

Chapter 3301: Lei Jun?

Most people knew Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu were brothers. They had grown together when they were still a Hundred Colors Flower and a Tenacious Heavenly Bamboo respectively. Their bond was incredibly strong.

Dugu Wu's Celestial Origin Energy erupted from his body as he rushed to the battle site with all his might. Alas, when he arrived, he only saw the place was in ruins. There was no one around. Even after extending his Divine Consciousness in all directions, he did not discover anyone's presence at all.

"Duan Ling Tian!" Dugu Wu said through gritted teeth as an unsightly expression appeared on his wizened face. His long white hair fluttered in the air like venomous snakes despite there being no wind.

"Brother, I'll definitely avenge you!" Hatred flashed in the depths of Dugu Wu's eyes. At the same time, he was also filled with wariness. How could Duan Ling Tian, a mere Celestial Lord, have so many tricks up his sleeve? Was Duan Ling Tian even human?

"If Brother Wen's judgment is right, then Duan Ling Tian's devata artifact has to be a top-tier one even in the Realms of Gods. Otherwise, how could he possess such formidable powers?" Dugu Wu muttered to himself as greed flashed in his eyes.

Moments before his death, Dugu Wen finally realized that he had been wrong to assume Duan Ling Tian's strength came solely from the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. At that time, he had finally realized the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon was not only strong because of the Seven Orifices Sword, but it was mostly due to the Five Divine Elements. Alas, since he only discovered this right before his death, he did not have time to divulge this piece of information to Dugu Wu.

For this reason, Dugu Wu also assumed Duan Ling Tian's strength came solely from the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword and did not think highly of Duan Ling Tian even though Duan Ling Tian had killed Dugu Wen. Moreover, his strength was superior to Dugu Wen's strength. If he fought with Dugu Wen, he could kill Dugu Wen faster than Dugu Wen could have killed Duan Ling Tian if Dugu Wen was not careless.

"Duan Ling Tian must be on his way back to the Heavenly Pool Palace after leaving this palace. I'll make my way to the Heavenly Pool Palace as well to see if I can intercept him."

...

After leaving, Duan Ling Tian used a different route to return to the Heavenly Pool Palace, therefore, he successfully avoided Dugu Wu.

"The Supreme Powerhouse Divinity can help me learn how to fuse my profundities from the law of space, but I've yet to grasp how it works. Moreover, it seems to be related to my cultivation base," Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. He recalled when he was still a Celestial Duke, he could not progress in his comprehension of the law of space due to his cultivation even with the help from the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity. It was only when he had a breakthrough and became a Celestial Lord that he

managed to comprehend the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage from the initial stage.

“Based on my experience, it seems likely that I’ll only be able to fuse my profundities once I have a breakthrough and become a Celestial Emperor. What do you think, Sister Water?” Duan Ling Tian asked for the World Cleansing Divine Water’s opinion.

“That should be the case,” the World Cleansing Divine Water replied, “At the very least, I’ve not met anyone who had successfully fused their profundities before becoming a Celestial Emperor. Perhaps, this is a restriction set by the heavens... After this, you should temporarily stop focusing on the law of space and concentrate on raising your cultivation base instead.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded in response. Although he had a breakthrough when he was in the Jade Emperor Heaven, he was just a Five Elements Celestial Lord. There was still a long way to go before he became a Celestial Emperor.

“I should try my best to raise my cultivation base using any means possible once I return to the Heavenly Pool Palace so I can learn how to fuse my profundities. Dugu Wen’s strength increased tremendously after only fusing three profundities... Based on this, one can see how powerful fused profundities were...” After witnessing Dugu Wen’s strength, Duan Ling Tian was obsessed with fusing his profundities.

...

Xu Lang arrived at the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate in just a short time.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian who was chased by Dugu Wen to a distant place and had to use a longer route to avoid Dugu Wu only arrived after three months. Before arriving, he had sent a message to Xu Lang, requesting Xu Lang to wait for him at the entrance. When he arrived, he saw that Xu Lang did not come alone; Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, was there as well.

Under normal circumstances, Lei Ying would not have agreed to Xu Lang’s request. However, due to Huan’er’s relationship with Duan Ling Tian, Lei Ying easily agreed to Xu Lang’s request. After all, at this time, Huan’er was as important to her as her son, Lei Jun. As a Thousand Phantoms Ice Fox, one of the Divine Beasts, Huan’er’s future was limitless. Therefore, she knew it was important for her to establish a good relationship with Huan’er.

“Thank you, Pavilion Master Lei.” After entering the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate, Duan Ling Tian thanked Lei Ying before he parted ways with her.

