked Duan Ling Tian.

“What happened?” Duan Ling Tian was intrigued. Since heaven and earth only allowed 18 Realms of Gods to exist, creating the 19th Realm of Gods was akin to deliberately going against the rules of heaven and earth.

“A punishment from heaven and earth descended on him, and he was reduced into ashes!” the Chaos Divine Earth replied.

Duan Ling Tian’s heart skipped a beat. An apex powerhouse who was almost invincible in heaven and earth was reduced to ash for violating the rules of heaven and earth? With this, he realized how formidable the rules of heaven and earth were.

After Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he curiously asked, “You mentioned earlier that most people who became apex powerhouses possess at least one Divine Element in its final form... Does this mean there are those who successfully became apex powerhouses without the help of a Divine Element in its final form?”

“Yes. Those people had an extraordinary understanding of heaven and earth. They had comprehended one of the Four Supreme Laws and integrated it into their cultivations. As a reward by heaven and earth, they were transformed into apex powerhouses!”

“The Four Supreme Laws? Are they the first-tier laws that can’t be comprehended through Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Yes. The strongest laws one could comprehend through Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities are only second-tier laws. There are four types of first-tier laws and numerous second-tier laws.” The Chaos Divine Earth’s voice seemed to change when it spoke about first-tier laws.

“Besides the law of life, what are the remaining three first-tier laws?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“They’re the law of time, the law of space, and the law of death!” the Chaos Divine Earth solemnly replied, “The law of time and the law of space are also collectively known as the law of time and space whereas the law of life and the law of death are known as the law of life and death. In heaven and earth, everything is bound to the Four Supreme Laws!”

“The law of time, the law of space, the law of life, and the law of death. That’s right! Nothing can escape time, space, life, and death.” Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian immediately.

Time was constantly ticking.

Space was the foundation of ground for everything.

Life was fundamental for all creations.

Death was inescapable by all creations.

“Let’s say there are two people with the same cultivation base who have comprehended the same number of profundities. If one of them comprehended a first-tier law, and the other only comprehended second-tier laws, there’s no doubt the former would easily crush the latter. That’s the power of the Four Supreme Laws. The Four Supreme Laws are powerful, but they’re incredibly difficult to comprehend. Moreover, one has to be extremely lucky to even encounter one of the Four Supreme Laws. To master the Four Supreme Laws, one has to have a high degree of understanding. That’s why we didn’t dare to guarantee you’ll be able to comprehend and master the law of life even though you’re lucky enough to obtain the main branch of the Divine Tree of Life and had it acknowledge you as its master,” the Chaos Divine Earth said, “The Divine Tree of Life wouldn’t simply acknowledge someone as its master. There are two requirements. The first requirement: one has to be a Celestial Duke, at least. The second and the most important requirement: one has to possess 99 Heavenly Veins... Based on your experience, you can see that we’re able to circumvent the first requirement. However, if one doesn’t have 99 Heavenly Veins, even an apex powerhouse could do nothing to make the Divine Tree of Life acknowledge him. This is also a rule of heaven and earth that everyone has to abide by!”

Upon hearing the Chaos Divine Earth’s words, Duan Ling Tian finally realized how big of a part his 99 Heavenly Veins played in getting the Divine Tree of Life to acknowledge him.

Duan Ling Tian asked, “Are there many people with 99 Heavenly Veins?”

“Based on my inherited memories and knowledge, under the rules of heaven and earth, there won’t be more than 100 people with 99 Heavenly Veins existing at the same time. Moreover, having 99 Heavenly Veins doesn’t mean one is guaranteed to become an apex powerhouse. Only those who are truly outstanding are able to become apex powerhouses!” the Chaos Divine Earth explained.

With this, Duan Ling Tian also discovered his 99 Heavenly Veins only gave him a slight advantage and would not help much in the future.

‘Up until now, the only other person I know who possesses 99 Heavenly Veins as well is Huan’er. Who knew there are still so many people who possess 99 Heavenly Veins in heaven and earth? I wonder if some of them had died in this dog-eat-dog world...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

The Chaos Divine Earth warned Duan Ling Tian, “Don’t think you’re special just because you possess 99 Heavenly Veins. Moreover, you shouldn’t easily reveal that you possess 99 Heavenly Veins. People might kill you because they fear you would become an apex powerhouse. In the long course of history, there were many talented individuals with 99 Heavenly Veins who were killed by other powerhouses when they were close to becoming an apex powerhouse. Wicked people would try to kill you before you become an apex powerhouse since they would be helpless once you become an apex powerhouse. Having 99 Heavenly Veins is both a blessing and a curse. Therefore, remember not to casually reveal you have 99 Heavenly Veins. You don’t know if it’ll attract disaster!”

“Yes, senior.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Now that he knew the possible consequences, he would not easily reveal the fact that he possessed 99 Heavenly Veins.

“It’s a shame that there are many talented people with great comprehension ability, but there are so few who possess 99 Heavenly Veins... In any case, no matter what happens in the future, the Profound Divine Metal, Chaos Divine Flame, and I will try our best to help you. However, how far you can go is all up to you! All of us definitely hope we’ll be able to travel to the end of the road with you!”

Chapter 2983: Scaling Cloud Lake

“Unless you’re unfortunate and die prematurely, we won’t change host. After all, I don’t think there’s anyone better than you,” the Chaos Divine Earth said.

Duan Ling Tian finally realized the three Divine Elements were willing to co-exist in his body because of his 99 Heavenly Veins. He was a perfect host for any of the Five Divine Elements.

Duan Ling Tian inhaled deeply, trying to digest the information that the Chaos Divine Earth revealed to him. Although it was not much, it was overwhelming.

The Realms of Gods.

Apex powerhouses.

The Four Supreme Laws.

After sorting out his thoughts, Duan Ling Tian asked the Chaos Divine Earth, “The Profound Divine Metal mentioned that the Divine Tree of Life is beneficial to all of you as well, right?”

“Yes. Not only did the Divine Tree of Life grant you powerful regenerative abilities, but it’s the same for us as well. If we encounter our corresponding element, it won’t be a problem for us to go against it one-on-one since the Divine Tree of Life grants us unlimited vitality. In other words, if another third-form Chaos Divine Earth wants to devour me when the Profound Divine Metal and the Chaos Divine Flame are in a deep slumber, I’ll be too easily absorb it since the vitality from the Divine Tree of Life would heal me if I’m injured.”

With this, Duan Ling Tian realized how powerful the Divine Tree of Life was. It could even quickly heal the Five Divine Elements!

“Boy, the branch of the Divine Tree of Life has changed your body constitution. Try cultivating now,” the Chaos Divine Earth said with a laugh.

Duan Ling Tian immediately closed his eyes and circulated his Qi one time with the King Grade Celestial Method, the Tai Yi Profound Method.

‘Hm? I’ve broken through the limit?’ At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at an alarming rate. It was even faster than when he used the Divine Crystal. Soon, he discovered the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy did not directly enter his Heavenly Veins. Instead, it entered the main branch of the Divine Tree of Life and his heart before finally entering his Heavenly Veins. The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was free of impurities, thus, his speed when circulating his Qi increased in folds.

‘It feels like my cultivation speed is ten times faster than when I used the Divine Crystal!’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes gleamed brightly. His heart was thumping wildly in his chest. He did not expect the Divine Tree of Life would increase his cultivation speed to such an extent!

“How’s it?” the Chaos Divine Earth asked. “Now you know how great the benefit is after the Divine Tree of Life acknowledges you!”

“This is amazing! I used to cultivate with the Divine Crystal, but my cultivation speed then isn’t even 10% of my current speed!” Duan Ling Tian was pleasantly surprised.

“There’s no need to be surprised. Although the Divine Crystals are rare in the Devata Realms, in the Realms of Gods, they aren’t rare even if they’re valuable. Like I said earlier, there’s only one Divine Tree of Life in each Realm of Gods. This is also one of the rules of heaven and earth. This means there are only 18 Divine Trees of Life in the entire heaven and earth, and you managed to obtain a branch from one of the trees. Such a fortuitous encounter is rare even among those in the Realms of Gods. You must know even an apex powerhouse is incapable of destroying the Divine Tree of Life. Perhaps, the only time it might be damaged is when the Realms of Gods collide. Branches that break off during the collision would then fall into the turbulent space before ending up in a Devata Realm. With this, you can imagine how rare it is to be able to come across the branches from the Divine Trees of Life. Alas, there are fools who would give away the branch due to their ignorance just like the Celestial King who found your branch from the Divine Tree of Life. You truly benefited greatly from his ignorance!”

