

Chapter 3001: Sima Ping Dong

At the center of Scaling Cloud Lake.

The expression of a grey-clad old man changed drastically when he saw Sima Chun's name had disappeared from the scoreboard. His domineering aura caused the people with a weaker cultivation base to shudder in fear as he cried out, "H-how's this possible?!"

"So powerful!"

"Who's he? His aura is so domineering!"

"You don't know him? He's the Grand Elder of the Sima Clan, a grade-seven clan!"

"The Grand Elder of the Sima Clan? Why's he here? Normally, people of such high status won't come here, right?"

"I don't think the grand elder can accept Sima Chun's death..."

"That's only natural. A person of such caliber as Sima Chun was definitely the rising star of the Sima Clan. How could the high-ranking members of Sima Clan not mourn the loss of such a talent?"

The old man, Sima Ping Dong, was the Grand Elder of the Sima Clan. His strength was not inferior to the leaders of the Three Sects and Two Clans present on the scene, except for Bihai Mingfeng, the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect. This was his first time leading the members from the Sima Clan to the entrance of the lower realm in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, and there was a reason for that. Although many people recognized the old man, not many knew of his relationship with Sima Chun. He had personally led the members from the Sima Clan here because Sima Chun, one of the participating Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials, was his beloved grandson whom he was most proud of.

"Ch-Chun'er is dead?!" Sima Ping Dong lamented softly with a disbelieving expression on his face.

"I'm so sorry for your loss, grand elder," a middle-aged man standing next to Sima Ping Dong said. He was only an ordinary elder in the Sima Clan, unlike Sima Ping Dong. He knew Sima Chun was very dear and irreplaceable to Sima Ping Dong. Now that Sima Chun had died, one could only imagine how Sima Ping Dong. He sighed inwardly. 'Sima Chun is the grand elder's most beloved grandson. Now that he has died, the grand elder must regret letting him enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Heaven.'

Most people who knew Sima Chun were surprised he had died in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. One must know he was the most outstanding genius to appear in the Sima Clan in the past 1,000 years. He was not even 200 years old, but he was already a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended two profundities from the law of wind. Such a person was definitely at the top among those who had entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Even so, he had died just like that.

Boom!

Sima Ping Dong's body flashed out of sight, leaving ripples in his wake. In just a blink of an eye, he appeared in front of the five leaders from the Three Sects and Two Clans. He looked at Bihai Mingfeng and cupped his hands together. "Sect Leader Bihai."

"Elder Ping Dong." The Sima Clan was a grade-seven clan so it was only natural that Bihai Ming Feng knew the Grand Elder of the Sima Clan. Before Sima Dong Ping could speak, he said, "I already know what brought you here. However, nobody is privy to what happens in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, not even the few of us here. There's nothing we can do even if we agree to help you identify the person who killed your grandson."

"I'm aware of the situation," Sima Ping Dong nodded and said in a low voice, "I would like to ask for a favor from you, Sect Leader Bihai. If I'm able to identify who killed my grandson, I'd like Sect Leader Bihai to hand him over to me." He completely ignored the other four leaders of the Three Sects and Two Clans since they were no match for him. Only Bihai Ming Feng was capable of stopping him from avenging his grandson.

"I'm afraid I can't agree to that." Bihai Ming Feng shook his head. "It's not up to the Three Sects and Two Clans to decide on such matters. After all, we're only given the authority by the Profound Nether Mansion to open the entrance to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm."

"Sect Leader Bihai, as one of the ten Inspectors of the Profound Nether Mansion, I believe the Profound Nether Mansion wouldn't bother to find fault with you," Sima Dong Ping said persistently.

Alas, Bihai Mingfeng remained firm with his decision.

Sima Dong Ping could only dejectedly return to his position.

...

Most people could guess Sima Dong Ping's intention when he approached Bihai Mingfeng.

"The Grand Elder of the Sima Clan, Sima Ping Dong, is Sima Chun's grandfather. Now that Sima Chun's dead, there's no doubt he wants to rip his grandson's murderer apart to avenge his grandson!"

"He must have asked Sect Leader Bihai to not interfere when he seeks revenge."

"But, how does he intend to find out who killed his grandson? Do you think he knows?"

"I don't think so. He probably just wanted to be prepared. What if he really manages to identify the murderer? In any case, he won't be able to avenge his grandson if Sect Leader Bihai decides to interfere."

"He must have gone to Sect Leader Bihai to ask him not to interfere with his revenge! Based on his unsightly expression, Sect Leader Bihai must have rejected his request."

"Well, if Sect Leader Bihai agrees to his request, who would dare to kill in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm in the future?"

At the same time, some people who were unaware of the rules of the scoreboard finally discovered how it worked.

“It seems like nobody has gained 8 points after Sima Chun’s death,” a middle-aged man muttered to himself as he looked at the scoreboard.

“Of course not! If the scoreboard instantly reveals who has gained 8 points, won’t it be akin to revealing the identity of Sima Chun’s murderer to everyone? The points will slowly increase for the person who killed Sima Chun. This is to protect the anonymity of the murderer,” an old man retorted.

“So, this means unless the murderer confesses to killing Sima Chun or if there’s a witness, no one, bar the murderer, will know who killed Sima Chun?”

“That’s right. If the participants are afraid to kill, in fear of the repercussions of their actions, what’s the point of entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm then?”

Meanwhile, the eyes of Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, lit up as he looked at the scoreboard. ‘Duan Ling Tian’s points have just increased by two! He has five points now! He really doesn’t disappoint...’ However, the smile on his face was replaced by a frown when he saw the name at the top of the scoreboard. ‘However, the top scorer has already accumulated 11 points. Even the person in 10th place has accumulated seven points. I hope Duan Ling Tian quickly makes it into the top ten.’

Although Sima Chun’s death had caught Hu Lin Yi’s attention earlier, he did not connect it to Duan Ling Tian. After all, Sima Chun was a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended two profundities from the law of wind, the Wind Elemental Profundity and the Gale Profundity. He did not think Duan Ling Tian was capable of defeating Sima Chun, let alone killing Sima Chun.

...

After Sima Dong Ping returned, another elder from the Sima Clan smiled bitterly as he said, “Grand elder, even if the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect agrees to your request, it’s still difficult to find out the identity of your grandson’s murderer.”

“I’ll just kill the most suspicious one!” Sima Dong Ping said as his eyes flashed coldly. Although he had many sons and grandsons, Sima Chun was his favorite. He was so enraged by Sima Chun’s death that he wished he could enter the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm now to avenge his grandson!

Upon hearing Sima Ping Dong’s words, the elder could only smile helplessly.

Among all the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials, only a few from grade-seven forces were a match for Sima Chun. However, it would still be difficult for them to kill Sima Chun unless they joined forces. If that was truly the case, it would be even more difficult to identify Sima Chun’s murderer or murderers.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of what was going on outside the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Although his points were slowly increasing as time passed by, nobody suspected him to have killed Sima Chun.

Sima Ping Dong was quick to rule out Duan Ling Tian as a suspect after he investigated Duan Ling Tian's strength from people who were in the know. His eyes were glued to the scoreboard, memorizing the names of those who had suddenly gained a lot of points as suspects.

...

In the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

In a blink of an eye, another month had passed. It took Duan Ling Tian one month and traveling at top speed to exit the seemingly boundless forest under the guiding force. Based on this, one could see how vast the forest was.

"I'm finally out!"

Chapter 3002: Same Way

Duan Ling Tian had run into three people along the way. One of them attacked him upon discovering he was not even 100 years old. Alas, that person was killed by him. The other two had witnessed his strength when he fought the Second Prince of Southern Qi Nation so they did not dare to engage him in a fight. In fact, they had thought he would definitely kill them. However, since they did not act against him, he did not bother with them. It was of utmost importance that he arrived at the Celestial Lord Temple that he suspected was created by the Southern Heaven Celestial Lord as soon as possible. There must be many treasures and fortuitous encounters there.

After leaving the forest, Duan Ling Tian arrived at a vast and seemingly boundless plain. He had traveled for three days and was flying over a mountain range when he heard the sounds from an ongoing battle. A loud and pompous voice rang in the air. When he heard the words, his expression turned grim, and he descended immediately.

"Huang Jia Chao, you're no match for me! Die!" These words prompted Duan Ling Tian to make a detour into the mountains.

Duan Ling Tian saw two figures in the midst of a fearsome battle soon after he descended. The loud and pompous voice clearly belonged to the young man who held the upper hand in the battle. His opponent who was at a disadvantage was none other than Huang Jia Chao, the fifth son of Huang Yuan Fei, the City Governor of Passage City in the Supporting Fall Nation. Huang Jia Chao was also Huang Jia Long's brother.

As Duan Ling Tian drew close to the duo, he deliberately released his aura. The duo was quick to discover his presence and broke away from each other immediately.

"B-brother Duan?!" Huang Jia Chao who thought he was going to die did not expect his brother's good friend to suddenly appear at the critical moment. Hope instantly rose in his heart; he was delighted.

'Brother Duan?' Huang Jia Chao's opponent was a young man who was dressed in a fine robe. He looked at Duan Ling Tian who had interrupted his battle. When realization dawned on him, his eyes widened, and his expression changed drastically. 'Isn't he the genius sectless cultivator from the Supporting Fall

Nation, Duan Ling Tian? H-he had easily defeated the Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, before we entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, right?’

With these thoughts in mind, the young man dressed in fine robes did not waste any time and tried to flee. His body flashed away in just a blink of an eye. Alas, before he could get far, a figure appeared like a phantom before him, barring his path. The person who had stopped him was none other than Duan Ling Tian.

Although Duan Ling Tian had no conflict with the young man, he could not just stand aside and watch this person kill Huang Jia Long’s younger brother.