Lei Yin replied amiably with a faint smile on her face, “There’s no need to thank me. When you’re free, just bring Huan’er with you to my cultivation place. My cultivation place isn’t inferior to Xu Lang’s cultivation place...”

“Alright,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

After Lei Ying left, Duan Ling Tian followed Xu Lang back to Xu Lang’s cultivation place. As soon as he arrived in the main hall, he discovered not only was Huan’er waiting for him, but his senior brothers and senior sisters were present as well. Even Lu Ji, his Second Senior Brother who rarely made an appearance, was present.

“Brother Ling Tian!” Although Huan’er had already news that Duan Ling Tian was safe, she still could not help herself from running into his arms as soon as she saw him.

When Duan Ling Tian held her tightly in his arms, he could feel her rapid heartbeat. He patted her gently on the back and said, “Silly girl, I’m fine.”

When Duan Ling Tian released Huan’er from his embrace, he suddenly discovered everyone was watching them, causing him to feel embarrassed.

At this moment, Xu Lang solemnly said, “Before you arrived, I asked them to help me investigate this matter. Someone saw Han Yun Jin and Lei Ying’s son, Lei Jun, together recently. If they’re working together, it’s possible that they’re able to pool their resources and hire Dugu Wen and Duge Wu.”

Xu Lang, naturally, did not stay idle after returning to the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate. He had sent his prodigious disciples to investigate this matter.

“Lei Jun?” Duan Ling Tian frowned as he instinctively turned to look at Huan’er.

Lei Jun was Lei Ying’s only son and her second disciple. He was also Huan’er Second Senior Brother.

“That’s right.” Xu Lang nodded.

At this moment, Hu Mei chimed in, “Little Junior Brother, Lei Jun and Han Yun Jin rarely interact before this. In fact, they’re rarely seen together. It’s strange that they were seen together when we were in the Title Temple. A few people saw them meeting secretly. We wouldn’t have found out about this if we didn’t thoroughly investigate the matter...”

“They were rarely, if ever, seen together?” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Indeed, this matter was highly suspicious. However, from what he knew, he had no conflicts with Lei Jun. He said, “There isn’t any conflict between Lei Jun and me. I don’t understand why he’d work with Han Yun Jin to kill me? Moreover, he’s even willing to pay such a high price...”

At this moment, Hong Fei, Duan Ling Tian’s Sixth Senior Brother, spoke up. He narrowed his eyes as he said, “What you said right. However, sometimes, you don’t have to have conflicts with someone for them to want to kill you. There are many things that can motivate a person to kill someone. For example, I might be motivated to kill you because I’m jealous of your handsome appearance. This is a normal motivation for women to kill...”

Duan Ling Tian asked, “Sixt Senior Brother, what are you trying to say?”

Hong Fei looked at Wen Wan’er before he said, “Before you return, Fourth Senior Sister and Huan’er went to the Merciless Celestial Emperor’s cultivation place a few times, and they met Lei Jun twice. According to Fourth Senior Sister, although Lei Jun tried to conceal it, she could tell Lei Jun is fond of Huan’er. Do you understand what I’m trying to say now?” After he finished speaking, his eyes glinted coldly.

“Is that so?” Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes that shone with killing intent. If Lei Jun liked Huan’er, he would have a motive of trying to kill him. After all, everyone could see how close Huan’er was to him; it was as though she could not live without him. It was only natural that Lei Jun wanted to get rid of Duan

Ling Tian if he had designs on Huan'er. Although he was not like Lei Jun, he understood what some men were like.

Chapter 3302: Duan Ling Tian Displays His Strength

At this moment, Ouyang Qi Fei, Duan Ling Tian's Fifth Senior Brother, said, "Second Senior Brother, Third Senior Sister, Sixth Junior Brother, and I had asked around. A few days before you met Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu, someone saw Lei Jun looking for Han Yun Jin before both of them left the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate together. I suspect that was when they looked for Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu. Shortly after they returned, Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu tried to assassinate you. I don't think there'd be so many coincidences... Unfortunately, these are all our speculations, and we don't have any evidence. Even if we're 100% certain they're the culprits, there's no way the Heavenly Pool Palace will punish them since we're lacking evidence."

Upon hearing this, a gloomy expression appeared on the face of Hong Fei who always had a smile on his chubby face.

"Second Senior Brother, Third Senior Sister, Fourth Senior Sister, Fifth Senior Brother, Sixth Senior Brother..." Duan Ling Tian felt warm in his heart when he discovered his senior brothers and senior sisters did not spare any effort to investigate this matter.

Hu Mei said, "Teacher even went to look for Pavilion Master Lei to test the water. That's why he asked her to accompany him to wait for your return today. However, based on Teacher's observation, it's likely that she's not aware of this matter..."