With this, Duan Ling Tian learned the origin of the branch from the Divine Tree of Life in his body.

“Are there many branches that break off from the Divine Tree of Life during the collision between the Realms of Gods?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“It’s hard to say. Some Divine Trees of Life might lose a dozen branches if they’re seriously damaged. Otherwise, the trees might just lose a few branches. However, if the Divine Trees of Life manage to heal in a timely manner, they might not lose any branch at all. That’s why I said those who manage to obtain a branch from the Divine Tree of Life are incredibly lucky,” the Chaos Divine Earth said.

“Is it possible for the branch of the Divine Tree of Life in my body to be forcibly taken away?” Duan Ling Tian asked, slightly worried. After learning about the benefits of the Divine Tree of Life, he, naturally, wanted to keep the branch in his body.

“Don’t worry. First of all, the branch of the Divine Tree of Life will only acknowledge someone with 99 Heavenly Veins as its master. Secondly, although ordinary people won’t be able to make the Divine Tree of Life acknowledge them as its master, they are still capable of comprehending the law of life from the branch even if it’s extremely difficult. After all, without the acknowledgment from the branch of the Divine Tree of Life, one wouldn’t be able to feel the vitality in the branch and comprehend it. The branches from the Divine Tree of Life that haven’t acknowledged their masters could be taken away, but people wouldn’t be able to take away branches that have acknowledged their masters. If the master of a branch from the Divine Tree of Life dies, a void would open up and pull the branch into a turbulent space. Moreover, those who are able to sense you possess a branch from the Divine Tree of Life will be able to tell that it has acknowledged you as its master. Hence, they wouldn’t kill you just to obtain the branch.”

Duan Ling Tian heaved a huge sigh of relief upon hearing the Chaos Divine Flame’s words. Then, he suddenly raised his hand. The necklace with a pendant that held the Divine Crystal appeared in his palm. Huan’er had left it to him before she left. ‘The Divine Crystal...’

‘Now that I have the branch from the Divine Tree of Life, I no longer need the Divine Crystal... Huan’er, where are you now?’ Whenever Duan Ling Tian looked at the Divine Crystal, he would inevitably think of Huan’er. He could not help but feel emotional now that the branch from the Divine Tree of the Life had completely replaced the Divine Crystal’s function.

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The Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was regarded as a holy land in the Southern Heaven Territory. There were many entrances to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm in the grade-six Celestial Mansions. The grade-six Celestial Mansions were generally in charge of the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. They would delegate the authority to open the entrance to the lower realm to the grade-seven forces under them.

The Profound Nether Mansion, grade-six Celestial Mansion, had five grade-seven factions under them. They were the Three Sects and Two Clans. As the name suggested, they consisted of three sects and two clans.

In the Profound Nether Mansion, the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was located above a lake called the Scaling Cloud Lake. The Scaling Cloud Lake was a huge pristine lake that was shrouded by a dense fog all year round.

Recently, people from different places had begun to gather above the Scaling Cloud Lake since the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm would be opening in three days.

At this moment, a group of people was fast approaching the Scaling Cloud Lake in the air.

“This is the Scaling Cloud Lake.”

Upon hearing these words, the eyes of a purple-clad young man among the group of people lit up. “The Scaling Cloud Lake? So, this is where the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm is located?”

Chapter 2984: The Accumulative Points Jade

The group of people who had just arrived was Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Supporting Fall Nation. They had traveled from the Supporting Fall Nation and arrived three days earlier at the Scaling Cloud Lake where the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was located.

“Your Majesty, the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm isn’t located at the bottom of the lake, right?” Huang Jia Long asked as he looked at the leader of the group.

The leader of the group was a tall and muscular middle-aged man with an extraordinarily noble bearing. He was none other than Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation. He was dressed in a long muted dark golden robe. It was different from the dragon robe he wore all year round in the Supporting Fall Nation.

When the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm opened, not only would thousands of emperors from grade-eight nations in the Thousand Nations Territory be present with their respective entourage, but even the powerhouses from the Three Sects and Two Clans would be present as well.

In the past, there was once an emperor of a grade-eight nation who wore his dragon robe to the occasion. As a result, he was killed by a powerhouse from the Three Sects and Two Clans for the sin of disrespecting the Three Sects and Two Clans and the Profound Nether Mansion! Since then, Hu Lin Yi and the other emperors of grade-eight nations did not dare to wear their dragon robes to such an occasion.

“The entrance isn’t located at the bottom of the lake. It’s located at the surface in the center of the lake,” Hu Lin Yi replied with a smile.

Huang Jia Long was the son of Huang Yuan Fei, the City Governor of Passage City. He was also Huang Yuan Fei’s most talented son. For this reason, Hu Lin Yi had always taken good care of him. After Hu Lin Yi found out that Bai Gang, one of the powerhouses by Huang Yuan Fei’s side, had obtained a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon for the Flying Tiger Clan, a grade-six faction under the Profound Nether Mansion, he knew Bai Gang would evolve into a Silver Flying Tiger from a Copper Flying Tiger after ten years. With this, Huang Yuan Fei’s status was no longer like before. Therefore, he had to be even more courteous to the father and son duo.

Hu Lin Yi who led the group of people from the Supporting Fall Nation was accompanied by an old man. The old man was one of the elites in the Supporting Fall Nation’s Imperial Family, a One Basic Celestial King.

The remaining people in the group were the top nine participants, including Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Long, of the Southern Heaven Combat in the Supporting Fall Nation who had earned the chance to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Hu Xu Yong, the Fourth Prince of the Supporting Fall Nation, and Huang Jia Chao, Huang Jia Long’s younger brother, were among these people as well. The other five participants consisted of three men and two women.

The two women possessed extraordinary features. One of them was even a rare beauty.

The rare beauty was the sectless cultivator who was accompanied by an old lady, a One Basic Celestial King, during the Southern Heaven Combat. Similarly, the old lady had accompanied her today as well. Duan Ling Tian had heard from Hu Lin Yi that the old woman was the woman's grandmother. The woman's name was Meng Qiu Yu, and her grandmother was known as Grandma Meng.

'Meng Qiu Yu is much stronger than He Qing...' Duan Ling Tian briefly glanced at Meng Qiu Yu before he shifted his eyes to the woman named He Qing.

He Qing was the daughter of a clan leader from a powerful clan in the Supporting Fall Nation.

"Come! Let's go!" Hu Lin Yi called out at this moment before he flew toward the center of Scaling Cloud Lake.

Duan Ling Tian and the group of people from the Supporting Fall Nation followed suit.

"So many people!"

When they drew close to the center of the Scaling Cloud Lake, they saw a massive crowd had already gathered there. They looked like dark clouds looming over the lake from afar.

"Brother Duan, as I mentioned before, it's estimated that more than 15,000 participants will enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. As you can see, now that the entrance is about to open, many people have gathered here. After all, it's not just the participants who have gathered here. For example, even among our group, there are three non-participants. It's only natural that the turnout is so huge," Huang Jia Long said with a smile, "When the entrance opens in three days, I think the number of people at Scaling Cloud Lake would rise to 20,000 if not more."

Duan Ling Tian looked around him. He estimated there were roughly 2,000 to 3,000 people, some already at the center of the lake and some were still making their way over, at this moment.

"In order to open the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, the powerhouses from the Three Sects and Two Clans have to work together with the tokens they possess. The powerhouses will arrive a day earlier to issue an Accumulative Points Jade to every participant," Hu Lin Yi explained as he led the group to the center of the Scaling Cloud Lake.

"Accumulative Points Jade?"

A confused expression appeared on Duan Ling Tian and a few people's faces. After all, this was their first time entering the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. They knew nothing about it.

"The Three Sects and Two Clans will prepare a Celestial Weapon called the Accumulative Points Jade for every participant. It's a primitive Celestial Weapon with no offensive, defensive, and assistive powers. Every Accumulative Points Jade is distinguishable once they acknowledge their masters. Upon receiving the Accumulative Points Jade, there would be one point in it. To accumulate more points, one must kill other participants," Hu Lin Yi said as he looked at the nine participants pointedly.