“Duan Ling Tian, d-did I offend you?” The young man’s eyes were brimming with fear and his face was pale as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. His hands that were tightly clenched were drenched in sweat. He was not even a match for Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation. How could he hope to defend himself against someone who had easily defeated Xue Jing Yu? Moreover, based on Duan Ling Tian’s speed, it was clear that Duan Ling Tian was leagues above him.

Duan Ling Tian did not bother replying to the young man. As soon as the young man finished speaking, he struck at lightning speed with his long rod.

The young man was killed before he could even react. Even if he had time to defend himself, he still would not stand a chance against Duan Ling Tian who had used his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity to cast the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability, the Immobilization King Method and the Eastern Purple Qi. How could a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had not comprehended any law defend himself against such an attack?

“Are you alright?” Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile when Huang Jia Chao approached him.

“I’m fine.” Huang Jia Chao shook his head “Thank goodness you appeared in time, Brother Duan. Otherwise, I would’ve been killed by Xia Hou Ji.” Lingering fear could be seen on his face when he spoke.

“Xia Hou Ji? Do you know him prior to this?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously. Based on the words he had heard earlier, it seemed Xia Hou Yi, the young man, was acquainted with Huang Chao Jia. Otherwise, Xia Hou Yi’s would not be laden with so much animosity when he had spoken earlier.

“Of course. We had a huge conflict. To be precise, he had a huge conflict with my brother, and I got involved as well,” Huang Jia Chao said with a wry smile.

“Jia Long?” Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. He knew Huang Jia Chao was referring to Huang Jia Long when he mentioned his brother earlier.

Although Huang Jia Chao had other elder brothers as well, they were much older than him and rarely spent time together. He would not address his brothers in such a casual manner, with the exception being Huang Jia Long.

Duan Ling Tian did not want to waste any time if it were not necessary so he quickly continued on his journey to the Celestial Lord Temple. Since Huang Jia Chao was his good friend’s younger brother, it was only natural that he brought Huang Jia Chao along with him.

“The Celestial Lord Temple?” Huang Jia Chao was shocked when Duan Ling Tian told him about the Celestial Lord Temple. It was obvious he had never heard of it before.

“Those who obtained 10 points will be shown the way to the Celestial Lord Temple?” Huang Jia Long muttered to himself. All of a sudden, his eyes lit up, “That’s it! No wonder some Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who came out from the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm previously found items in their Spatial Rings they couldn’t remember obtaining! Moreover, some of them couldn’t even remember how they obtained some of their points! It seems like there’s a Formation that can erase the memories of people who have obtained 10 points and entered the Celestial Lord Temple! I’m pretty sure I’m right since nobody has ever heard of the Celestial Temple. I’m afraid my memories will be erased as well since you’ve told me about the Celestial Lord Temple. I probably won’t be able to remember meeting you.”

“That’s very likely.” Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. Then, he looked at Huang Jia Chao and asked, “Jia Chao, how many points have you accumulated so far?”

“Three points,” Huang Jia Chao said with a sheepish smile, “I was fortunate enough to meet two average peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials with one point each. What about you, Brother Duan?”

“Me? Before I killed that man, I’ve already accumulated 16 points...” Duan Ling Tian extended his Divine Consciousness into his Accumulative Points Jade as he replied, “Now, I have 21 points. I didn’t expect him to have accumulated five points.”

Although Huang Jia Chao had a feeling Duan Ling Tian’s points would not be low, he was still shocked when he heard the number of points Duan Ling Tian had obtained. 21 points!

“That Xia Hou Ji would have accumulated eight points if he had killed me. Unfortunately, he met you, Brother Duan.” Huang Jia Chao sighed in relief when he recalled his close brush with death. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and solemnly said, “Brother Duan, I know you saved me because you’re good friends with my brother. Nonetheless, I’m still grateful and deeply indebted to you. I’ll definitely repay you in the future, Brother Duan!” His eyes flashed with determination when he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian only smiled in response. After a while, he recalled something and said, “Jia Chao, I’m not sure you can enter the Celestial Lord Temple. During our journey, I’ll kill the people we encounter, and you can collect their points. We need to make sure you have 10 points, at least, to ensure you’ll be able to enter the Celestial Lord Temple. We’ll need to do it fast.”

“T-this is inappropriate... How can I claim the points when you do all the work?” Although Huang Jia Chao was tempted, he shook his head and rejected Duan Ling Tian’s suggestion. “Brother Duan, I know you want to help me, but it’s my wish that you rank first in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.”

“Just do as I say.” Duan Ling Tian insisted vehemently.

Huang Jia Chao smiled helplessly. He was extremely moved.

In order to help Huang Jia Chao accumulate enough points, Duan Ling Tian was no longer merciful. He would even kill those who did not provoke him. After killing a few people, he managed to obtain 10 points for Huang Jia Chao.

"I... I can sense the guiding force now," Huang Jia Chao said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly.

As they made their way to the Celestial Lord Temple, Duan Ling Tian did not hold back and killed a few more people to accumulate points for himself.

Those who entered the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm knew they were putting their lives at risk when they entered the realm. However, those whom Duan Ling Tian killed were resentful and filled with grievances. After all, Duan Ling Tian was so powerful that they did not even have a chance to defend themselves at all!

Chapter 3003: A Place of Relic and Fortuitous Encounters

In fact, those who were able to survive more than two months in the harsh environment of the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm were mostly the stronger Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials. Although some of the Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials Duan Ling Tian had met did not comprehend any powers of the laws, they had mastered Duke Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities. They were even stronger than Huang Jia Long during the Southern Heaven Combat and possibly on par with Hu Jin Yong, the Fourth Prince of the Supporting Fall Nation. Alas, they encountered Duan Ling Tian and died before they could even react. With Duan Ling Tian's strength, it was incredibly easy for him to kill Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who had not comprehended any law.

"Brother Duan, it's best if you don't sell the King Grade Celestials that you obtained from those you killed. In fact, it's best if you don't sell them at all if you're not short of Celestial Crystals. If you really have to sell them, at least wait until after you've joined one of the Three Sects and Two Clans," Huang Jia Chao reminded Duan Ling Tian. He was afraid people would seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian's identity was exposed when selling the King Grade Celestial Weapons.

Initially, Huang Jia Chao was shocked by Duan Ling Tian's monstrous strength. Although his brother, Huang Jia Long, had told him that Duan Ling Tian had gotten even more powerful than before, hearing and seeing for oneself were completely different, after all. However, as time passed, he became accustomed to Duan Ling Tian's strength.

"Alright, got it." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly.

As they made their way through a desert, Huang Jia Chao narrowed his eyes. "The guiding force seems to have changed... Is it possible that we're almost there?"

"I feel it as well." Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow as he looked at the distance. Suddenly, his ears twitched, as if he heard a movement nearby. "There seems to be movements over there."

Huang Jia Chao looked to the far left, following Duan Ling Tian's gaze.

They saw something that was aqua blue a few thousand meters away from where they were. Despite the movements, it was not in the direction of the Celestial Lord Temple. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian could sense the movements were getting more and more intense. He was much stronger than Huang Jia Chao,

but their Divine Consciousness was almost the same since they were both peak Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials. Therefore, Huang Jia Chao could sense what Duan Ling Tian sensed as well.

“Let’s head over and have a look!” Curiosity got a hold of Duan Ling Tian. Since it was not too far away from their destination, he headed toward the aqua blue light.

Huang Jia Chao quickly followed suit. With his abilities, it was rather difficult for him to survive in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Since the day he met Duan Ling Tian, all the Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials he encountered and whom Duan Ling Tian killed were extremely strong. Even the weakest was almost as strong as him.

In just a moment, they arrived near the aqua blue thing. It turned out to be a lake. At this moment, the lake’s surface was roiling

“It seems like some people are battling in the lake.” Huang Jia Chao extended his Divine Consciousness into the lake and sensed vibrations in there.

“A battle? In the lake?” Duan Ling Tian extended his Divine Consciousness into the lake as well. His eyes lit up. “Is it possible that the lake contains treasures or fortuitous encounters?”

In the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there were many treasures and fortuitous encounters. It could be a King Grade Celestial Weapon, a King Grade Celestial Method, Divine Ability, or Cultivation Method, valuable medicinal pills, and even Celestial Talismans. Places that contained these things were casually referred to as places of fortuitous encounters.

“Although nobody has heard of the Celestial Lord Temple, many people had spoken about places of fortuitous encounters in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Jia Chao, it seems like both of us are rather unlucky. We’ve been here for two months now, but this is the first time we ran into a place of relics and fortuitous encounters,” Duan Ling Tian said as he looked at Huang Jia Chao.

There was a relatively large number of people who had come across places of fortuitous encounters and successfully obtained treasures. Even those who did not come across any place of fortuitous encounters managed to obtain treasures by killing those who possessed the treasures.

During their journey, they had not come across any place of fortuitous encounters at all. Based on the Spatial Rings of some people whom Duan Ling Tian killed, it was clear they had come across places of fortuitous encounters. Some even had two King Grade Celestial Weapons. Since Duan Ling Tian did not know which King Grade originally belonged to his victim and which his victim had just obtained in the lower realm, he did not dare to recklessly use the weapon in fear of exposing his identity. It was better to be cautious since there were many Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials from powerful backgrounds who had entered the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

Huang Jia Chao looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked excitedly, “Should we enter and have a look?” If he were alone, he would not have even approached this place; he would have fled immediately even if he knew it was a place of relics and fortuitous encounters. After all, he was aware of his strength.

“Let’s go!” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

The duo's bodies flashed and disappeared into the lake. Celestial Origin Energies surged out of their bodies and parted the lake, revealing the bottom of the lake. As the duo moved deeper, the sound of battles grew louder as well. All of sudden, they came to halt; the sounds of battle had abruptly stopped as though what they had heard earlier was just a hallucination. They exchanged a look.