"That's right," Xu Lang said, "If Lei Ying was aware of this and supported Lei Jun's decision, he wouldn't have looked for Han Yun Jin to share the cost of hiring Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu."

Duan Ling Tian nodded; he agreed with Xu Lang. If Lei Jun had Lei Ying's support, there was no need for him to expose his motive to Han Yun Jin at all. It was clear that Lei Jun had only looked for Han Yun Jin because he could not bear the cost of hiring titled Celestial Emperors alone. His eyes glinted coldly as he muttered to himself, "Lei Jun, Han Yun Jin..."

"Brother Ling Tian. I'll look for Lei Ying now and ask for an explanation," Huan'er suddenly said at this moment. Prior to this, she was not aware of this information. Duan Ling Tian's senior brothers and senior sisters did not tell her anything about their investigation. After listening to all of them, she finally realized why Wen Wan'er had suddenly decided to follow her to Lei Ying's cultivation place. Now that it was almost all but confirmed that Lei Jun had a hand in the assassination attempt, her Celestial Origin Energy surged out violently as anger burned in her eyes. If Lei Jun were present, she would not have been able to hold back from attacking him.

"Huan'er, don't act rashly." Duan Ling Tian grabbed Huan'er's hand.

"Brother Ling Tian, he wants to kill you," Huan'er said icily as she suppressed her anger.

This was Duan Ling Tian's first time seeing the always gentle Huan'er losing her composure. He knew it was because of him so he did not blame her. In fact, he was rather moved. Finally, he shook his head and said, "Huan'er, we don't have evidence. Even if we have evidence, we still have to have a strategy to resolve this matter. If it won't do us any favor if we act recklessly."

After Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he sent a Voice Transmission to Huan'er. "Huan'er, I've found out where your father is being imprisoned in the Heavenly Pool Palace. I suspect your mother is there as well. Now is not the time for you to get into a conflict with Lei Ying and Lei Jun. Your identity as Lei Ying's disciple is valuable for us to rescue your parents."

Huan'er replied angrily, "Brother Ling Tian, although I want to rescue my parents, I can't just ignore what he did."

"Don't worry... I'll find a way to deal with Lei Jun and Han Yun Jin," Duan Ling Tian replied as his eyes flashed with a cold light.

At this moment, Hu Mei looked at Duan Ling Tian with hints of curiosity and skepticism in her eyes as she asked, "Little Junior Brother, how did you manage to escape? Did you really kill Dugu Wen?"

"Third Senior Sister, you don't believe me?" Duan Ling Tian said with a hint of helplessness.

"It's not that I don't believe you... It's... It's just too unbelievable," Hu Mei replied with a wry smile.

Xu Lang and his other prodigious disciples shifted their attention to Duan Ling Tian as well upon hearing Hu Mei's question. They were, naturally, curious as well.

"He was very strong but also careless... I teleported two Ning Dragons, whose combined strength is on par with that of a titled Celestial Emperors, from my Little World to his back. With the help of the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon I mastered in the Title Temple, I managed to kill him," Duan Ling Tian explained patiently. He had long come up with this excuse before arriving at the Heavenly Pool Palace's estate. He did not fear the consequences of people finding out about the existence of the Ning Dragons in his Little World and the Godly Image Phenomenon. Even people coveted the Ning Dragons, there was nothing they could do since it would be nigh difficult for them to take the Celestial Beasts away from his Little World. Even if they succeeded in taking the Ning Dragons away, there was no guarantee they would be able to get the Ning Dragons to listen to them. As for the Godly Image Phenomenon, similarly, it was not something that others could snatch from him.

"Ning Dragons whose combined strength is comparable to that of a titled Celestial Emperor?"

"The manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon?"

Everyone, including Xu Lang, seemed to be in a daze when they heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

Upon seeing their reactions, Duan Ling Tian said, "It seems like Teacher, senior brothers, and senior sisters want to have a look? I don't mind showing it to all of you..."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian held onto Huan'er and brought her out of the main hall like a gust of wind.

The others, naturally, followed suit.

Duan Ling Tian hovered high in the sky, and with just a thought, he brought the Ning Dragons in his Little World out.

"Teacher," Duan Ling Tian looked at Xu Lang and asked, "Do you want to test their strength?"

Xu Lang's eyes widened imperceptibly when he saw the pair of Ning Dragons. He said skeptically, "Old Seventh, I know a thing or two about Ning Dragons. At most, their strength should only be comparable to a Three Talents Celestial Emperor or Four Phenomenon Celestial Emperor, right? Are they really capable of killing Dugu Wen with their combined strength?"

Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile on his face, "Teacher, you'll know after you've tested their strength."

"Teacher, hurry! I want to see the strength of Little Junior Brother's Ning Dragons as well!" Hong Fei said excitedly.

Swoosh!

Without hesitation, Xu Lang moved and appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian.

"Teacher, I'm ready."

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he teleported the Ning Dragons behind Xu Lang.

Although Xu Lang had hastily retreated, the Ning Dragons' joint attack was only a hair's breadth away from. All he could do at this moment was to deflect the attack. Although he had used all his strength to deflect the attack, he was still sent flying back, looking rather miserable. Although Duan Ling Tian had given him a reminder, he was still careless. If he were not careless, he would not have ended up in such a state.

"So powerful!"

The impact from the collision rippled out in waves.

The others could feel the scorching heat from the waves of energy and had no choice but to erect a barrier around themselves using their Celestial Origin Energies.

As Duan Ling Tian returned the Ning Dragons to his Little World, he said with a faint smile, "Teacher, you were careless."

Following that, the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon appeared before everyone's eyes.

"The Pine Willow Divine Tree!"

"I remember Little Junior Brother's opponent, Fan Qi, was a Pine Willow Divine Tree, right?"

Hu Mei, Wen Wan'er, and Hong Fei looked at each other in disbelief.

"At that time I thought Little Junior Brother's methods were too simple and straightforward to deal with Fan Qi... It seems like there's more than meets the eyes with Little Junior Brother," Hu Mei said. After a beat, she asked, "Little Junior Brother, you only mastered the Godly Image Phenomenon after killing Fan Qi, right?"

As the Pine Willow Divine Tree slowly faded away, Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Hu Mei said with a sigh, "It's great that you benefited from Fan Qi's death. I'm sure not even in his wildest dreams would he expect that not only are you capable of killing him, but you would even go on to master his Godly Image Phenomenon. If he was privy to these things, I'm sure even if someone held a knife to his neck, he wouldn't have dared to challenge you to a life-death battle." After a while, her eyes lit up as she continued to say, "It's really unexpected that apart from Eldest Senior Sister, we have someone else in our ranks who's capable of killing a titled Celestial Emperor as well!"

"Eldest Senior Sister?" Duan Ling Tian was surprised when he heard Hu Mei mentioning their Eldest Senior Sister whom he had yet to meet and learned that she was capable of killing a titled Celestial Emperor.

Chapter 3303: Duan Ling Tian's Plan

Duan Ling Tian only knew his mysterious Eldest Senior Sister was Xu Lang's daughter. He had heard that she was even stronger than his Second Senior Brother, Lu Ji. However, he did not expect her to be capable of killing a titled Celestial Emperor. Since her cultivation base was weaker than that of a titled Celestial Emperor, this meant that she had other techniques up her sleeve to be able to kill a titled Celestial Emperor just like him.

"Little Junior Brother, you better not think you're the strongest among us just because you managed to kill Dugu Wen. Eldest Senior Sister didn't get a title from the Title Temple, but she had killed a titled Celestial Emperor in the past. In fact, her current strength is comparable to our teacher's strength," Hu Mei said teasingly. When she finished speaking, she glanced at Xu Lang.

Meanwhile, a hint of affection and warmth could be seen in Xu Lang's eyes when Hu Mei mentioned her Eldest Senior Sister. It was only natural since she was his daughter after all.

Hong Fei laughed before he said, "Little Junior Brother, Eldest Senior Sister always call us a useless bunch, even Second Senior Brother gets criticized by her! Now that we have you, Eldest Senior Sister can't scold us anymore once she finds out you killed Dugu Wen!"

Upon hearing these words, Ouyang Qi Fei shook his head and said with a smile, "Sixth Junior Brother, that's impossible. Even if she finds out about Little Junior Brother, she won't scold him, but she'll still continue to scold us."

Lu Ji who had remained silent since the beginning nodded at the end of Ouyang Qi Fei's words. The corners of lips curled up into a rare smile as he said, "Little Junior Brother, I'll take my leave first. There's something I need to attend to." After bidding farewell to everyone, he left in what seemed to be the direction of the cultivation ground.

After Lu Ji left, Hu Mei glared at Ouyang Qi Fei and Hong Fei as she said, "Look at what both of you have done!"

"Second Senior Brother has always been pressured due to Eldest Senior Sister's strength. It seems like Little Junior Brother's presence has increased the pressure on him. He must have left to cultivate," Wen Wan'er said casually.

Hong Fei shook his head. "Second Senior Brother is too hard on himself... If I were him, I wouldn't bother comparing myself to Eldest Senior Sister and Little Junior Brother. They're both monsters."