The first-timers, including Duan Ling Tian, inhaled deeply when they heard these words.

‘The lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm is a place where Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials battle to their death?’ Duan Ling Tian was shocked. At the same time, he looked at Huang Jia Long.

No wonder Huang Jia Long had mentioned the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm was a brutal and cruel place. He even said he would not have made it out alive if he was less fortunate. He did not reveal much to Duan Ling Tian since he did not want Duan Ling Tian to overthink things.

“In the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there are many fortuitous encounters, cultivation methods, Celestial Methods, Divine Abilities, medicinal pills, rare medicinal herbs, and King Grade Celestial Weapons. It’ll depend on your luck whether you obtain them or not... In the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, you can hide all you want. So long you’re able to survive until the powerhouses from the Three Sects and Two Clans reopen the entrance, even if you gain nothing, you’d still be welcomed to join the Three Sects and Two Clans.”

Upon hearing Hu Lin Yi’s words, the weaker participants from the Supporting Fall Nation regretted placing in the top nine places during the Southern Heaven Combat. At the same time, they heaved a sigh of relief as well when they heard they were also allowed to hide. With that, their chances of survival would be higher. They could still obtain treasures even if they kept a low profile. Little did they know, benefits and risks co-existed; there would not be one without the other.

“Your Majesty, when would the powerhouses of the Three Sects and Two Clans reopen the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“In the past, they would only open the entrance again once 60% of the participants had fallen. When the entrance opens again, the participant would stop accumulating points immediately. If you kill another participant after the entrance is reopened, you won’t gain any point at all. On the other hand, once you enter the lower realm and the entrance closes, you’ll be able to accumulate points immediately,” Hu Lin Yi explained.

“So, the rule to reopen the entrance is still the same?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

60%!

Upon hearing Hu Lin Yi’s words, the weaker Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials began to panic again. This meant that roughly four out of the nine participants from the Supporting Fall Nation would be able to come out alive.

“Barring unforeseen circumstances, the rule should still be the same,” Hu Lin Yi lightly said, “In other words, out of nine, only four of you will survive. Of course, the stronger you are, the greater your chances of survival. For those who are weak, you might survive with a little luck, and if you keep a low profile. Regardless, I hope all of you will accumulate more points to make it to the top so you will gain the respect from the Three Sects and Two Clans when you join them.”

Duan Ling Tian and the group from the Supporting Nation Fall inwardly disagreed with Hu Lin Yi’s words. They knew Hu Lin Yi would be handsomely rewarded by the Three Sects and Two Clans if they made it to

the top. The higher they ranked, the more generous his rewards would be. Conversely, the lower they ranked, the worse the rewards.

At this moment, a loud and bright voice rang from afar. "Isn't this Emperor Hu of the Supporting Fall Nation?"

Chapter 2985: The Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation

The Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, Hu Lin Yi, stopped on his tracks and looked ahead.

Duan Ling Tian and the others came to a halt as well and followed Hu Lin Yi's gaze.

A group of people was flying toward them at this moment. The leader of the group was an average-built middle-aged man dressed in a green robe. He had a majestic air about him; it was obvious he was a man of high status.

Two old men flanked him closely from behind. One of them carried a long sword on his back while the other carried a long knife at his waist. Their expressions were solemn, their gazes cold, and their auras were domineering.

Nine people stood behind the two old men. Among the young people, there were two middle-aged men and an old man. Out of these nine people, only one was a woman.

'Emperor Xue?' Hu Lin Yi raised an eyebrow as he led his group to greet the middle-aged man.

At the same time, Huang Jia Long sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Brother Duan, these people are from the Southern Qi Nation. The leader of the group is Xue Ming Cai, the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation. I've met him once before. Just like His Majesty, he's also a Two Forms Celestial King. The relationship between the two emperors has always been strained. It's inevitable that they will quarrel now that they meet each other..."

As the two emperors drew closer to each other, their animosity toward each other was almost palpable.

"Emperor Xue." Hu Lin Yi looked at Xue Ming Cai frostily.

"Emperor Hu, I heard that the Supporting Fall Nation has a genius sectless cultivator among the participants of the Southern Heaven Combat. A mere sectless Heaven Stage Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial managed to defeat a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who's also the most outstanding son of the City Governor of Passage City. I wonder, who among these people is the talented sectless cultivator?" Xue Ming Cai faintly smiled as he looked at Hu Lin Yi. After he finished speaking, he swept his gaze across the people standing behind Hu Lin Yi. After a brief moment, his eyes stopped on Duan Ling Tian. It was obvious he had already known how Duan Ling Tian looked like.

A disdainful smile bloomed on Hu Lin Yi's face as he replied, "I've also heard that the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation has comprehended the law of thunder and become the strongest peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial in your nation. Emperor Xue, are you thinking of a duel between the second prince and Duan Ling Tian?"

With Duan Ling Tian on his side, Hu Lin Yi faced Xue Ming Cai confidently. In his opinion, even if Duan Ling Tian could not defeat the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, the battle would, at least, end in a draw.

“You really know me very well, Emperor Hu. What do you think? Are you interested in betting on a duel between my son and Duan Ling Tian?” Xue Ming Cai asked with a smile and narrowed eyes.

Upon hearing Xue Ming Cai’s thinly-veiled provocations, Hu Lin Yi frowned slightly. He sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian immediately. “Duan Ling Tian, Xue Ming Cai and I are mortal enemies. He intends to humiliate me if I lose the bet. If you’re willing to duel with his son, you can keep the winning bets if you win. If you lose, I’ll pay for it. You’ll be rewarded even if the battle ends in a tie.”

Since Duan Ling Tian was a sectless cultivator and was not from the Supporting Fall Nation, Hu Lin Yi knew his relationship with Duan Ling Tian was based on mutual benefit. Therefore, he had to obtain Duan Ling Tian’s agreement before he agreed to Xue Ming Cai’s proposition.

“Your Majesty, you’re being too courteous. I’ll agree to his bet,” Duan Ling Tian replied via Voice Transmission. His eyes gleamed with fighting spirit when he spoke. Based on Hu Lin Yi’s earlier words, it was clear the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation was a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended the law of thunder!

‘I haven’t had a chance to test my skill after I comprehended the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity. A battle with the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation is a good chance for me to test my skills and gauge my current strength,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

After obtaining Duan Ling Tian’s permission, Hu Lin Yi narrowed his eyes and said, “Since Emperor Xue is eager for a duel, why not? I must ask, what are the stakes?”

“A King Grade Celestial Weapon,” Xue Ming Cai replied nonchalantly. He could not care less about the stakes. He only wanted to publicly humiliate Hu Lin Yi, his mortal enemy!

“Alright.” Hu Lin Yi was not surprised that only a King Grade Celestial Weapon was at stake. After all, their intentions were similar; they wanted to humiliate the other person.

At this moment, three young men standing near Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Long began to discuss among themselves.

“The Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation has comprehended the law of thunder?”

“I heard that he’s a cultivation genius. He’s already a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial even though he’s only slightly above 200 years old. What’s even more shocking is that he has already comprehended the law of thunder!”

“That’s right. One has to, at least, master one profundity before one can be considered as comprehending the law. In other words, the second prince must have, at least, comprehended the Fundamental Profundity of the law of thunder, the Thunder Elemental Profundity!”

“A peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who has comprehended the Thunder Elemental Profundity is extremely powerful. I’m afraid with just one blow...” One of the young men trailed off as

he furtively looked at Huang Jia Long. It was clear he thought Huang Jia Long was no match for the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation at all.

Upon hearing this, Huang Jia Long scoffed before he looked at the young man who had spoken with an icy gaze.

The young man felt chills running up his spine and his face paled when he saw Huang Jia Long's frosty gaze.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian stepped forward and stood next to Hu Lin Yi. His movement shifted Huang Jia Long's attention away from the young man.

Upon seeing this, the young man who was drenched in cold sweat sighed in relief. He knew very well that if Huang Jia Long wanted to kill him, even the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation would not stop Huang Jia Long.

The young man's two companions learned from his mistake and no longer spoke, afraid of offending Huang Jia Long.

Meanwhile, Huang Jia Long asked through Voice Transmission, "Brother Duan, are you confident? The Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation is not a simple person."