"Is it possible that they've discovered us?" Huang Jia Chao asked through Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly and replied, "Of course. Otherwise, there's no reason for them to stop so abruptly."

The duo continued to head deeper into the lake and extended their Divine Consciousness to explore. Soon, they discovered a suspended dilapidated gate that was protected by a Water Barrier Formation. A sword-shaped stone tablet stood at the side of the gate with two clear words carved on it: Sword Tomb. The duo looked at the stone tablet as they passed through the dilapidated gate.

"Sword Tomb... There's no doubt this is a place of relics and fortuitous encounters. In the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, there's a Celestial Weapon hidden in each place of fortuitous encounters. The Celestial Weapons are King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by Celestial Lords using their Celestial Origin Energies over a period of time. These King Grade Celestial Weapons are stronger than ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons since they'd been nurtured by Celestial Lords' Celestial Origin Energies," Huang Jia Chao said.

Upon hearing Huang Jia Chao's words, Duan Ling Tian learned there was such a huge difference between ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons and King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by Celestial Lords' Celestial Origin Energies.

"Since this place is called the Sword Tomb, it must contain a King Grade Celestial Sword that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord. The people battling in there must be fighting for that King Grade Celestial Sword," Huang Jia Long speculated out loud.

As soon as Huang Jia Chao finished speaking, a deep and loud voice rang from inside the Sword Tomb. "Since both of you are here, come in."

Based on the words, it seemed like the person inside had no intention of ambushing them. Otherwise, he would not have spoken. However, the duo would still probably discover him with their Divine Consciousness since he could not hide himself with a Celestial Talisman. A Celestial Talisman inscribed by a Celestial Duke was more than enough to hide someone from Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao's Divine Consciousness. However, Celestial Talismans were useless in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

After stepping through the dilapidated gate of the Sword Tomb, the duo entered a tunnel that was ten meters long. At the end of the tunnel was a cave. They saw tens of thousands of deep and shallow sword cuts on the cave wall as though someone had been practicing swordplay in the cave. In the deepest part of the cave, they saw a sword-shaped stone platform. Thousands of images of swords in varying shapes and sizes were carved on the stone platform; not one of them looked the same. A simple unadorned giant sword as long as a seven-foot spear behind the stone platform was the most eye-catching thing in the cave. Despite its simple appearance, it shone with seven different colors. Upon

closer inspection, they saw the lights were, in fact, sword qis from the sword carvings on the stone platform. The sword qis were constantly surging into the giant sword.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

From time to time, a few sword qis would shoot out from the giant sword and land on the cave wall, leaving marks behind. As it turned out, the cuts on the wall were made by the swords qis.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao stepped into the cave, Duan Ling Tian could acutely sense the killing intent coming from the two people standing in the middle of the cave.

At this moment, their eyes were brimming with hostility when they looked at Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao!

Chapter 3004: Seize The Treasure by Force

A middle-aged man and a young man stood in the center of the cave in the Sword Tomb, glaring at Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao.

Just as Huang Jia Chao said, the middle-aged man and the young man had chanced upon this place of relics and fortuitous encounters and were fighting over the King Grade Celestial Sword. It was superior to ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons since it had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord over a period of time using his Celestial Origin Energy. The two men's strength was equal so whoever could obtain the King Grade Celestial Sword would definitely have the upper hand. They were in the midst of a fierce fight when they had sensed other people approaching this place. As though they had a tacit agreement, both of them stopped fighting immediately. As the saying went, 'When the shepherds quarrel, the wolves will benefit from it'. Both of them, naturally, did not want to be the shepherds in the saying. Therefore, before Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao entered the cave, both of them reached a consensus to kill Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao before continuing with their fight.

"Both of us discovered this place. Why don't we join forces and kill them before we continue our fight for the King Grade Celestial Sword?"

"Alright!"

After Duan Ling Tian entered the cave, he ignored the middle-aged man and the young man as though he could not feel their killing intent. He looked at the giant sword behind the stone platform and nonchalantly said, "That sword seems good."

"Boy, this sword suits you well." The Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice rang in his mind. "For example, it's best for those who comprehend the law of wind to wield light and sharp Celestial Weapons. As for you, since you've comprehended the law of earth, you're suited to using heavier Celestial Weapons such as huge knives, hatchets, or this giant sword."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up when he heard the Chaos Divine Earth's words. Not only did he come across a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord's Celestial Origin Energy, but the weapon also suited him.

Completely ignoring the two men who were glaring at him and Huang Jia Chao with killing intent, Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate and said out loud, "I want this sword."

"You want the sword? Let's see if you're capable of taking it!" The middle-aged man sneered when he heard Duan Ling Tian's domineering words.

"You want to see what I'm capable of?" Duan Ling Tian smiled contemptuously as he looked at the middle-aged man. Before entering the cave, the Chaos Divine Earth had already informed him that the two men did not comprehend any laws. Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials might be powerful, but their strength was limited if they had not comprehended any profundity from a law. For this reason, he was rather relaxed when he entered the cave, as though it was his home. He did not feel worried at all.

"That's..."

Before the middle-aged man could finish his words, Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by the law of earth's Earth Elemental Profundity surged out. He vanished and reappeared in front of the middle-aged man like a phantom.

Bang!

With just one strike from Duan Ling Tian's long rod, the middle-aged man fell to the ground and died.

Everything happened in just a blink of an eye. The young man did not even have a clear look at what happened. As soon as he regained his sense, he saw the middle-aged man lying on the ground in a pool of blood. His expression changed drastically. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said in a trembling voice, "H-he's dead?! Y-your Excellency... the... the s-sword is... is all yours.... P-please... please s-spare my life. Please s-spare me so I can... so I can l-leave the lower realm... the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm alive..."

Alas, Duan Ling Tian only responded with a strike from his long rod.

Bang!

Similar to the middle-aged man, the young man died. Since he was no match for Duan Ling Tian, he did not bother to put up a fight at all. If he had been courageous enough to retaliate, perhaps, he could have stayed alive longer. Since he lost the will to the fight, it was even easier for Duan Ling Tian to kill him.

The two men's Accumulative Points Jades shattered, and their points now belonged to Duan Ling Tian.

After killing the two men, Duan Ling Tian retrieved the giant sword from behind the sword-shaped stone platform. As soon as the giant sword was in his hand, the sword qis that had been surging into the giant sword shot out in all directions in the cave.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In just an instant, tens of thousands of sword qis swept in all directions in the cave. Moreover, their numbers seemed to be increasing. Apart from that, their auras were overwhelmingly ferocious.

“Brother Duan, it’s said that one must pass a test in order to obtain the treasure in a place of relics and fortuitous encounters. It seems like those two men hadn’t passed the test and were just fighting for the chance to take the test. In the past, there were many Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who died in places of relics and fortuitous encounters in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Due to their lacking strength, they died when they were trying to obtain the treasures in the places of relics and fortuitous encounters,” Huang Jia Chao said.

“A test?” Duan Ling Tian glanced at the colorful sword qis in his surroundings. There were, at least, tens of thousands of them.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

When the sword qis stopped shooting out from the sword-shaped stone platform, the sword qis in the surroundings collectively swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Tens of thousands of sword qis swept past Huang Jia Chao. The sword cries were ear-piercingly sharp. He did not dare to move a muscle at all.

Meanwhile, as the sword qis swept toward Duan Ling Tian, red armor appeared on his body. It was the Red Scale Vest, the purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that was given to him by Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation.

At the same time, a golden light with flashing purple lightning bolts shrouded the Red Scale Vest.

A whirlpool had also appeared next to Duan Ling Tian, greedily absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings.

Soon after, rings of mustard yellow light that was blindingly bright appeared on the Red Scale Vest.

With this, Duan Ling Tian cast his strongest defenses without the help of the Chaos Divine Earth.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

The sword qis merged into a wall of swords as they continued on their trajectory toward Duan Ling Tian.

When they landed on Duan Ling Tian, they vanished without a trace like water evaporating from a hot steel plate, and the Red Scale Vest’s surface merely rippled. Clearly, the sword qis were unable to breach Duan Ling Tian’s defenses. With this, he easily passed the test and obtained the giant sword.

‘The Formation on the sword has vanished...’ Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian had held the giant sword in his hand, he had discovered a Formation on the giant sword. The Formation allowed the sword to recognize its master through blood. All he needed to do was drip a drop of blood on the giant sword to claim ownership over it after passing the test.

“Congratulations, Brother Duan!” Huang Jia Chao was not surprised that Duan Ling Tian had easily passed the test. At the same time, he could not help but sigh inwardly. If he were in Duan Ling Tian’s shoes, he was not certain he could smoothly pass the test.

“This... It’s so powerful!” After claiming ownership over the giant sword, Duan Ling Tian sent his Celestial Origin Energy that he had boosted with the law of earth’s Earth Elemental Profundity into the giant sword. He could acutely feel it was stronger than his long rod.

‘I know that King Grade Celestial Weapons that have been nurtured by a Celestial Lord are much more powerful than ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons. However, since I didn’t own one before this, I don’t really know what the difference in power is like...’ Now that Duan Ling Tian obtained the giant sword, he could tell it was on a different league than ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons. Naturally, it still could not compare to the Mystical Yang Nine Water Chestnut Ring and the Mystical Yin Nine Water Chestnut Ring that were Royal Grade Celestial Weapons. After all, even a King Grade Celestial Weapon had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord’s Celestial Origin Energy was still a King Grade Celestial Weapon. It was a grade lower than a Royal Grade Celestial Weapon.

Chapter 3005: Call Me Feng Qing Yang

“Jia Chao, is there a possibility that those whom I killed earlier possessed King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by Celestial Lords before they entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?” Duan Ling Tian thought about the other Celestial Weapons he had obtained from killing other participants after he witnessed the difference in strength between a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord and an ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapon.