Ouyang Qi Fei smiled and said, "Sixth Junior Brother, it's because of this mentality you can't compare to Little Junior Brother."

"Fifth Senior Brother, it's not just me... Can you compare to him?" Hong Fei retorted.

Ouyang Qi Fei was rendered speechless by Hong Fei's words. When he recovered from his embarrassment, he said with a smile, "Indeed, I can't compare to Little Junior Brother, but I'm at least stronger than you!"

"You!" Hong Fei cried out indignantly. Alas, he could not refute Ouyang Qi Fei's words. It was a fact that he was the weakest among Xu Lang's prodigious disciples.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who was standing at the side smiled as he watched his Fifth Senior Brother and his Sixth Senior Brother teasing each other. He had begun to treat them like his family. He did not expect his teacher, senior brothers, and senior sisters to expend so much effort for his sake. As he had found out through Voice Transmission, even Huan'er was unaware of everything they had done for him.

After he ascended to the Overarching Spirit Realm, there was only a handful of people he cared about in the Devata Realm before he joined the Heavenly Pool Palace. At this moment, he discovered there were more people he cared about now, such as his teacher, Xu Lang, his senior brothers, and his senior sister.

As though she had just recalled something, Hu Mei suddenly exclaimed at this moment, "That's right!"

Everyone shifted their attention to her immediately.

Hu Mei looked at Duan Ling Tian and continued to say, "Little Junior Brother, Dugu Wu will most certainly inform Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun of Dugu Wen's death. Do you think Han Yun Jin will still have the guts to go through with the life-or-death battle in three years after finding out you killed Dugu Wen?"

Duan Ling Tian fell silent. Indeed. If Dugu Wu informed Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun about this matter, Han Yun Jin would most likely refuse to fight him. It was only natural that Han Yun Jin would choose to preserve his life over his reputation.

At this moment, Xu Lang asked, "Old Seventh, did you collect Dugu Wen's Spatial Ring? From what I know, Dugu Wen had always been in charge of liaising with their clients. Therefore, it's likely that Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun's Soul Pearls are in his Spatial Ring."

Upon hearing Xu Lang's words, Duan Ling Tian quickly brought out Dugu Wen's Spatial Ring before he brought out three Soul Pearls. Then, he said, "I've gone through his Spatial Ring previously. There are only these three Soul Pearls in there."

Wen Wan'er narrowed her eyes as she looked at the Soul Pearls. She pointed at one of the Soul Pearls as she said, "That's Han Yun Jin's Soul Pearl." She knew this because she was familiar with Han Yun Jin's energy.

After that, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Huan'er and asked, "Huan'er, I remember Lei Jun had exchanged Soul Pearls with you, right?"

Huan'er nodded as she brought out a Soul Pearl from her Spatial Ring.

As soon as Huan'er brought the Soul Pearl, Duan Ling Tian and the others could sense the energy from it was similar to another one of the Soul Pearls in Duan Ling Tian's hands.

"This confirms our suspicion," Hong Fei said solemnly.

Xu Lang's eyes glinted coldly upon hearing these words.

At the same time, Huan'er's emitted a chilling energy that caused the temperature in the surroundings to drop. Her eyes shone with killing intent as though she was going to kill Lei Jun right away. Earlier, she had been enraged when she heard Lei Jun was the culprit behind this matter. However, with this confirmation, she grew even more enraged. How could she endure this?

"This evidence isn't sufficient to prove Lei Jun and Han Yun Jin hired assassins to kill me. After all, they can easily deny this and accuse me of framing them," Duan Ling Tian said to the others as he held Huan'er's hand. He could sense her fury and was trying to calm her down.

Hong Fei said with a dark expression, "Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun have really gone too far!"

Hu Mei, Wen Wan'er, and Ouyang Qi Fei's expressions were rather unsightly as well.

After a moment, Ouyang Qi Fei said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian, "It seems like what our teacher said is true... Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun must still be unaware of Dugu Wen's death since Dugu Wu doesn't have their Soul Pearls. Under these circumstances, Han Yun Jin is likely to proceed with the life-or-death battle..."

"Since Dugu Wen had their Soul Pearls, it's likely that they have Dugu Wen's Soul Pearl," Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and said, "Therefore, it's likely that they already know that Dugu Wen is dead. Saying that, it probably didn't cross their minds that I'm the one who killed Dugu Wen."

After a beat, Duan Ling Tian looked at Xu Lang and asked, "Teacher, you didn't tell Pavilion Master Lei Ying that we met Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu, did you?"

"No." Xu Lang shook his head. "Initially, I planned to ask for reinforcement from the titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace of this matter. However, considering that by the time they arrive it'd be too late, I called Zheng Yu Yi instead."