"I'm not sure since I've yet to meet him, but I'll try my very best," Duan Ling Tian replied.

At this moment, some people from the Supporting Fall Nation cried out, "He's here!"

A young man with medium build walked out from among the nine people standing behind Xue Ming Cai. He came to a stop next to Xue Ming Cai. In terms of appearance and body, he greatly resembled Xue Ming Cai. If he were older, he could even be mistaken for Xue Ming Cai's brother.

The remaining eight participants from the Southern Qi Nation looked at the second prince of their nation unblinkingly. In their opinion, he was invincible, like the god of war, during the Southern Heaven Combat in the Southern Qi Nation.

"The second prince has comprehended the law of thunder; he's a force to be reckoned with. Previously, he had easily defeated all eight of us with a single strike."

"The law of thunder is truly formidable... At least half of us would have died if the second prince didn't hold back his Celestial Origin Energy that contained the power of the law of thunder!"

"I've heard that the sectless cultivator from the Supporting Fall Nation didn't use any power of law during the Southern Heaven Combat. It's likely that he hasn't comprehended any law."

"That's no surprise. Not everyone is capable of comprehending the laws. One must have a high level of comprehension. Most importantly, one has to be incredibly lucky to obtain a King Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability that contains a law."

Clearly, the eight participants from the Southern Qi Nation were confident the second prince of their nation would defeat Duan Ling Tian.

The Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation glanced at Duan Ling Tian as he lightly said, "Xue Jing Yu from the Southern Qi Nation."

"Duan Ling Tian from the Supporting Fall Nation," Duan Ling Tian replied in a similar manner.

Meanwhile, the people from the Supporting Fall Nation and the Southern Qi Nation began to step back to make space for Duan Ling Tian and Xue Jing Yu.

At this time, the commotion caused by the Supporting Fall Nation and the Southern Qi Nation finally began to attract the attention of the crowd.

"Hm? Are they having a battle there?"

"It seems like those people are from two different factions... Isn't that Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation?"

"That's right! And that's Xue Ming Cai, the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation!"

"These two men are known to be enemies... It seems like their Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials are going to fight?"

Chapter 2986: The Thunder Elemental Profundity and the Earth Elemental Profundity

"That's Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, right?"

"That's right! He's really outstanding! He's only a little over 200 years old, but he's already a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. On top of that, it's said that he has also comprehended the law of thunder!"

"A person of such caliber must be one of the strongest Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm..."

"Xue Jing Yu is going to duel with someone?"

"There has always been hostility between the Emperors of the Supporting Fall Nation and the Southern Qi Nation. It seems like the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation is going to duel with someone from the Supporting Fall Nation."

"The purple-clad young man is from Supporting Fall Nation. It must be his first time entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm."

"I heard that a sectless cultivator had appeared during the Southern Heaven Combat in the Supporting Fall Nation. He's only a Heaven Stage Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial and hasn't comprehended any powers of the laws, but he managed to defeat two of the strongest Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials in the Supporting Fall Nation with a single strike!"

"Could this purple-clad young man be the genius sectless cultivator from the Supporting Fall Nation?"

"Well, it seems like among all the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials from the Supporting Fall Nation, only the genius sectless cultivator is a match for the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation."

“He’s a Heaven Stage Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who hasn’t comprehended any power of the law; he’s definitely not a match for the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation!”

Drawn by the commotion, a massive crowd had gathered around the people from the Supporting Fall Nation and the Southern Qi Nation to watch Duan Ling Tian and Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation. Some of them even recognized Duan Ling Tian as the genius who took the Supporting Fall Nation by storm during the Southern Heaven Combat.

At this moment, Xue Jing Yu glanced at Duan Ling Tian as he said, “Come on, you can make the first move. Otherwise, I’m afraid you won’t have a chance to retaliate once I make my move.” Although his tone was flat, it was brimming with confidence. It was clear he was certain Duan Ling Tian would be defeated in seconds once he made his move.

As soon as Xue Jing Yu finished speaking, the crowd began to discuss among themselves again. Some of them felt he was arrogant, and some of them felt his arrogance was justified due to his talent.

“How arrogant!”

“Hmph! He has the talent to be arrogant!”

Meanwhile, Huang Jia Long who was standing at the side remained calm as he looked at the duo. ‘Although he’s arrogant, his arrogance is justified. I wonder if Brother Duan will be able to defeat him...’ He had a certain understanding of Duan Ling Tian’s strength and capability, and he knew Duan Ling Tian had recently comprehended the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity. However, Xue Jing Yu had also comprehended the law of thunder’s Thunder Elemental Profundity. For this reason, he was not certain if Duan Ling Tian would win the duel. However, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would lose; at most, he thought the duel would end in a draw.

“Since Your Highness insists, I won’t be courteous,” Duan Ling Tian said with a slight smile, unfazed by Xue Jing Yu’s arrogance. He leaped high into the air and let his Celestial Origin Energy course through his 99 Heavenly Veins before it surged out of his body.

The Elementary Devouring Tactic!

The Eastern Purple Qi!

The Immobilization King Method!

After Duan Ling Tian cast his techniques, a golden Buddha figure with purple lightning bolts flashing around it and a vortex that devoured the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings appeared.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A long rod suddenly appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s hands. It vibrated and glowed brightly after he sent his Celestial Origin Energy into it.

As soon as the long rod appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s hand, a long rod similarly appeared in the hands of the golden Buddha that was flashing with purple lightning bolts.

Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time and charged toward Xue Jing Yu with the long rod in hand. The void in his wake shook as his Celestial Origin Energy continued to rise.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Since Duan Ling Tian did not conceal the aura of his Celestial Origin Energy, the powerhouses with a higher cultivation base could tell he was now a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial based on his Celestial Origin Energy.

“A peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?”

“Who said Duan Ling Tian is a Heaven Stage Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial? He’s clearly a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial!”

“Don’t tell me he had a breakthrough recently and became a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?”

“If that’s the case, doesn’t that mean he had a breakthrough in just half a year?”

Meanwhile, a disdainful smirk appeared on Xue Jing Yu’s face as he began to mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy. “A peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial? If this is all you got, all I need is a single strike to defeat you...”

Although Duan Ling Tian’s display of strength was outstanding among Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials, Xue Jing Yu did not think much of it. In fact, he doubted that Duan Ling Tian really defeated Huang Jia Long, the Young Master of the City Governor’s estate in Passage City, with a single strike. After all, Huang Jia Long was the second strongest Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial in the Supporting Fall Nation; he was only slightly weaker than Hu Jin Yong, the Fourth Prince of the Supporting Fall Nation.

“We’ll see about that...” Duan Ling Tian remained calm and composed faced with Xue Jing Yu’s disdainful words.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As Duan Ling Tian drew closer to Xue Jing Yu, Xue Jing Yu’s Celestial Origin Energy turned purple as soon as it surged out of his body. Purple lightning bolts flashed around him as he hovered in the air. At this moment, he was like a god who controlled thunder and lightning.

Upon seeing this, the crowd broke out in an uproar. Some of them even looked at Duan Ling Tian sympathetically.

“T-this is the Thunder Elemental Profundity, the law of thunder’s Fundamental Profundity?”

“Xue Jing Yu is using the Thunder Elemental Profundity as soon as he makes a move; it seems like he intends to defeat Duan Ling Tian with a single strike!”

“Based on the ease he’s manipulating the Thunder Elemental Profundity, it’s quite obvious he has mastered the law of thunder’s Fundamental Profundity!”

“Among the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who are entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Xue Jing Yu’s strength should be ranked in the top 100, right?”

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

At this moment, Xue Jing Yu’s Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Thunder Elemental Profundity turned into roughly 1,000 purple thunder blades. As he moved, a four-foot-long knife appeared in his hand.

“Merge!” Xue Jing Yu cried out. In just an instant, the purple thunder blades shot into his long knife along with a mysterious gray energy. The long knife thrummed and shone even brighter than Duan Ling Tian’s long rod. It was obvious that the long knife was also a King Grade Celestial Weapon!

Buzz!

Purple lightning bolts flashed in a frenzy as Xue Jing Yu charged out with his long knife that was glowing with a gray energy. Apart from casting the Thunder Elemental Profundity, he had also cast one Celestial Method and two Divine Abilities.