“Sure, that’s possible,” Huang Jia Chao nodded as he replied, “In the past, some of the forces were rewarded by the Three Sects and Two Clans with King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords when the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who represented them ranked at the top. Although King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by Celestial Lords are rare and hard to obtain for most people, they’re not as difficult to obtain for grade-seven forces like the Three Sects and Two Clans that had a close relationship with the Profound Nether Mansion.”

Huang Jia Chao continued to say, “Although most of the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm this time around are from grade-eight forces, there are some grade-eight forces who possess King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords. In fact, even the Imperial family of the Supporting Fall Nation possesses a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord.”

Huang Jia Chao paused for a moment before he added, “From what I know, His Majesty has given Fourth Prince Hu Jin Yong a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord this time around...”

“I see.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Huang Jia Chao’s words had dispelled some notions he had. Initially, he had thought if the participants he had killed did not possess King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords before entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, it would not matter even people knew he possessed King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords since the forces supporting those he had killed would not be able to trace

their deaths back to him. However, after listening to Huang Jia Chao's explanation, he knew he could not afford to expose the Celestial Weapons he had obtained.

'It seems like I must keep those King Grade Celestial Weapons a secret unless I know for sure the weapons were only obtained after those people entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Alas, there's no way for me to find out since all those people are dead.' Although Duan Ling Tian felt that it was a pity, he did not dwell on the matter.

Duan Ling Tian put the giant sword away before he left the Sword Tomb with Huang Jia Chao. As soon as they exited the Sword Tomb and the Formation, he felt a disturbance behind him. He instinctively turned back to look. "It... collapsed?" He was shocked to see the Sword Tomb had collapsed. Even the sword-shaped statue by the side of the dilapidated gate had been reduced to rubble. At the same time, the Formation that had kept the water at bay had disappeared as well, causing water to rush into the Sword Tomb and drowning it.

"Once the treasure from a place of relics and fortuitous encounters has been obtained, the place would self-destruct," Huang Jia Chao explained without any prompt when he saw the surprised expression on Duan Ling Tian's face. Although this was also his first time entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm and a place of relics and fortuitous encounters, he had heard of many stories. As the saying went, 'One doesn't have to see it to hear about it'.

"I see." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Then, he and Huang Jia Chao exited the lake.

After exiting the lake, they continued to follow the guiding force to the Celestial Lord Temple.

...

Just the mention of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms was enough to strike terror into the hearts of those who heard it. Rumor had it that even Heavenly Emperors would have a difficult time surviving in those places. Even the least deadly place among the seven places was so terrifying that Heavenly Emperors did not dare to simply enter that place.

Asura Hell was one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. In terms of deadliness, it was ranked fourth among the seven deadliest places. There was no distinction between day and night in the Asura Hell; it was constantly shrouded by endless darkness. In a way, Asura Hell could be considered an independent realm. Although it was much smaller than Devata Realms, it was as big as a Realm of Gods.

The sky in Asura Hell was red like blood. In fact, even the ground was red, and a blood-red mist hung in the air all year round. It seemed as though the entire place had been dyed red with blood. The stench of blood permeated the entire place as well.

At the entrance to Asura Hell...

"Die!" A voice cried out. Soon after, a middle-aged man with a blood-stained face and robes could be seen shooting up into the sky. At this moment, he was locked in battle with a humongous python that was charging at him from afar.

The giant python's scales were blood-red. Its body was hundreds of meters long. Its sharp fangs glinted menacingly when it opened its mouth. It was a terrifying sight to behold. It moved at lightning speed as it sped toward the middle-aged man with its mouth open as though it intended to devour the middle-aged man.

In just a blink of an eye, the man and the python were about to collide.

The middle-aged man dodged at the moment he was about to collide with the giant python, successfully avoiding its mouth. Then, he brought the giant ax in his hand down at the center of the giant python's head, cleaving it into two.

Boom!

In its death throes, the giant python swung its tail powerfully and it hit the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man was instantly sent flying back and vomited a mouthful of blood before he crashed on the ground. Although he was injured, a crooked smile could be seen on his face. His eyes narrowed as he looked at the corpse of the hundreds-of-meter-long giant python on the ground and muttered to himself, "It's finally dead..."

Suddenly...

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The middle-aged man heard movements in the distance and instinctively turned to look. He saw a huge figure approaching from afar. As the figure drew closer, his heart shook when he saw an eagle with red blade-like wings. He watched as the eagle swooped down and caught the corpse of the giant python with its talons. "Is that a Nether Blood Eagle? Was the injured Red Blood Python I killed its prey?"

The giant python the man had just killed was a Red Blood Python. When he encountered the Red Blood Python, it was already injured and dying. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to kill the Red Blood Python that was as strong as a Nine Palaces Celestial Emperor. After all, despite the extraordinary laws he had comprehended, he was just a Seven Stars Celestial Emperor. Moreover, since the Red Blood Python was as strong as a Nine Palaces Celestial Emperor, the law it comprehended, naturally, would not be simple.

All of a sudden, the Nether Blood Eagle sped up, disappearing out of sight and leaving only a streak of red in its wake.

'Look at its speed! It's definitely as strong as a Nine Palaces Celestial Emperor as well!' A bitter smile appeared on the middle-aged man's face immediately. He closed his eyes in defeat as he felt the killing intent in the air. He was well aware that even if he was at his peak, he still would not be a match for the Nether Blood Eagle, let alone the fact that he was now injured. There was truly nothing he could do except wait for his death at this moment. To his surprise, after a few moments had passed, he did not die. In fact, even the killing intent he had sensed earlier had disappeared.

The middle-aged man's eyes opened when an indifferent voice suddenly rang in the air. "You're just tempting death if you continue to linger at the entrance of the Asura Hell. Hurry up and leave!"

Boom!

The middle-aged man heard a loud explosion as soon as he opened his eyes. He saw the ferocious Nether Blood Eagle crashing onto the ground not too far away. Upon closer inspection, he discovered something had pierced the space between the eyes of the Nether Blood Eagle. Apart from that, he discovered the Nether Blood Eagle's body was riddled with many fresh wounds of varying sizes. It was as though it had been pierced by 10,000 arrows! His heart felt as though it had stopped beating when he finally sensed the faint aura of a formidable profundity of a law. "T-the... the l-law of destruction?!"

Soon after, the middle-aged man saw a figure standing on a sword flying away. In just an instant, the figure had turned into a black speck in the distance. He quickly cried out, "Thank you for saving me, senior! May I know your name? If I have the opportunity, I'd surely repay this great favor in the future!"

With his cultivation base, the middle-aged man's eyesight was still good despite being injured. He could see that the black speck in the distance was the back of a young man. However, he dared not underestimate the other party just because the other party had the appearance of a young man. After all, someone who was capable of killing a Nether Blood Eagle in just a blink of an eye had to be a Ten Directions Celestial Emperor. Moreover, the other party was very likely a Ten Directions Celestial Emperor who had comprehended an extremely powerful law.

"If you really want to repay this favor, go to a mundane realm called the Saint Province Realm and look for a young man called Duan Ling Tian. Bring him to the Heavenly Emperor's Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven." The figure on the sword turned around to look at the middle-aged man, revealing a handsome young man with a cold and solemn expression on his face. Before he flew off on his sword and vanished before the middle-aged man's eyes, he said, "Also, you can call me Feng Qing Yang."

"F-Feng Qing Yang?!" Upon hearing those words, the middle-aged man's eyes widened in fear, and his expression changed drastically. "Isn't... Isn't that the name of the old Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven? Didn't he die in the Asura Hell after being forced to enter the Asura Hell to escape pursuit?"

Although the middle-aged man was not from the Solitary Destructive Heaven, he had heard about the terrifying Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven and how talented he was. He speculated inwardly, 'Is he going to return to the Solitary Destructive Heaven and seize the Heavenly Emperor's Palace?'

Chapter 3006: The Law Of Time

"Eh? It disappeared?" Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao followed the guiding force, traveling up and down. Eventually, the guiding force disappeared when they arrived at a vast desert.

"Hm?"

Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao were still staring at each other in confusion when the Accumulative Points Jade they carried with them began to thrum and vibrate. Before they could react, they felt a burst of mysterious force appearing out of thin air and shrouding them. The mysterious force caused their bodies to turn stiff. They were instantly rendered immobile.

“What a terrifying force!” Duan Ling Tian could only see darkness in front of his eyes after his mobility was taken away by the mysterious force. He could no longer see Huang Jia Chao or the vast desert below him. He instinctively struggled to free himself from the hold of the force, but it was futile. As soon as his energy came in contact with the mysterious force, his energy would disappear immediately.

“Boy, stop struggling. This force’s strength is akin to that of a Celestial Lord... If I’m not mistaken, it’s sending you somewhere.” The Chaos Divine Earth’s childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind at this moment. “Hmm... It feels like a transportation Formation...”

“A transportation Formation?” With the Chaos Divine Earth’s reminder, Duan Ling Tian stopped struggling. His eyes lit up immediately. ‘This force should be sending me to the Celestial Lord Temple!’

About a dozen breaths later, Duan Ling Tian, who was still shrouded by darkness, found that he was stepping on solid ground unlike earlier when it felt as though he was flying in the air. Soon enough, light appeared and vanquished the darkness.

“This is...” Duan Ling Tian surveyed his surroundings and discovered he was in a small room with a stone bed. There was nothing else in the room except for the stone bed. The room had no windows, only one door that led outside. The door glowed with a faint light, indicating there was some sort of Formation on it.

“Where did Jia Chao go?” Duan Ling Tian wondered out loud after discovering Huang Jia Chao was not by his side. ‘Was he sent to another room?’

...

It was just as Duan Ling Tian had speculated, Huang Jia Chao was, indeed, sent to another small room.