"Zheng Yu Yi? The Copper Mountain Celestial Emperor?" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback. He only discovered at this time that Xu Lang had asked Zheng Yu Yi for help. When he regained his senses, he speculated out loud, "If that's the case, those two are probably unaware that Dugu Wu and Dugu Wen had already come looking for me. When they saw Dugu Wen's shattered Soul Pearl, it's likely they assumed Dugu Wen was killed by someone else. As long as they don't meet Dugu Wu, they won't find out that I killed Dugu Wen..."

After a brief pause, Duan Ling Tian looked at Xu Lang and said, "I think it's necessary for us to spread the news that we were attacked by Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu and say that we were lucky that two titled Celestial Emperors appeared at the crucial moment and killed Dugu Wen."

Xu Lang could guess the thought in Duan Ling Tian's mind as soon as he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. "You're trying to deter Han Yun Jin and Lei Jun from boldly meeting up with Dugu Wu after learning that you're alive?"

"That's right." Duan Ling Tian nodded. "If they were unaware that Dugu Wu and Dugu Wen had already looked for me, they'd definitely look for Dugu Wu to find out what happened and to make sure Dugu Wu would still complete the mission. However, if they hear the news we spread, it's unlikely that they'll take the risk to seek Dugu Wu out. Since Han Yun Jin hired assassins to kill me, he won't dare to look for Dugu Wu for fear of being found out. Lei Jun won't act recklessly as well if he's not stupid. With this, Han Yun Jin would remain unaware and proceed with the life-or-death battle..."

"Then we'll do as you say," Xu Lang said as he nodded. After that, he sent a message to Lei Ying, the Pavilion Master of the Sword Trial Pavilion. In the message to her, he said, "Lei Ying, it wasn't convenient for me to reveal this to you previously due to my investigation. However, I can tell you now that during our journey back, we were intercepted by Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu..."

Lei Ying was quick to reply. A hint of curiosity could be heard in her voice as she asked, "Did you find out anything from your investigation?"

"Yes. Although I don't have concrete evidence, the culprit with the greatest motive should be Han Yun Jin, the disciple of the Profound Sky Celestial Emperor."

Chapter 3304: The Day of the Battle

"Han Yun Jin?" Lei Ying was shocked by Xu Lang's words. "Are you sure?"

Xu Lang responded, "Do you think I'd tell you this if I'm not sure? We've known each other for so long now; you should know what kind of person I am."

Lei Ying asked, "Han Yun Jin is fighting your seventh disciple in a year, right?"

"That's right. He probably resorted to this because he's not confident he'd win," Xu Lang said.

...

Meanwhile, after conversing with Xu Lang, Lei Ying fell deep into her thoughts. After a while, she finally shook her head, dismissing her thoughts.

At this moment, Lei Jun was coincidentally by Lei Ying's side. Upon seeing his mother's behavior, he asked curiously, "Mother, what's the matter?"

Lei Jun had not been in a good mood recently because he had discovered Dugu Wen's shattered Soul Pearl not too long ago.

Lei Ying replied, "I just spoke to Xu Lang through Voice Transmission. He told me they were attacked by the Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu, the Hundred Variant Celestial Emperor and the Indestructible Celestial Emperor respectively. It seems like someone's targeting Duan Ling Tian, and Xu Lang suspects it's Han Yun Jin."

Since Lei Jun was Lei Ying's son, she did not feel the need to conceal this matter from him. She did not notice that his eyes had widened briefly when she mentioned Xu Lang suspecting Han Yun Jin.

Lei Jun asked curiously, “How did they escape?”

Lei Jun had assumed Dugu Wen had died before he could even carry out his mission to kill Duan Ling Tian. His heart sank when he realized Dugu Wen was killed while he attempted to assassinate Duan Ling Tian.

“Coincidentally, Zheng Yu Yi, the Copper Mountain Celestial Emperor, had brought his disciple to the Title Temple as well. Therefore, Xu Lang asked for Zheng Yu Yi’s help...” Lei Ying said, “Apart from that, Xu Lang said that another titled Celestial Emperor who escorted his granddaughter to the Title Temple had helped as well due to his enmity with Dugu Wu and Dugu Wen. Apparently, Xu Lang and Zheng Yu Yi weren’t a match for Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu. However, when that powerful titled Celestial Emperor joined them, the scale tipped in their favor. Although they managed to kill Dugu Wen, Dugu Wu managed to escape.”