“I’ll end you with one strike!” Xue Jing Yu’s body flickered out of sight suddenly before he reappeared again. The long knife in his hand was like a vicious serpent. The air seemed to ripple as purple lightning bolts continued to flash around him.

As the two men were about to collide, a wall of swords that glowed with gray energy and lightning bolts was erected in front of Xue Jing Yu.

The corner of Duan Ling Tian’s mouth lifted slightly as an umbrella appeared in his left hand. “I’d like to see if your defense is stronger than mine!”

“Earth Elemental Profundity!” Duan Ling Tian threw the umbrella out, and it landed in the golden Buddha’s hands. The umbrella shone with a golden light that was intertwined with purple qi. Celestial Origin Energy surged into the umbrella at an alarming rate as soon as he cast the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity.

‘Chaos Divine Earth!’ Duan Ling Tian inwardly summoned the Chaos Divine Earth. Then, an earthy mustard energy shot out of his body into the umbrella, changing the umbrella’s color into mustard yellow as well.

Since the color of the Chaos Divine Earth’s energy was similar to the Earth Elemental Profundity’s energy, no one noticed any abnormality.

The crowd inhaled sharply when they saw Duan Ling Tian using the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity. They were thoroughly shocked.

“I-is that the Earth Elemental Profundity?”

“Heavens! Who said the genius sectless cultivator from the Supporting Fall Nation hasn’t comprehended any powers of the laws? That’s obviously the law of earth’s Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity!”

“He... H-he... He’s not even 100 years old, right?”

“His innate talent is monstrously high!”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of explosions rang in the air as Duan Ling Tian brandished the long rod in his hand. His Celestial Origin Energy that was boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity swept out domineeringly like a landslide.

Chapter 2987: Unscathed!

Duan Ling Tian who had incorporated the Earth Elemental Profundity into his attack charged toward Xue Jing Yu’s defensive wall of lightning and sword.

At the same time, the golden Buddha wielding an umbrella was also about to collide with Xue Jing Yu’s lightning-like long knife.

“The Earth Elemental Profundity?” Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, was taken aback by Duan Ling Tian’s Earth Elemental Profundity. Nevertheless, like an arrow that had been shot out, it was too late for him to change his tactic. The power of his attack would diminish greatly if he were to make sudden changes. For this reason, he had no choice but to continue on. Nevertheless, his confidence did not falter.

Certain that he would win, a contemptuous smile appeared on Xue Jing Yu’s face as he thought to himself, ‘Although both of us have comprehended the Fundamental Profundities of our elements, the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities I’ve mastered is certainly superior to yours. Let’s see where you got your confidence to fight with me from....’

“Chaos Divine Earth, are you sure you’re capable of deflecting his attack? You should know it’s impossible for me to deflect his attack alone. I can only deflect a portion of his attack at most,” Duan Ling Tian asked the Chaos Divine Earth when he saw Xue Jing Yu approaching him at lightning speed.

“Boy, how dare you doubt me? Just watch!” the Chaos Divine Earth said indignantly in its childish voice. It was clearly displeased that Duan Ling Tian questioned its ability.

Duan Ling Tian felt reassured and confident after listening to the Chaos Divine Earth’s reply. Then, he completely unleashed his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity! Since he had broken through and became a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, this was the first time he was unleashing his strength without any reservation. With his current cultivation base and his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity, his strength was now on par with the full strength of a One Basic Celestial Duke!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Duan Ling Tian’s Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the Earth Elemental Profundity rose to the peak of its power in his long rod.

At the same time, the weapon in the golden Buddha’s hand grew in size as it deflected Xue Jing Yu’s knife and slammed into his defensive wall of lightning and sword.

Duan Ling Tian paid no heed to Xue Jing Yu's attack and continued to charge forward.

When the crowd saw Duan Ling Tian had no intention of dodging Xue Jing Yu's attack and had seemingly chosen to receive Xue Jing Yu's attack to land a blow on Xue Jing Yu, they were shocked.

"Is he crazy? He's not planning to dodge Xue Jing Yu's attack?"

"Is he planning to die together with Xue Jing Yu?"

"Death is too much of an exaggeration. At most, both of them will suffer heavy injuries."

"Duan Ling Tian must be crazy!"

"I wonder if Xue Jing Yu would stick to his attack at the risk of suffering heavy injuries or change his attack? However, if he changes his attack now, he risks suffering minor injuries while Duan Ling Tian escapes unscathed. At that time, if they clash again, he'll be at a disadvantage."

"B-brother Duan..." Huang Jia Long was stunned.

Even Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, and the people from the Supporting Fall Nation were shocked. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian to go to such extremes.

The crowd could not help but feel chills running up their spines as they looked at Duan Ling Tian! He must be mad; a desperate lunatic who was willing to risk his life just for a duel!

Meanwhile, Xue Jing Yu was both taken aback and angered by Duan Ling Tian's drastic action. He wielded his knife and continued on his collision course with Duan Ling Tian. "You intend for both of us to suffer injuries? Fine, I'll fulfill your wish! Let's see who will suffer more in the end!"

Boom!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air when Duan Ling Tian's long rod landed on Xue Jing Yu's defensive wall of lightning and swords. Its speed was greatly reduced due to the resistance from Xue Jing Yu's defense.

Simultaneously, streaks of lights shot out in all directions when Xue Jing Yu's knife landed on the umbrella held by the golden Buddha figure. The air rippled, and the mustard yellow light shrouding the umbrella flashed in a frenzy.

About a breath later, Duan Ling Tian's long rod shattered Xue Jing Yu's defensive wall at the cost of exhausting a significant portion of its power.

On the contrary, Xue Jing Yu failed to breach Duan Ling Tian's defense regardless of how many times he struck with his King Grade Celestial Knife. The umbrella in the golden Buddha figure's hand remained intact.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's long rod was about to land on Xue Jing Yu.

Clang!

Suddenly, armor seemed to appear on Xue Jing Yu's body. It shone brightly with a golden light, looking indestructible. Upon closer inspection, one could see purple lightning bolts flashing in the golden light. It was obvious Xue Jing Yu had incorporated the Thunder Elemental Profundity into the armor.

"Is that a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon?"

"I've heard that the Imperial Family of the Southern Qi Nation has a defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon called the Golden Light Celestial Armor. I didn't think it's in the possession of the second prince. The Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation is really generous!"

"How's that surprising? It's only natural the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation would give this Celestial Weapon to Xue Jing Yu as protection since he will be entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm."

"Once Xue Jing Yu send his Celestial Origin Energy into his defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon, its defensive strength will be stronger than Duan Ling Tian's second Celestial Weapon, which is an offensive-defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon, that has been boosted with Celestial Origin Energy and Earth Elemental Profundity!"

The crowd was astonished at the sight of the Golden Light Celestial Armor.

'No wonder he refuses to surrender. As it turns out, he possesses a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he cocked an eyebrow. Nevertheless, he did not retreat. He advanced fiercely and struck Xue Jing Yu's golden armor. After three breaths, Xue Jing Yu's Golden Light Celestial Armor was destroyed.

Since Xue Jing Yu had focused most of his strength on attacking, the Golden Light Celestial Armor's defensive power was weaker.

Although the strength of Duan Ling Tian's fierce attack was greatly reduced after destroying Xue Jing Yu's defenses, the wall of lightning and sword and the Golden Light Celestial Armor, his attack was sufficient to send Xue Jing Yu flying like an arrow when it landed.

Xue Jing Yu landed with a loud crash after he was sent flying back. He retched and spat out a mouthful of blood; his face was as pale as a sheet of paper. His upper robe was torn from the attack, revealing a dark armor underneath.

At this moment, the crowd instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian who was standing calmly with his umbrella and long rod in hand. His expression remained unchanged from the beginning. Most importantly, he was completely unharmed! He had escaped unscathed!

"How's that possible?!"

"He's not injured at all!"

"What a formidable defense! Could he have comprehended some defensive profundities from the law of earth?"

"Impossible. If that were the case, the Celestial Kings present would be able to sense it."

Xue Jing Yu had sustained minor injuries while Duan Ling Tian was untouched.

Everyone was thoroughly shocked as they looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously.