When Huang Jia Chao discovered Duan Ling Tian’s absence, he instinctively wanted to leave the room to look for Duan Ling Tian. However, as soon as his hand touched the door, the light around the door intensified. Then, a voice, which sounded similar to the voice that had spoken after he had obtained ten points in his Accumulative Points Jade earlier, rang in the air.

“Welcome to the Celestial Lord Temple! You are now in a secure room inside the Celestial Lord Temple. Even a Ten Directions Celestial King wouldn’t be able to break into this room. You have two options now. One, stay in this room and cultivate. You’ll be automatically sent out by a Formation when it’s time to leave the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. In a way, this is a reward for obtaining ten points. You no longer have to look for the exit in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Second, you can leave this room to search for fortuitous encounters in the Celestial Lord Temple. However, you’re at risk of running into others who have also chosen to search for fortuitous encounters in the Celestial Lord Temples. Think about it before you make your decision.”

Huang Jia Chao could only smile bitterly when he heard the two choices. Did he really have a choice? His safety would be guaranteed if he was by Duan Ling Tian’s side. However, he was alone now, and there was no guarantee he would be able to find Duan Ling Tian even if he chose to leave the room. If he ran into other Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials in the Celestial Lord Temple before he could find Duan Ling Tian, he could very well die.

“Whatever... With my strength, it'd be good enough for me to survive. There's no need to risk my life for a fortuitous encounter in the Celestial Lord Temple.” Soon enough, Huang Jia Chao decided to stay in the small room until it was time to leave the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. He was aware of his strength. Without Duan Ling Tian, it was unlikely he would run into fortuitous encounters if he left the room. Even if he was fortunate enough to run into a fortuitous encounter, he would not be powerful enough to retain it. With these thoughts in mind, he sat on the bed cross-legged to cultivate as he waited for time to pass.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian had also heard the voice and discovered the small room was in the Celestial Lord Temple.

‘Jia Chao is a smart boy. I don't think he'd recklessly exit the room.’ With this thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief. Then, he reached out to open the door without any hesitation. After he left the room, he extended his Divine Consciousness, wary of other Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who might be lying in wait to launch sneak attacks. However, soon enough, he discovered was overthinking things when he saw the vast and seemingly boundless hall he had walked into. Although the hall was elaborately decorated, it still felt empty due to its vastness.

“Hm?” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt a slight movement behind him. He turned around and saw the room he had just exited had disappeared. It seemed like he had stepped into a transportation Formation as soon as he stepped out the door.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he heard the sound of wind howling. Soon after, he saw many figures appearing in the previously empty hall. They were men and women of varying ages. All of them exuded a powerful aura.

‘All of them are peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials...’ Duan Ling Tian who still had his Divine Consciousness out discovered that the hundreds of people who had abruptly appeared in the hall were all peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials. He noticed that despite their appearances, their eyes were lifeless. It looked like they were soulless.

“Are they... battle souls created by a Formation?” Duan Ling Tian had studied Formations in Devata Realms previously. Therefore, he was aware that there were numerous Formations in Devata Realms that could create battle souls. Naturally, these Formations required many high-grade Celestial Crystals to maintain. It was no different from burning money to gather battle souls. He also knew the strength of the battle souls depended on the Formation that created them.

‘Although battle souls with strength akin to a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial could not cast any Celestial Method or Divine Ability or utilize a profundity from a law, they could grow more powerful through fusion...’

While Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts, the hundreds of battle souls comparable to peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials began to divide themselves into groups and began to merge. In just a short moment, 100 battle souls fused into ten battle souls before ten battle souls merged into one. In the end, there were only 10 battle souls standing before him.

'These ten battle souls...' Although the battle souls' strength was still that of a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, he could sense they were different.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before Duan Ling Tian could ponder on the difference, the ten battle souls began to circle around him as their eyes glinted with killing intent.

'The strength of these battle souls...' Duan Ling Tian could tell, based on their speed, they were much stronger than Huang Jia Chao. 'They're all, at least, as powerful as a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had completely mastered Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities... It would be tough for a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who has yet to comprehend any profundity of a law to defeat even one battle soul, let alone ten at once. Is this the first test in the Celestial Lord Temple?'

Duan Ling Tian's expression turned solemn as he thought to himself, 'I really hope Jia Chao didn't leave his room...' Although he did not think Huang Jia Chao would leave the room, he still could not help but worry. Would Huang Jia Chao leave the room, thinking he would be able to run into him? With Huang Jia Chao's strength, he would certainly perish if he left the room! Any one of the battle souls could easily kill Huang Jia Chao, after all!

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian raised his hand. The giant sword that he had just obtained not too long ago appeared in his hand. It was a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by the Celestial Origin Energy of a Celestial Lord. It was far more powerful than ordinary King Grade Celestial Weapons.

"Devouring Dark Devil Technique!"

"Earth Elemental Profundity!"

"Eastern Purple Qi!"

"Immobilization King Method!"

After the King Grade Celestial Sword appeared, Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate as he successively unleashed techniques after techniques. He slashed with the giant sword, drawing an arc in the sky. It looked like a hawk diving down. The sword that contained his full strength left ripples and explosions in its wake...

Whoosh!

Soon after, the giant sword landed on one of the battle souls, cleaving it into two before it could even make a move. It was instantly reduced to ashes.

Swoosh!

The giant sword continued on its trajectory and annihilated another two battle souls. Then, it headed for the fourth battle soul.

Meanwhile, the void rippled and shook.

All of a sudden, Duan Ling Tian discovered his giant sword seemed to have frozen in midair as though it was being restricted by some force. However, he could not sense any force in the hall that might be restricting his giant sword.

“W-what’s happening?”

This strange scene caused Duan Ling Tian to feel slightly uneasy. He did not know what was happening. In fact, it felt as though the giant sword was still moving and he still had it under his control. However, contrary to what he felt, the giant sword was motionless.

Duan Ling Tian who was growing more and more anxious suddenly heard the Chaos Divine Earth’s childish voice in his mind. “It’s the law of time!”

Chapter 3007: The Price For Cheating

“The law of time?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

“Yes! The law of time!” The Chaos Divine Earth replied, “After killing the third battle soul, the energy from the law of time froze the time where the giant sword is at. If I’m not mistaken, the law of time has appeared to buy time for the remaining seven battle souls to fuse.”

What happened subsequently proved the Chaos Divine Earth right.

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

In just a moment, the seven remaining battle souls fused together and formed one battle soul. The battle soul had the appearance of a muscular middle-aged man. It was more than two meters tall and looked as solid as an iron tower. The shirtless middle-aged man’s bulging muscles and almost popping veins showed his formidable strength. It did not take long before the exact replica of Duan Ling Tian’s giant sword appeared in his hand. Even the replicated sword had the same aura as the original. Despite being a replica, it was, for all intent and purpose, a King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by the Celestial Origin Energy of a Celestial Lord.

‘I can move again!’ When Duan Ling Tian discovered that he could move his giant sword again, he discovered his attack had missed since his target was no longer there.

“Boy, it’s not going to be easy for you to defeat this battle soul... At this moment, its strength is already on par with a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended a profundity of a law. In fact, it might even be a little stronger than that,” the Chaos Divine Earth said, “I will help you at the critical point when you fight... However, all I can do is boost your defenses. You can only depend on yourself to kill it. It’s a pity the Profound Divine Metal is still asleep. If he’s awake, he could merge with the first-form Profound Divine Metal you just found and evolve into a third-form Profound Divine Metal... At that time, he’d be able to boost your attacks by fusing with your offensive Celestial Weapon!”

Upon hearing the Chaos Divine Earth’s words, Duan Ling Tian realized how formidable the battle soul in front of him was.

“Will the law of time appear again? If it does and freezes my movements, the battle soul would be able to easily kill me.” Duan Ling Tian was most worried about the law of time. Based on how his giant sword’s movements were frozen earlier, he was afraid the law of time would freeze him and allow the battle soul to kill him. He would not stand a chance at all if that happened. With this thought in mind, he was numb with fear. The law of time was truly terrifying. It was so unpredictable that one would have a hard time defending against it.

The Chaos Divine Earth replied, “That’s unlikely... If it happens, it only means the Celestial Lord’s objective is to kill people. By doing something like that, what good would it bring the Celestial Lord who created the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm?” It dispelled Duan Ling Tian’s worries immediately. “The law of time only appeared earlier to let the remaining souls merge. Now that the merge is complete, it won’t appear again. If the Celestial Lord had truly intended to kill you, the law of time would have frozen you earlier and let the battle souls kill you.”

Duan Ling Tian thought the Chaos Divine Earth’s words made sense.

The Chaos Divine Earth continued to say, “Killing this battle soul should be your first trial in the Celestial Lord Temple... This means the subsequent trials are just going to be tougher and tougher...”

“I know...” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Then, he turned to look at the last final battle soul. “Now, I’ll be fine so long as the law of time doesn’t appear again.”

Whoosh!

The battle soul was already moving when Duan Ling Tian finished speaking. It brandished the giant sword and slashed at Duan Ling Tian as though it was trying to cleave him into two. The way it wielded the giant sword was similar to Duan Ling Tian earlier.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. He unleashed all his strength as he brandished his giant sword when faced with the battle soul’s ferocious attack.

Clang!

When the two giant swords collided, the sounds of explosions rang in the air as the shockwave rippled out into the surroundings.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The shockwave from the collision of the giant swords was incredibly terrifying. The void shook and rippled as the shockwave rolled out. Then, the entire hall began to quake when the shockwave hit the walls; it was like a terrible earthquake.

‘So powerful! Its strength is on par with mine...’ Based on the recoil he felt in his hands, Duan Ling Tian gained a deeper understanding of the battle soul’s strength. With this knowledge, he knew it would be difficult for him to win if he depended on force alone. He would need to strategize wisely in order to win. Fortunately, he had the Chaos Divine Earth on his side.