After that, I think there was another titled Celestial Emperor heading to the Title Temple with their granddaughter who knew and held a grudge against Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu. Thus, they joined in the fight. When it was only Xu Lang and Zheng Yu Yi, they were no match for Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu... However, the titled Celestial Emperor who happened to pass by was very powerful. Not long after they joined the fight, Dugu Wen was killed. Nevertheless, Dugu Wu managed to escape.”

“Duan Ling Tian is really lucky...” Lei Jun said as his eyes glinted with a vicious light. However, it was gone before Lei Ying could see it.

Lei Ying nodded. “He wouldn’t have survived if the other two titled Celestial Emperors weren’t around. Although they suspect Han Yun Jin and are highly certain their suspicion is right, they have insufficient evidence to prove it. Nevertheless, Xu Lang has said that he’ll continue investigating the matter. I didn’t expect Han Yun Jin to lack so much confidence to the extent of hiring someone to assassinate Duan Ling Tian.”

After Lei Ying finished speaking, she shook her head as contempt flashed in her eyes.

Lei Jun said, “Mother, the culprit might not even be Han Yun Jin. This is just their speculation, after all.”

Lei Ying shook her head. “It’s not just a baseless suspicion. I said they had insufficient evidence to prove their suspicion; I didn’t say they have no evidence to prove their suspicion. After Dugu Wen died, the titled Celestial Emperor who joined them last collected Dugu Wen’s Spatial Ring. After searching in the Spatial Ring, Xu Lang found three Soul Pearls. Xu Lang’s fourth prodigious disciple identified one of the Soul Pearls as Han Yun Jin’s Soul Pearl. I’m sure you know Xu Lang’s fourth prodigious disciple, Wen Wan’er, used to be a couple with Han Yun Jin. Although they did not get married, they were together for such a long time. It’s not surprising she could identify Han Yun Jin’s Soul Pearl...”

“Soul Pearls?” Lei Jun’s eyes widened imperceptibly. He knew one of the three Soul Pearls was his. Previously, he had given Dugu Wen his Soul Pearl. Han Yun Jin had also handed his Soul Pearl to Dugu Wen in case he needed to contact Dugu Wen.

“What’s the matter?” Lei Ying asked in confusion when she saw her son’s abnormal behavior.

“Nothing.” Lei Jun shook his head after he inhaled deeply. Then, he said, “Mother, I just remember I have something to attend to. I’ll take my leave first...”

Lei Jun did not even wait for a response from his mother and left as soon as he finished speaking. At the same time, he hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission to Han Yun Jin. "Han Yun Jin, Dugu Wen and Dugu Wu actually did meet Duan Ling Tian. We were wrong when he thought he died before he could even carry out his mission."

Han Yun Jin was shocked when he heard Lei Jun's Voice Transmission. "What happened? If Dugu Wen found Duan Ling Tian, how did he fail the mission and die?"

"It is because..." Lei Jun recounted everything he heard from his mother to Han Yun Jin.

After listening to Lei Jun, Han Yun Jin fell silent for a long time. In the end, he said, "Even if they know I'm the culprit because of my Soul Pearl in Dugu Wen's Spatial Ring, it's not enough to prove anything."

"I know... However, I'm worried about my Soul Pearl. They managed to identify your Soul Pearl because of Wen Wan'er. They didn't recognize my Soul Pearl, but who can guarantee they won't find out it's my Soul Pearl in the future?"

"So what? Even if they identify your Soul Pearl, it's insufficient to prove that you're the culprit," Han Yun Jin said nonchalantly, clearly unafraid.

"Han Yun Jin, we're in different situations," Lei Jun said, "Based on how much Junior Sister Huan'er cares about Duan Ling Tian, if she finds out the Soul Pearl belongs to me, she definitely won't accept me even if Duan Ling Tian dies. Therefore, she can never find out the Soul Pearl belongs to me."

Han Yun Jin said in a leisurely tone, "Alright, alright. So in the end it's all for a woman? Don't worry, I'll help you kill him during our life-or-death battle." After a moment, he asked, "Hey, since they failed the assassination attempt, will Dugu Wu return us the price we paid?"

"You're dreaming," Lei Jun said with a sneer, "Do you really think that's possible? Put aside the fact that the treasures we used to hire them were probably with Dugu Wen and were probably taken away by someone else after he was killed, even if the treasures were with Dugu Wu, do you really think he'll return them to us now that Dugu Wen is dead? If you dare ask him for a refund, he'll probably kill you in a fit of rage!"

Han Yun Jin was frightened by Lei Jun's words. After a moment, he said with a sour expression, "If that's the case, we shouldn't ask for a refund. However, we still need to find out if he's still going to continue with the mission..."

Upon hearing this, Lei Jun reminded, "I think it's best you wait for some time to pass before you head out. Xu Lang already suspects you..."