Even Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, was staring at Duan Ling Tian in shock. He had prepared himself for Duan Ling Tian's loss or for the battle to end in a draw. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to defeat and injure Xue Jing Yu, let alone coming out from the duel without even a scratch. When he regained his senses, his eyes lit up when he looked at Duan Ling Tian. 'Based on Xue Jing Yu's attack, not even an ordinary One Basic Celestial Duke would be able to deflect it with such ease. Among all the participants who will be entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Duan Ling Tian might possibly rank in the top ten!'

Previously, Hu Lin Yi had thought Duan Ling Tian's strength would be ranked in the top 100 among the participants who would be entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. However, after watching Duan Ling Tian's performance, he was confident Duan Ling Tian's strength would be ranked in the top ten, and possibly even in the top three!

Many Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials from grade-eight and grade-seven forces would be entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. In the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion, the Three Sects and Two Clans were the most powerful grade-seven force. Above that was the Profound Nether Mansion itself. It was very rare for those from the grade-seven forces to be able to directly join the Profound Nether Mansion. They had to be extremely outstanding among all the other talented cultivators to join the mansion. For this reason, many people would join one of the Three Sects and Two Clans first and work for an opportunity to join the Profound Nether Mansion.

Therefore, the majority of the talented Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials from the grade-seven forces strove to join one of the Three Sects and Two Clans if they survived the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. There was no lack of talent among these participants. In fact, there would be even a few Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials who had comprehended two profundities of an element.

Since Hu Lin Yi knew there were a lot of geniuses among the participants, he did not think Duan Ling Tian would rank on top. Although Duan Ling Tian was extremely strong, he did not think Duan Ling Tian had comprehended two profundities from his law of earth. Therefore, he was rather certain Duan Ling Tian was no match for those genius Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials from grade-seven forces who had comprehended two profundities from a law.

Chapter 2988: Another Purely Defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon

"Brother Duan..." Huang Jia Long looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously. He thought he knew Duan Ling Tian rather well. However, it seemed like what he knew was comparable to a drop in the ocean. He sighed inwardly. 'No wonder he's able to defeat me with a single strike before he even comprehended the profundity of the law.'

When the people from the Supporting Fall Nation regained their senses, they looked at Duan Ling Tian with eyes brimming with disbelief.

“H-how’s that possible?!”

“Did Duan Ling Tian comprehend two profundities of the law of earth?”

“I think so. Otherwise, how did he defeat the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation so easily? Moreover, he’s not even injured!”

The people from the Southern Qi Nation were similarly shocked and in disbelief.

Xue Ming Cai, the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation, looked at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully after he made sure his son was fine. His expression was dark; he did not expect to lose the bet that he had taken the initiative to propose. Most importantly, he had proposed the bet to humiliate Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation. He planned to rub his victory in Hu Lin Yi’s face. He did not care if he would lose a King Grade Celestial Weapon, but his reputation was a different matter.

In the end, Xue Ming Cai gritted his teeth and said, “Emperor Hu, I have to say you’re really lucky to have such a talented young man representing you to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.”

Hu Lin Yi laughed heartily as he looked at Xue Ming Cai and said, “Emperor Xue, I’m flattered. In any case, you and the Southern Qi Nation have lost the bet...” He was beside himself with delight.

“Indeed. I’ve lost the bet. However, you have to admit that your son is no match for mine, right?” Xue Ming Cai smugly said.

Hu Lin Yin’s expression darkened as he scoffed. “That’s irrelevant! You better hand over the King Grade Celestial Weapon now!”

“Sure, I admit defeat,” Xue Ming Cai said scornfully. He raised his hand, and a King Grade Celestial Sword appeared in his hand. Then, he handed it over to Hu Lin Yi.

Xue Ming Cai then smiled amicably as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Are you interested in representing the Southern Qi Nation to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm? If you represent me, I’m willing to give you the Golden Light Celestial Armor.”

The crowd gasped at Xue Ming Cai’s blatant attempt to poach Duan Ling Tian from the Supporting Fall Nation by offering the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. They instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian before they began to fervently discuss among themselves.

“Emperor Xue is really generous!”

“The Golden Light Celestial Armor is the Imperial Family of the Southern Qi Nation’s one and only defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. Such a Celestial Weapon is worth at least 1,000,000 prominent Celestial Crystals in the black market! It’s 10 times the price of an ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapon!”

“Seems like Emperor Xue really admires Duan Ling Tian...”

“With Duan Ling Tian’s capabilities, it’d be easy for him to survive the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. If he manages to rank in the top 30, which is very likely, the emperor of the nation he represents would be handsomely rewarded. In comparison, a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon is nothing.”

“In my opinion, Duan Ling Tian has a chance of ranking in the top 10.”

“If Duan Ling Tian ranks in the top 10, the rewards would be a few times greater than the value of a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon!”

At this moment, Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, wordlessly removed the Golden Light Celestial Armor from his body and put on a new robe. Not a hint of dissatisfaction could be seen on his face at all.

“You...” Hu Lin Yi’s expression turned unsightly. He did not expect Xue Ming Cai would shamelessly and openly try to poach Duan Ling Tian from him. He took a deep breath to calm down before he handed the King Grade Celestial Sword he won from the bet and Celestial Talisman glowing with a green light to Duan Ling Tian. Then, he said, “This is a Gale Talisman inscribed by a Seven Stars Celestial King. It’ll grant you speed comparable to a Celestial King for 15 minutes, but it can only be used once. In fact, your speed would be faster than most Celestial Kings!”

The Gale Talisman was the additional reward Hu Lin Yi had promised Duan Ling Tian earlier if Duan Ling Tian won the duel.

“Faster than most Celestial Kings?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up as he took the Gale Talisman. “Is the speed granted by the talisman faster than yours, Your Majesty?”

“Even if I try my very best, I won’t even reach half of its speed...” Hu Lin Yi smiled bitterly.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened even more upon hearing Hu Lin Yi’s words. Based on his knowledge, such a Celestial Talisman was almost equivalent to the price of a King Grade Celestial Weapon even if the talisman could only be used once.

At this moment, Xue Ming Cai said with a sneer, “Emperor Hu, you’re really stingy...” Then, he turned to Duan Ling Tian and said, “Duan Ling Tian, as long as you’re willing to represent the Southern Qi Nation to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, not only will I give you the Golden Light Celestial Armor, but I’ll give you two additional Celestial Talismans. One of them is also a Gale Talisman, but it’s superior to the one Emperor Hu gave you. The other Celestial Talisman is an offensive Celestial Talisman. It’ll grant you the powers of a One Basic Celestial King for one attack. Under the right circumstances, it’s capable of killing a Ten Directions Celestial Duke! This offensive Celestial Talisman is worth more than the total price of three Gale Talismans.”

In the Devata Realms, the more powerful the Celestial Talisman, the more difficult it was to inscribe. Therefore, an offensive Celestial Talisman that could grant one the strength of a One Basic Celestial King was more valuable than a movement Celestial Talisman even if the movement talisman could grant one the speed of a Five Elements Celestial King.

The crowd inhaled sharply when they heard Xue Ming Cai's offer. If Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top 30, the rewards Xue Ming Cai would obtain from the Profound Nether Mansion would probably only be equivalent to the price of the items he offered Duan Ling Tian.

"You!" Hu Lin Yi was at a loss for words; he was thoroughly enraged by Xue Ming Cai's words. He knew Xue Ming Cai was so generous with his offer to Duan Ling Tian because Xue Ming Cai was betting on Duan Ling Tian ranking in the top 10. Most importantly, if Duan Ling Tian defected to the Southern Qi Nation, Xue Ming Cai knew it would annoy him to no end!

Eventually, Hu Lin Yi inhaled deeply to calm himself down before he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. Then, he extended his left hand as a red vest appeared. The vest was woven with glowing red scales; not a single stitch was in sight. One could tell that it was not an ordinary item. At the same time, a dull object that looked like an iron bead with pits all over its surface appeared in his right hand.

A few people among the crowd quickly identified the red vest as a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon.

"Is that a defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon?!"

"The Imperial Family of the Supporting Fall Nation has a defensive King Celestial Weapon as well? Why didn't I hear about it before?"

"Is he really planning to give the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon to Duan Ling Tian?"

"It seems like Emperor Hu is being forced to take out more valuable items because of Emperor Xue."