...

Meanwhile, a grey-clad young man who had just passed his trial in another hall walked out. After walking out of his hall, he looked back and found the walls were transparent. He could see into the hall he was previously in and other halls!

“That is...” Soon after, the young man discovered quite a number of people gathering in front of a wall in the hall. Roughly five or six people were all watching a battle in one of the halls as they discussed among themselves.

“This purple-clad young man must have brought another person into the Celestial Lord Temple... Otherwise, he wouldn’t have to fight with such a terrifying battle soul!”

“Previously, Hong Tao, the prodigy from the Compassionate Cloud Sect, had been killed by a battle soul like this. Hong Tao had comprehended the law of wood’s Fundamental Profundity, the Wood Elemental Profundity, but he still died after exchanging about a hundred moves with the battle soul.”

“Hong Tao... That’s right! I heard he helped his junior brother to accumulate ten points so his junior brother could enter the Celestial Lord Temple with him!”

“Although his junior brother didn’t exit the room, Hong Tao still had to pay the price for helping his junior brother cheat his way into the Celestial Lord Temple. The Celestial Lord who created this place would increase the difficulty for those who cheated.”

“That’s quite obvious. For the same trial, we merely had to face the ten battle souls with strength comparable to a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. However, look at how terrifying the battle soul that the purple-clad young man has to face!”

“I witnessed Hong Tao’s fight. Initially, they were evenly matched but after exchanging about 100 moves, the battle soul’s strength rose again. It was instantly as strong as a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended two profundities of a law. It had easily killed Hong Tao after that!”

“Currently, the purple-clad young man’s strength is on par with the battle soul. I’m guessing the battle soul’s strength will improve in 100 moves or so. At that time, the purple-clad young man will surely die!”

The grey-clad young man looked around and discovered the center of the hall was an empty space with transparent walls around it, allowing one to see into other halls. ‘There are so many people here?’

Apart from the hall where the others were gathered in front of, there were a few other halls where people were battling as well.

Those in the other halls were fighting with battle souls that were similar to the ones the grey-clad young man had encountered during his first trial. He had to defeat ten battle souls with strength comparable to a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had completely mastered his Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. When he looked at the others halls, he noticed the people in the hall were rather strong. A few of them had easily overwhelmed the battle souls. These people’s strength was on par with his strength. They had probably comprehended a profundity of a law as well.

“That hall...” Soon after, the grey-clad young man was driven by his curiosity to look at the hall where everyone was gathered in front of.

‘It’s him!’ With just a glance, he recognized the purple-clad young man fighting in the hall! The purple-clad young man was none other than Duan Ling Tian, the sectless genius from the Supporting Fall Nation!

‘His opponent...’ After that, the grey-clad young man noticed the battle soul that Duan Ling Tian had to face was abnormally strong compared to the collective strength of the ten battle souls he had to face. His expression was solemn as he thought to himself, ‘Even I would need more than 30 moves to kill it after unleashing all my strength! Moreover, based on the discussion in the surroundings, it seems like the battle soul’s strength would improve after 100 moves or so!’

The spectators continued to fervently discuss among themselves as they watched Duan Ling Tian. Most of them did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to survive.

“They’ve already exchanged 22 moves. Although this purple-clad young man is powerful, he’s destined to die if he can’t defeat it within 100 moves!”

“The battle soul is too powerful. I’d definitely die if I have to face it. Moreover, we can’t rely on external forces in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm so Celestial Talismans and Celestial Pills are useless here.”

“That’s right. So long as they contain the Celestial Origin Energy of a Celestial Duke or someone stronger, they won’t work here. If a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial consumes a medicinal pill that could increase their strength to that of a Celestial Duke, they would be instantly killed by the Formation guarding the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm!”

“He only has a chance of defeating this battle soul if he has comprehended two profundities of a law. Otherwise, it’d be impossible for him to win. After all, they’re both using King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by a Celestial Lord!”

Chapter 3008: Prominent Artifact

Upon hearing the discussions in his surroundings, the grey-clad young man did not agree nor disagree. “He’ll die for sure? Duan Ling Tian isn’t that weak...”

Due to his extraordinary background, he prided himself on being a good judge of character. When he first saw Duan Ling Tian, he had sensed a familiar aura from Duan Ling Tian. Although he was not sure what aura it was, he could tell it was similar to his clan and the realm he was from. He muttered to himself in a voice that only he could hear, “The aura feels like the aura of an artifact, but it’s not exactly the same either... It feels like something is missing.”

As soon as the grey-clad young man finished speaking, a female voice rang in his mind. The voice was mellifluous but bone-chillingly cold at the same time. “The soul of the artifact is missing.”

“Sister Huang’er, you’re awake?!” Upon hearing the female voice, the grey-clad young man widened his eyes in excitement.

“Yes.” The mellifluous and cold voice rang again. “I’ve already regained consciousness when you first met him. However, at that time, I couldn’t communicate with you.” After a pause, the woman spoke up again. “Little Feng, you’ve grown up.”

Upon hearing these words, the grey-clad young man’s eyes reddened. He had unknowingly clenched his hands as he said, “Sister Huang’er, one day, I’ll avenge you and the clan!”

“I believe you...” the woman said, “I’ll help you as well...”

“Sister Huang’er, you...” The grey-clad young man’s eyes flashed as he spoke.

However, before he could finish speaking, the woman interjected. “Little Feng, I plan to fuse with the artifact in Duan Ling Tian’s body and become the soul of that artifact.”

“T-The soul of the artifact in his body?!” Upon hearing the woman’s words, the grey-clad young man’s eyes widened in shock, and his expression changed drastically. “Sister Huang’er, you... you’re the soul of a prominent artifact. Not even a mediocre artifact is worthy of you, let alone a primitive artifact...” Then, he looked at the purple-clad young man before he asked in a trembling voice, “Is it... Is it possible that the soulless artifact in Duan Ling Tian’s body is a prominent artifact?”

“You’ve heard of the artifact in his body before...” the woman said.

“I’ve heard of it?” The gray-clad youth was stunned. Then, his eyes brightened as he said, “Sister Huang’er, you’re saying that... the artifact in Duan Ling Tian’s body is not just a prominent artifact, but a prominent artifact from the Divine Offering Land. Am I right?”

“The artifact in his body is called the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword!” the woman replied.

“What?! The... T-the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword?!” The grey-clad young man’s eyes widened in shock. “That sword... Isn’t it in the possession of Xia Jie, the third master of the Xia Clan? Why is it in Duan Ling Tian’s body?”

The gray-clad young man had, naturally, heard about the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. Almost everyone from the Divine Offering Land had heard of it. The Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword was famous not because of how outstanding it was among prominent artifacts but because its original owner was very famous in the Divine Offering Land.

“You have to ask him about this... However, since he has the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, it shows that he has a special relationship with Xia Jie,” the woman said, “If you can befriend Xia Jie through him, you’ll have a powerful ally helping you when you seek revenge in the future... The Xia Clan’s third master is quite strong after all.”

“Sister Huang’er...” The grey-clad young man trembled slightly. The woman was the soul of the artifact that his elder sister used to carry around in the past. After the artifact’s body was destroyed, the seriously injured soul escaped and hid in his body. Then, it guided him to escape from his destroyed clan and the Divine Offering Land to the Spirit Overarching Heaven, one of the 81 Devata Realms.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, not privy to the grey-clad young man and the woman’s conversation. Otherwise, he would be surprised by the way the woman had addressed the grey-clad young man. After

all, based on what Duan Ling Tian knew, the grey-clad young man's name did not contain the word 'Feng'.

....

Meanwhile, another person had appeared near the grey-clad young man. This person was also one of the participants who was fighting fiercely in one of the halls earlier. He had just passed the trial and walked into this hall not long ago. When he looked into the hall where most people were gathered in front of, he recognized Duan Ling Tian immediately. "Duan Ling Tian?"

This young man was none other than Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation. Previously, he had fought with Duan Ling Tian before entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. He was also a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended the law of thunder's Fundamental Profundity, the Thunder Elemental Profundity. Due to his strength, he managed to survive thus far.

"Cheating?" Xue Jing Yu was shocked when he heard the discussions in his surroundings. He was shocked to find out that Duan Ling Tian was being punished during the first trial in the Celestial Lord Temple for cheating.

"They think he'll die for sure?" Xue Jing Yu sneered when he heard several people saying Duan Ling Tian would certainly die. He was aware that Duan Ling Tian was not as weak as these people thought.

"However, that battle soul is truly strong. Its attack is much stronger than mine during our battle... However, I don't think its attack is strong enough to breach Duan Ling Tian's defenses. Back then, Duan Ling Tian had easily stopped my attack! Moreover, at that time, he didn't have a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon. Now that he has a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon, his defense must have grown even more formidable. That battle soul won't be able to break his defenses! As long as Duan Ling Tian takes advantage of the time when the battle soul is attacking him, he'll be able to kill the battle soul. Naturally, it carries a risk as well!" Xue Jing Yu was thoroughly convinced of his defeat by Duan Ling Tian's hand. He was rather certain Duan Ling Tian would be able to kill the battle soul.

"If it were me, I would be easily killed by that battle soul." After seeing the strength of the battle soul Duan Ling Tian faced, he knew he was no match for the battle soul. He was unlike Duan Ling Tian who had comprehended two profundities from the law of earth. Moreover, the other law of earth's profundity was a defensive profundity.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian no longer attacked the battle soul head-on. Instead, just as Xue Jing Yu had speculated, he allowed the battle soul to attack him. In the next moment, the Red Scale Vest appeared on his body. At the same time, he took the chance and slashed with his giant sword at lightning speed.

The battle soul that was in the midst of attacking could not defend itself from Duan Ling Tian's attack. It did not stop and continued on its trajectory to cut Duan Ling Tian down. Its only purpose was to kill Duan Ling Tian; it had no regard for its life at all.