Meanwhile, Hu Jin Yong, the Fourth Prince of the Supporting Fall Nation, was equally as shocked as the others when he saw the red vest in Hu Lin Yi's hands. It was clear he was not privy to the existence of the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. 'Father has a defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon?'

'A purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up as he looked at the red vest in Hu Lin Yi's hand. The power of a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon would certainly boost his defenses more than a double-trait offensive-defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. Even the defenses of the umbrella in his hand, a King Grade Celestial Weapon, was no match for a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. 'My defenses will definitely rise to another level with a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon!'

"Duan Ling Tian, you're free to choose one of these two items. This bead may look inconspicuous, but it's extraordinary. No matter how hard I tried to destroy it, I couldn't even leave a single scratch on it. Its price should be roughly the same as a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon," Hu Lin Yi said.

Duan Ling Tian was about to choose the red vest when the Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice suddenly rang in his mind! "It's a first-form Profound Divine Metal!"

Chapter 2989: Substantial Rewards

"It's a first-form Profound Divine Metal!" The Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind before Duan Ling Tian could tell Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, that he wanted the red vest, a defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon.

“T-that... That’s a first-form Profound Divine Metal?” Duan Ling Tian asked the Chaos Divine Earth. His heart thumped wildly in his chest as he looked at the unremarkable iron bead with dents in Hu Lin Yi’s right hand.

“Yes. As one of the Five Divine Elements, it’s only natural that I’m able to recognize a first-form Profound Divine Metal. That fellow is extremely lucky. Even when he’s sleeping, you managed to come across a first-form Profound Divine Metal. Boy, if you choose the first-form Profound Divine Metal, the Profound Divine Metal in your body will be able to evolve into its third form after absorbing it. You’ll benefit more from that than the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon!” the Chaos Divine Earth replied. It emphasized on the benefits of obtaining the first-form Profound Divine Metal since it could tell Duan Ling Tian wanted the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon.

The Chaos Divine Earth did not wait for Duan Ling Tian’s reply. As though it was worried Duan Ling Tian would choose the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon despite his advice, it hastily added, “As for that purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon, with your innate talent, it’d be easy for you to obtain another one after you join the Three Sects and Two Clans.”

The Chaos Divine Earth was unaware that its words were not necessary. Since Duan Ling Tian found out the bead was a first-form Profound Divine Metal, he had decisively made up his mind to choose the iron bead. The defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon was great, but it was no match for the value of the first-form Profound Divine Metal.

Duan Ling Tian took a final glance at the red vest with a slightly heavy heart. He was about to reach out for the first-form Profound Divine Metal when a burst of laughter rang in the air. He instinctively turned to look at the source of the laughter and saw Xue Ming Cai, the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation.

“Why are you laughing?!” Hu Lin Yi asked, displeased. An ominous feeling rose in his heart at this moment.

When Xue Ming Cai stopped laughing, he looked at Hu Lin Yi knowingly and said, “Emperor Hu, if I’m not mistaken, you obtained this bead 200 years ago during the Black Mountain Nation’s Imperial auction, right? I remember it cost you 20,000 prominent Celestial Crystals?” He did not wait for Hu Lin Yi’s reply and turned to Duan Ling Tian and bluntly said, “Duan Ling Tian, it seems like Emperor Hu is reluctant to give his defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon to you. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have brought this broken bead out and asked you to choose from the two. In my opinion, he’s only trying to distract you with this broken bead in hopes of keeping the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon to himself. Why don’t you join our Southern Qi Nation? At the very least, I’m not as stingy as Emperor Hu.” After he finished speaking, he looked at Hu Lin Yi contemptuously.

Hu Lin Yi’s expression changed drastically when Xue Ming Cai mentioned the Black Mountain Nation’s Imperial Auction. He did not expect Xue Ming Cai to be privy to that matter and openly exposed his thoughts! Indeed, he had deliberately brought the bead out in hopes of distracting Duan Ling Tian. He had lied about its value and price because he was reluctant to part with his defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon.

Upon seeing Hu Lin Yi’s reaction to Xue Ming Cai’s words, the crowd was convinced Xue Ming Cai had spoken the truth.

“It seems like Emperor Xue is telling the truth; Emperor Hu wants to mislead Duan Ling Tian!”

“This Emperor Hu is dishonest... How insincere of him...”

“I actually thought the bead was something special. As it turns out, it’s just something he obtained for 20,000 prominent Celestial Crystals during the Black Mountain Nation’s Imperial auction 200 years ago.”

“It’s only worth 20,000 prominent Celestial Crystals! How stingy!”

“That’s right. A new ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapon is worth, at least, 100,000 prominent Celestial Crystals, let alone a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon...”

“Xue Ming Cai, how dare you slander me!” Hu Lin Yi barked in anger.

“You’re accusing me of slandering you? Why don’t we speak to the Emperor of the Black Mountain and ask him about it?” Xue Ming Cai chuckled.

Naturally, it was impossible for Hu Lin Yi to agree to that. After all, he had, indeed, obtained the bead from the Black Mountain Nation’s Imperial auction for 200,000 prominent Celestial Crystals.

“Xue Ming Cai, are you certain this bead is worthless? Why don’t you try and destroy it? No, just try to leave a mark on it... It doesn’t matter even if the mark is just a few millimeters long.” Hu Lin Yi glared at Xue Ming Cai.

“Emperor Hu, I didn’t say anything about being able to leave a mark on the iron bead. Our strength is about the same. If you can’t leave a mark on it, naturally, it’d be the same for me as well,” Xue Ming Cai said in a leisurely manner.

“Then why did you say it’s useless?” Hu Lin Yi asked in a low voice.

“Am I wrong?” Xue Ming Cai smiled. “This bead cost you 20,000 prominent Celestial Crystals, and yet, you can’t make heads or tails out of it after so many years... What use does it have? Why don’t you tell us?” He was grinning at the end of his sentence.

On the other hand, Hu Lin Yi looked as though he had swallowed a fly.

Xue Ming Cai continued adding fuel to fire. “Emperor Hu, if I were in your shoes, I’d give Duan Ling Tian these two items to prove my sincerity.”

For the umpteenth time today, Hu Lin Yi was angered by Xue Ming Cai’s words. He said icily, “I don’t need you to teach me what to do; I already planned to do that anyway.” Then, he passed the two items in his hands to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate to accept the two items. “Thank you, Your Majesty.” He truly did not expect he would obtain both the first-form Profound Divine Metal and the purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon due to Xue Ming Cai intentionally giving Hu Lin Yi a hard time.

“Boy, the Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation seems like a pretty decent character.” Even the Chaos Divine Earth was surprised at how lucky Duan Ling Tian was. “With this defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon, your defenses will be much stronger, especially if I infuse my power into it!”

Duan Ling Tian knew how formidable the Chaos Divine Earth was. If it were not for the Chaos Divine Earth helping him to nullify Xue Jing Yu’s attack, he would have been severely injured.

“Emperor Hu is generous indeed!” Xue Ming Cai laughed heartily before he gestured to his people and left. Although he had lost the bet, he felt like the victor at this moment.

Even the crowd who were watching felt Xue Ming Cai seemed to have come out on top despite losing the bet.

After the people from the Southern Qi Nation left, Hu Lin Yi turned to look at Duan Ling Tian immediately.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian’s heart skipped a beat. ‘This Emperor Hu... I hope he’s not thinking about asking me to return his items... I don’t mind returning the defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon... However, if he wants me to return the first-form Profound Divine Metal, I have no choice but to threaten to represent the Southern Qi Nation to enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm...’

Duan Ling Tian remained resolutely silent, waiting for Hu Lin Yi to speak. However, as it turned out, he had overthought things.

Hu Lin Yi was the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, it was impossible for him to ask Duan Ling Tian to return the items he had given in front of so many people. It was a foolish thing to do. Not only would he come across as stingy, but he would offend and alienate Duan Ling Tian as well. At that time, Duan Ling Tian would surely join the Southern Qi Nation instead.

Hu Lin Yi asked with a smile, “Are you confident about ranking in the top 10?”

Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief inwardly when he realized Hu Lin Yi was not asking for the items back. Then, he replied, “I’ll try my best!”

With that, Hu Lin Yi motioned to his people before he led them to the center of the Scaling Cloud Lake.

At the same time, Huang Jia Long sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. Based on the tone of his voice, he was genuinely happy for Duan Ling Tian. “Congratulations, Brother Duan! The Emperor of the Southern Qi Nation has indirectly helped you to gain these things!”

The rest of the people from the Supporting Fall Nation, especially Hu Jin Yong, looked at Duan Ling Tian enviously.

Hu Jin Yong was unaware that his father possessed a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. As soon as he learned about its existence, it was given to Duan Ling Tian!

As the people from the Supporting Fall Nation drew close to the center of Scaling Cloud Lake, they saw more than 10,000 people gathered there. Moreover, the numbers were increasing as time passed...

Chapter 2990: The Three Sects and Two Clans Arrive

Two days later.

“Apart from the people of Three Sects and Two Clans, all the others entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient should have arrived, right?”

Standing in the air above the center of Scaling Cloud Lake, Duan Ling Tian surveyed his surroundings. He confirmed there were, at least, 20,000 people present on the scene. It was just as Huang Jia Long had said; apart from the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient, there were also many elites who accompanied the Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials here.

At this moment, a commotion broke out near Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Supporting Fall Nation.

“The Three Sects and Two Clans are here!”

“The Three Sects and Two Clans?”

Everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, turned to look in the direction of the commotion.

A group of people could be seen flying in the air. This group of people was further divided into five smaller groups. Each of the subgroups consisted of a few people with one person flying in the lead.

In one subgroup, the people were not dressed uniformly. Their attitudes held a certain casualness. The leader of this group of people was a rotund middle-aged man who kept stroking his round belly as he moved. His eyes were small as though they had been squeezed together on his face.

In another subgroup, all the members wore the same robes. However, when they drew closer, one would be able to see the minute differences in their otherwise similar robes. For example, an old man, who was clearly the leader of the group, had fine golden trimmings on the edges of his sleeves and robe. Meanwhile, the two people standing behind the old man had silver trimmings on their sleeves and robes. As for the others in the group, they had bronze trimmings on their sleeves and robes.

‘They should be from the Simplicity Celestial Sect...’ Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly as he looked at this group of people dressed in robes with different color trimmings. The Simplicity Celestial Sect was one of the Profound Nether Mansion’s Three Sect and Two Clans. The Simplicity Celestial Sect could be counted among the top three grade-seven sects in the Profound Nether Mansion.

The only forces in the Profound Nether Mansion that were comparable to the Simplicity Celestial Sect were the two sects from the Three Sects and Two Clans: the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect and the Coupling Celestial Sect.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian’s attention shifted to a group of people who were dressed in simple Buddhist robes in gold, silver, and red color. Only one person among this group of people wore a golden Buddhist robe. It was an old man with a kind gaze and the appearance of a sage. However, his aura was rather sinister, giving him a contradictory feeling. ‘These people should be from the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect...’

Duan Ling Tian had heard that the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect was a sect that consisted only of monks like the Blissful Sect in the borderlands. One would have to become a monk if they wanted to join the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian turned his attention to the most eye-catching group. "And these people should be from the Coupling Celestial Sect."

A handsome young man dressed in magnificent robes sat on an exquisite roofless sedan that was carried by eight people; four of them stood at the front and another four stood at the back. The eight people carrying the sedan were dressed in tight gray servant robes. Apart from that, five young women and five young men trailed after the sedan like shadows. These ten people were all good-looking. Similar to the handsome young man sitting on the sedan, they were also dressed magnificently.

"The Coupling Celestial Sect!" An excited cry sounded next to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was extremely familiar with that voice. He did not need to turn and look to know the voice belonged to Huang Jia Long. Not understanding Huang Jia Long's excitement, he asked in confusion, "Jia Long, why..."

Before Duan Ling Tian could finish his question, Huang Jia Long said with a sheepish smile, "Sorry, I got a little carried away." Then, he shifted his eyes to the people from the Coupling Celestial Sect before he continued to say, "I got carried away because the Coupling Celestial Sect is my first choice of sect to join. If I'm not mistaken, the leader of the entourage from the Coupling Celestial Sect is the sect's third sect leader, Bihai Mingfeng!"

Huang Jia Long's eyes shone with admiration as he explained to Duan Ling Tian, "The Coupling Celestial Sect has three sect leaders. Although the third sect leader might not be the strongest among the three, his talent is the highest. It's said that apart from being the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Sect, he holds an important position in the Profound Nether Mansion as well..."

Duan Ling Tian looked at Huang Jia Long knowingly and said, "If I'm not mistaken, the reason you want to join the Coupling Celestial Sect is due to the sect's dual cultivation technique, right? Based on my knowledge, the dual cultivation, or the twin cultivation technique, of a man and woman can rapidly improve one's cultivation..." Then, he added with a sigh, "If you join the Coupling Celestial Sect, who knows how many women would be corrupted by you? The lure of this technique isn't something ordinary women are able to resist."

Huang Jia Long furrowed his brows and said, "Brother Duan, your words are a bit unpleasant... What do you mean by corrupting women? I'm only saving them from being cheated by other men. Am I someone who doesn't take responsibility for my actions?"

Although Huang Jia Long was frivolous, he was not without a sense of measure. He was not someone who would force himself on a woman using his status and power. This was something Duan Ling Tian appreciated despite Huang Jia Long being a shameless womanizer.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "Alright, alright, you're not someone who doesn't take responsibility." After saying this, he no longer continued this topic. He returned his attention to the five small groups of people.

Duan Ling Tian looked at another group of people who were dressed in different robes like the first group of people that was led by a rotund middle-aged man. Based on the whispers in his surroundings, he learned that this group of people were from the Three Sects and Two Clans' Gongyang Clan, a grade-seven clan.

Duan Ling Tian then turned to look at the first group of people he saw that was led by a rotund middle-aged man. 'So, the first group is from the Zhangsun Clan?'

With this, Duan Ling Tian had seen all the entourages from the Three Sects and the Two Clans.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Soon enough, the five leaders of the groups hovered in the air in front of Duan Ling Tian and the others. They swept their eyes indifferently across the crowd standing in front of them.

A few people who were standing close to these five people moved away, making space for them.

The rotund middle-aged man, the leader of the group from Zhangsun Clan, looked at the other four leaders and said with a faint smile on his face, "Sect Leader Bihai, Deputy Sect Leader Heng, Deputy Sect Leader Zhangsun, Elder Gongyang Yu, I think we should choose a representative among us to be in charge of the opening. What do you think?"

It did not escape Duan Ling Tian and the others that the rotund middle-aged man was the most respectful to Bihai Mingfeng when he spoke to the four leaders. Moreover, Bihai Mingfeng was also the first person he greeted.

"The leader of the Zhangsun Clan seems a little too respectful to Coupling Celestial Sect's leader. As far as I know, although Zhangsun Clan is weaker than the Coupling Celestial Sect, the difference is not much, right?" A middle-aged man standing near Duan Ling Tian said to his companion in a hushed voice, "There are other leaders as well from the Three Sects and Two Clans, but why does it seem like he's only fawning over the leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect? There's no need to go to such an extent, right?"

"Don't you know who's that person from the Coupling Celestial Sect?" the man's companion asked in confusion. It was as though he could not understand why the man would ask such a stupid question.

"Who's he?" The middle-aged man frowned. Clearly, he did not know what his companion was talking about.

"That person is the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, Bihai Mingfeng!" the companion replied as he looked at Bihai Mingfeng reverently

"What?" The middle-aged man inhaled sharply upon hearing his companion's words. "H-he... He's the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Sect? One of the Ten Inspectors of Profound Nether Mansion?"

"That's right!" The middle-aged man's companion nodded slightly. "Now you know why that person from the Zhangsun Clan is so reverent, right?"

The middle-aged man smiled wryly in response. "This person is even more frightening than the Great Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect. Rumor has it that his strength might have already surpassed the Great Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect."

"I don't think it's just a rumor. Do you think it's easy to become an Inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion? There are only ten of them in the Profound Nether Mansion," the middle-aged man's companion replied.

When Huang Jia Long heard the two men's discussion, he approached them and curiously asked, "Gentlemen, is it really true that the third sect leader's strength has surpassed the Great Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect?"

"That's old news," the middle-aged man's companion replied, "Perhaps, you haven't heard about it, but did you know the Great Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect tried for the position of an Inspector of the Profound Nether Mansion but failed?"