...

Upon seeing this, the spectators gasped in shock. Did the purple-clad young man plan to die along with the battle soul? He must know that this move would kill him even if he managed to kill the battle soul, right?

However, the subsequent progress was out of their expectations!

On the contrary, Xue Jing Yu smiled faintly, looking smug that he had guessed correctly. "I knew it."

Meanwhile, the grey-clad young man who was having a conversation with the soul of the artifact in his mind regained his senses when he heard the exclamations in his surroundings.

"Heavens! What a terrifyingly strong defense!"

"He blocked the full attack from the battle soul just by using his defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon? How did he do it?!"

"His defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon doesn't look like it had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord. In fact, even if it had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord, it still wouldn't be able to completely stop the attack of that battle soul, right?"

"He must have comprehended the second profundity from the law of earth! Moreover, the second profundity must be a defensive profundity. Otherwise, his defenses won't be so terrifyingly strong!"

After hearing these words, the grey-clad young man saw the battle soul had attacked Duan Ling Tian with all its strength but failed to penetrate the red vest on Duan Ling Tian's body. At the same time, Duan Ling Tian's explosive attack managed to completely destroy the battle soul.

"This guy... is terrifying!"

"He's too terrifying! I don't think there are many people who can breach his defense, right?"

"Who's he? How's he so insanely strong? I've never heard of him before."

"That young man called out his name earlier... Maybe he knows him?"

With that, everyone looked at Xue Jing Yu inquiringly.

Xue Jing Yu calmly said without any prompt, "His name is Duan Ling Tian. He's a genius sectless cultivator who's representing the Supporting Fall Nation in the Thousand Nations Territory."

"A genius sectless cultivator representing the Supporting Fall Nation in the Thousand Nations Territory?"

Most people were shocked by Xue Jing Yu's words. They had assumed Duan Ling Tian had come from a grade-seven force after witnessing his strength.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who had just passed the trial entered the hall where everyone was gathered.

"Huh?" He did not expect to see so many people after he walked out of the hall. Moreover, he even recognized two of the people there. They were none other than Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, and Ling Jue Yun, the genius sectless cultivator from the East Ming Nation.

Chapter 3009: Talk to You in Private

'It seems like these are people who have just passed the trial.' Duan Ling Tian surveyed his surroundings. Not only did he discover that everything in the hall he had just exited could be seen, but he also discovered he could see everything that was happening in other halls. There was a total of ten halls, and three of the halls were occupied by participants who were still going through the trial.

"Huh?" After Duan Ling Tian watched the other participants' trials for a moment, a frown appeared on his face. He saw one of the participants had killed seven battle souls, but the remaining three battle souls showed no sign of merging. In the end, the participant killed three of the battle souls without them merging. The remaining two participants had also killed more than five battle souls each; similarly, the battle souls showed no sign of merging.

Duan Ling Tian was annoyed and puzzled by this. 'This... What's going on? Why is my trial so much more difficult than theirs?'

At the same time, Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, noticed the confused expression on Duan Ling Tian's face. He took the initiative and said, "Duan Ling Tian, did you help another person obtain ten points to enter the Celestial Lord Temple?"

Duan Ling Tian looked at Xue Jing Yu skeptically. Although Duan Ling Tian did not know why Xue Jing Yu would ask such a question, he still nodded in response. Indeed, he had helped Huang Ji Chao obtain ten points to enter the Celestial Lord Temple. "That's right."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply, Xue Jing Yu said, "It's considered as cheating to help someone to obtain ten points to enter the Celestial Lord Temple. That's why the first trial you faced after entering the Celestial Lord Temple had a higher difficulty level. There was a person who wasn't any weaker than me who died facing the same trial you did..."

"Cheating?" Duan Ling Tian frowned. He did not expect there to be such a rule in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm; he had never heard of it before. However, when he recalled those who obtained ten points and were granted entry to the Celestial Lord would lose their memories after exiting the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, he thought it was only natural that the rule was not widely known.

At this moment, Ling Jue Yun, the genius sectless cultivator from the East Ming Nation, called out, "Duan Ling Tian." Then, he made his way over to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian was surprised that Ling Jue Yun would take the initiative to greet him. He nodded and calmly replied, "Ling Jue Yun."

"Can I talk to you in private?" Ling Jue Yun asked.

"Hm?" Although Duan Ling Tian did not know what Ling Jue Yun's intentions were, he nodded and acquiesced to Ling Jue Yun's request without asking any question.

"Thank you very much." Ling Jue Yun thanked Duan Ling Tian when he saw the other party agreeing to his request. Then, he led Duan Ling Tian back into the hall that Duan Ling Tian had just exited.

Meanwhile, Xue Jing Yu who had heard Duan Ling Tian calling out Ling Jue Yun's name fell deep in his thoughts. He found the name familiar. 'Ling Jue Yun? That's right... He's the genius who's representing the East Ming Nation. He's a Heaven Stage Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who comprehended a power of the law. During the Southern Heaven Combat in the East Ming Nation, he had defeated all the other participants.'

At this moment, everyone, including Xue Jing Yu, could see Duan Ling Tian and Ling Jue Yun who stood facing each other in the hall. Ling Jue Yun's back was facing a few people standing outside.

All of a sudden, a middle-aged man looked at Xue Jing Yu and curiously asked, "You said earlier that the purple-clad young man is from the Thousand Nations Territory?"

Upon hearing this, a few people turned to look at Xue Jing Yu.

"Yes." Xue Jing Yu nodded. "It's not just him. The person in the hall with him and I are also from the Thousand Nations Territory. Unlike me, who's from the Southern Qi Nation, they're both sectless cultivators. They're only representing the Supporting Fall Nation and the East Ming Nation to enter the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. They're not citizens of the nations they're representing..."

"I didn't expect that three people from the Thousand Nations Territory managed to enter the Celestial Lord Temple..." The middle-aged man sighed.

At this time, an old man standing next to the middle-aged man asked, "I... If I'm not mistaken, the purple-clad young man isn't even 100 years old, right?"

When Duan Ling Tian followed Ling Jue Yun into the hall, the old man had instinctively extended Divine Consciousness to probe Duan Ling Tian for a brief moment. It seemed like Duan Ling Tian was less than 100 years old, but he was not very sure.

Upon hearing the old man's words, a few people, including the middle-aged man, shook their heads disbelievingly.

"What?!"

"The purple-clad young man isn't even 100 years old? Impossible!"

"How can someone who hasn't even reached the age of 100 be so strong?"

"He's right," Xue Jing Yu calmly replied, "It's not just the purple-clad young man. The grey-clad young man with him is also less than 100 years old... If you don't believe me, you can confirm my words when they come out..."

"What?!"

"Both of them... are under 100 years old?"

"The purple-clad young man comprehended two profundities of a law. How can he be less than 100 years old? Are you joking?"

When the crowd heard the conviction in Xue Jing Yu's words, they no longer doubted him. After all, there was no reason for him to lie. Moreover, just as Xue Jing Yu had suggested, they could check for themselves when the duo exited the hall. If they wanted to confirm it now, they could even enter the hall now. However, none of them had the courage to do such a thing. After all, the purple-clad young man was insanely strong. Although they were strong as well, they had only comprehended one profundity from a law. They were far from being a match for him.

...

In the hall.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ling Jue Yun and asked, "What's the matter?" He was, naturally, slightly curious.

Ling Jue Yun did not beat around the bush and bluntly asked, "Duan Ling Tian, do you know Xia Jie?"

"Xia Jie?" Upon hearing Ling Jue Yun's words, Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened imperceptibly. Waves of emotions rose in his heart immediately.

Xia Jie. Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, familiar with this name. Moreover, Xia Jie had left a deep impression on him. After all, Xia Jie was Ke'er's third uncle in her previous life. Not only that, but Xia Jie had saved his life in the mundane realm and gave him a first-form Profound Divine Metal and a Devata Divine Sword.

"Which Xia Jie are you talking about?" Duan Ling Tian asked after calming down. He did not think Ling Jue Yun, a mere Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, would know Xia Jie. After all, Xia Jie was someone who was stronger than Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms. He was from the Divine Offering Land, one of the Realms of Gods!

"I'm talking about Xia Jie, the third master of the Xia Clan in the Divine Offering Land!" Ling Jue Yun slowly said.

Upon hearing the words 'Divine Offering Land', Duan Ling Tian was shocked. Indeed, Ling Jue Yun was talking about Ke'er's uncle! He was perplexed. How did Ling Jue Yun know about the Divine Offering Land? 'Ling Jue Yun is just an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. How does he know about Xia Jie and the Divine Offering Land?'

Duan Ling Tian inhaled deeply before he asked with narrowed eyes, "How did you know I knew him?"

Ling Jue Yun replied honestly, "It's due to the prominent artifact in your body, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. That's Xia Jie's sword. Since it's with you now, he must have given it to you."

The Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword!

Duan Ling Tian looked at Ling Jue Yun warily and asked, "Who are you?"

"I'm from the Divine Offering Land," Ling Jue Yun who had expected this question calmly said, "To be precise, I'm from the Ling Clan in the Divine Offering Land. It's a solitary but peaceful clan..." He subconsciously clenched his hands into fists, and his eyes reddened when he mentioned the Ling Clan.

Waves of killing intent rolled out of his body at the same time. His voice was cold as he continued to say, "Although our Ling Clan wasn't as famous as the Xia Clan, and our strength was slightly inferior to the Xia Clan, our clan was as famous as the Xia Clan back then..."

Upon seeing the changes in Ling Jue Yun, Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly, 'Does he hate his clan? Or did something happen to his clan?' He could clearly sense the hatred from Ling Jue Yun's killing intent. However, he did not know who or what the hatred was directed at. He asked, slightly perplexed, "You asked to talk to me privately... just to say this?"

After entering the hall, except for the first sentence by Duan Ling Tian, the duo had been communicating through Voice Transmission.

"No." Ling Jue Yun shook his head. "I have something to ask of you... Please let the soul of my elder sister's prominent artifact become the artifact soul of the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword in your body!"

The artifact soul of the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword?

Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened again. "What do you mean?"

"My elder sister had a prominent artifact. When she died, the prominent artifact was also taken away. However, the artifact soul forcibly separated herself from the prominent artifact that had become masterless at the cost of serious injuries. That's how she came to temporarily reside in my consciousness," Ling Jue Yun said, "After she becomes the soul of the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword, her life will be completely in your hands. You don't need to worry that she'll turn against you. As long as you are the master of the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, you'll be her master as well... She can't escape from the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword as long as the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword has a master!"

Chapter 3010: Huang'er

Ling Jue Yun was clearly trying to reassure Duan Ling Tian with his words. Although nothing seemed to be wrong with Ling Jue Yun's words, Duan Ling Tian still decided to be cautious. He asked the Chaos Divine Earth, "Chaos Divine Earth, how much do you know about the artifact? Are his words true?"

Prior to this, Duan Ling Tian only knew the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword in his body was a Devata Artifact, and it was as powerful as a Duke Grade Celestial Weapon without its artifact soul.

"You... There's a Devata Artifact in your body?" The Chaos Divine Earth was shocked.

"He's able to sense it, why can't you?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled. Then, he deliberately moved the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword in his body closer to the Chaos Divine Earth.

"It's really a Devata Artifact! Moreover, it's a prominent artifact!" The Chaos Divine Earth sighed before it complained in its childish voice, "Boy, since you possess a Devata Artifact, why did you use the Royal Grade Celestial Weapon to kill that Sima Chun previously? Although this devata artifact doesn't have a soul, its strength is still comparable to an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon if someone with your strength wields it! If you had used this sword against Sima Chun, you could've killed him in seconds before he could even attack! Then, I wouldn't need to help you deflect his attack at all!"

“Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned. “Although the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword in my body is a Devata Artifact, it’s only as powerful as a Duke Grade Celestial Weapon. There’s no way it’s comparable to an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon!” He had tried using the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword more than once and had confirmed it was only comparable to a Duke Grade Celestial Weapon.

The Chaos Divine Earth asked, “You probably used this artifact before comprehending the law profundity, right?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Then, his eyes widened as realization dawned on him. “You mean... after comprehending the profundity of a law, I’m able to increase the power of the artifact?”

“That’s right,” the Chaos Divine Earth said, “Those who comprehend the power of the law can even boost a soulless primitive artifact to the level of an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon, let alone a prominent artifact like yours. You have such a wonderful artifact, and yet, you still use that Royal Grade Celestial Weapon... What a waste!” It did not hesitate to chide Duan Ling Tian for being unable to recognize the treasure he possessed.

Duan Ling Tian smiled bitterly. He was truly unaware of this.

The Chaos Divine Earth continued to say, “As for what he said earlier, it’s true... If your Devata Artifact is fused with a suitable soul, it’ll be beneficial to you. After all, with a soul, the sword would be restored to its full strength and potential. Naturally, with your current strength, you won’t be able to use it to its full potential yet. However, just being able to wield part of its power is already equivalent to wielding an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon!”

When Ling Jue Yun saw Duan Ling Tian was distracted, he frowned slightly. “Duan Ling Tian. Are you... unwilling to accept my proposal?” Although he did not think Duan Ling Tian would refuse such a great deal, he became uncertain when he saw Duan Ling Tian’s hesitation.

Duan Ling Tian regained his senses when he heard Ling Jue Yun calling out to him. He looked at Ling Jue Yun intently as he said, “I agree... However, I’m sure there are conditions, right?”

There was no reason for Duan Ling Tian to refuse such a great deal. However, he knew there was no free lunch in the world. He would definitely need to pay a price in exchange for such a great deal.

“My sister’s soul artifact will talk to you about this,” Ling Jue Yun said.

The moment Ling Jue Yun’s voice trailed off, Duan Ling Tian received a Voice Transmission from Ling Jue Yun, but it was not Ling Jue Yun’s voice.

A mellifluous but cold woman’s voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. “I’m willing to be the soul of the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, and I have but one condition...”

Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine when he heard the cold voice. “What condition?”

“When you’ve grown strong enough, avenge my master by killing her murderer!” the woman said.

“Avenge your master?”

Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow and said, "If the person who killed your former master deserves to die, I don't mind helping you avenge her. However, if your former master was a sinister person who deserved death, and the murderer was just enforcing justice, I won't agree to your condition."

Although the temptation of having a soul in the artifact was huge, Duan Ling Tian was not someone who would go against his conscience and kill innocent people for his own benefit.

"What an honorable man! As expected of the person whom Xia Jie gave the sword to," the woman said. Based on her words, it was clear she had no objections to his words. "We'll do as you say..."

Upon hearing the woman's words, Duan Ling Tian was rather certain the murderer was someone who deserved to die.

"I'll enter your sea of consciousness now. Don't resist it... After entering your sea of consciousness, I'll gradually merge with the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword in your body and become its soul."

As soon as the woman's voice trailed off, something flashed past the corners of Duan Ling Tian's eyes. He saw a streak of green light rushing into his body.

"Chaos Divine Earth, you..." Duan Ling Tian called out to the Chaos Divine Earth when it saw the streak of green light rushing toward his sea of consciousness and his soul. He wanted the Chaos Divine Earth to help him limit the Profound Divine Metal's power that was guarding his soul.

Although Profound Divine Metal was in deep slumber, it still instinctively protected Duan Ling Tian's soul. Therefore, it was very likely that the soul artifact would not be able to enter his soul and his sea of consciousness.

"Don't worry." The Chaos Divine Earth seemed to know what Duan Ling Tian wanted to say. "The Profound Divine Metal won't block her soul."

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt fluctuations in his sea of consciousness. Soon after, a woman's voice rang in his mind. "Profound Divine Metal? Chaos Divine Earth? Chaos Divine Flame?" Hints of shock could be heard in her voice. "The Divine Tree of Life is also here... You... you managed to make it acknowledge you as its master?"

She knew that Duan Ling Tian had successfully obtained the Divine Tree of Life in the past, but she did not expect that he would be able to make the Divine Tree of Life recognize him as its master. She sighed in awe. "As it turns out, you have 99 Heavenly Veins... No wonder. No wonder Xia Jie chose you."

"Xia Jie chose me? What do you mean?" Duan Ling Tian frowned in confusion.

"Aren't you the successor Xia Jie was looking for in the Devata Realm?" The woman was puzzled.

"No," Duan Ling Tian calmly replied, "Xia Jie and I can be regarded as relatives at best... I address him as third uncle."

"Third uncle? You're his relative? You... Are you from the Xia Clan? No... your surname is Duan! Are you the illegitimate son of the Patriarch of the Xia Clan?" the woman asked.

“Nonsense!” Duan Ling Tian said in response to her question.

“Then why do you address Xia Jie as third uncle?” the woman asked again.

“My wife is the Young Lady of the Xia Clan, Xia Ning Xue.” Duan Ling Tian said. Xia Ning Xue was Ke’er’s name in her past life.

“Xia Ning Xue?” The woman murmured, “How’s that possible?! Xia Ning Xue had already died because she refused the marriage with the Yun Clan... Even if she’s not dead, how can she have such a weak man as her husband?!”

“It’s up to you to believe me or not.” Speaking of Ke’er, Duan Ling Tian became sad and irritable.

The woman could sense Duan Ling Tian’s turbulent emotions so she did not say more.

When Duan Ling Tian came back to his senses, he glanced at Ling Jue Yun and said, “I didn’t expect that you come from the Divine Offering Land.”

“Duan Ling Tian,” Ling Jue Yun returned Duan Ling Tian’s stare and solemnly said in a deep voice, “Although sister Huang’er has chosen to be the sword soul of your Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword and serve you as her master... If I find out that you insult her or force her to do what she’s unwilling to do, I will fight you with my life and seek justice for her!”

“Stop thinking such dirty thoughts.” Duan Ling Tian glanced at Ling Jue Yun before he walked out of the hall, leaving Ling Jue Yun behind. He knew what Ling Jue Yun’s words meant. Ling Jue Yun was worried he would abuse his power as Huang’er’s master and force her to do something she did not want to do. For example, have sex with him. However, was he that kind of person? He could understand Ling Jue Yun’s concern, but he could not help but feel offended.

Ling Jue Yun followed Duan Ling Tian out of the hall. Not only was he not dissatisfied with Duan Ling Tian’s attitude, but a faint smile could be seen on his face as well. He could tell Duan Ling Tian was someone worthy of his trust.

When Duan Ling Tian walked out of the hall, the woman’s astonished voice rang in his mind again. “Third-form Chaos Divine Earth, third-form Chaos Divine Flame, and second-form Profound Divine Metal! How did you do it?”

The Chaos Divine Earth chuckled before he replied, “Girl, you mean third-form Profound Divine Metal... After all, once the Profound Divine Metal wakes up, it’ll evolve to the third form by absorbing the first-form Profound Divine Metal this kid obtained.”

“Chaos Divine Earth, why are you willing to share the same host as the Profound Divine Metal and Chaos Divine Flame? I thought the Five Divine Elements are very arrogant. How can you be willing to share a host with other Divine Elements?” the woman asked, surprised.

“Girl, before asking me this question... Shouldn’t you introduce yourself first?” the Chaos Divine Earth asked.

“My name is Huang’er. I was the soul of a prominent Devata Artifact... I have now become the soul of the Seven Orifice Exquisite Sword in his body,” the woman said.

“Huang’er... That’s a nice name.” The Chaos Divine Earth’s manner of speaking was mature, contrary to its childish voice.