"If I have to wait, it'd probably be the time for my life-or-death battle with Duan Ling Tian. If that's the case, what's the point of us hiring an assassin?" Han Yun said in a deep voice.

"We have no choice. Don't act rashly unless you have a death wish. If Xu Lang finds evidence that you met Dugu Wu, it's over for you. That's all the evidence they need. Colluding with outsiders to harm fellow members of the Heavenly Pool Palace is a heavy crime. If you're convicted, even your master, the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, won't be able to help you!" Lei Jun said icily. Naturally, he did not

care about Han Yun Jin's wellbeing. He was only worried he would be implicated if Han Yun Jin acted rashly. If Han Yun Jin was caught, it was not impossible for Han Yun Jin to sell him out in exchange for a lighter punishment. Moreover, he was also worried that his Soul Pearl would be identified.

Han Yun Jin mulled over Lei Jun's words before he said, "I know what to do. I won't act unless I'm 100% confident I won't be discovered."

...

Time continued to pass.

Han Yun Jin discovered that every time he planned to leave the Heavenly Pool Palace, Xu Lang's disciples would be nearby, keeping an eye on him. Apart from Wen Wan'er and Xu Lang's first disciple, it seemed like all of Xu Lang's prodigious disciples, including Duan Ling Tian, were taking turns keeping an eye on him. With this, he naturally did not dare to leave. In the end, he could only give up. After all, at this time, the life-or-death battle was just a little more than two months away.

Although Han Yun Jin had given up on meeting Dugu Wu, Xu Lang and his prodigious disciples did not stop keeping an eye on him. During the last two months before the battle, it was only Hu Mei, Ouyang Qi Fei, and Hong Fei were the only ones left keeping an eye on him, leaving Duan Ling Tian to cultivate. Although they were confident about Duan Ling Tian's strength and knew he had extraordinary means to defeat his opponents, Duan Ling Tian could hardly bring out the Ning Dragons during the battle, after all. Therefore, they wanted him to continue cultivating his Godly Image Phenomenon to increase his strength so that he would be able to face Han Yun Jin in peak condition.

...

Finally, the day of Duan Ling Tian and Han Yun Jin's life-or-death battle arrived.

A huge crowd had already formed at the Prodigy Arena early in the morning. Many of them were disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace who had come early to secure themselves a good seat.

"The day of the battle between the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor's strongest disciple, Han Yun Jin, and the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor's seventh prodigious disciple, Duan Ling Tian, is finally here!"

"Duan Ling Tian is an up-and-coming star of the Heavenly Palace. Although he's not even 300 years old, he's already incredibly powerful!"

"Since he dares to challenge Han Yun Jin to a life-or-death battle, he must have tricks up his sleeve."

"That's not necessarily true. I was there when he challenged Han Yun Jin. He might have only done it to intimidate Han Yun Jin and didn't expect Han Yun Jin to accept the challenge. In the end, he was left with no choice but to continue on with what he had started..."

"Well, it doesn't matter. Soon enough we'll be able to see who's the stronger one between the two of them!"

"Hey, it seems like they're taking bets! Let's place a bet as well. Although Han Yun Jin's odds are lower, I'll bet on him!"

"I agree. I'm betting on him as well!"

Before the main stars of the battle arrived, there was already a huge buzz of activities around and in the Prodigy Arena.

Chapter 3305: Wu Quan's Speculations

Many people were shocked when Duan Ling Tian and Han Yun Jin decided to enter a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender three years ago. However, despite their shock, all of them were eagerly waiting for the day of the battle.

Three years passed by quickly in just a blink of an eye for those in the Devata Realms. Even closed-door cultivations lasted much longer than that.

Duan Ling Tian's battle with Han Yun Jin, unsurprisingly, gained more attention compared to his battle with Fan Qi. One of the reasons was the opponent being Han Yun Jin, one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Another reason is Han Yun Jin's opponent, Duan Ling Tian, who had just joined the Heavenly Pool Palace a few years ago. Not only was Duan Ling Tian a new disciple, but he was not even 300 years ago. He was less than half of Han Yun Jin's age! Could he really win against Han Yun Jin?

At this moment...

"Sixth Junior Brother, how many bets have you received?" Ouyang Qi Fei could not help but ask as he stood at the side watching Hong Fei receiving bets from the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples.

"It's not too bad. So far, I've collected a little more than 500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals," Hong Fei replied with a grin. He was extremely glad he decided to come to the Prodigy Arena earlier with his Fifth Senior Brother. Otherwise, he would not have been able to receive bets from so many people.

In fact, Hong Fei was not the only one who was taking bets for the battle. However, unlike the others, he only accepted those who bet on Han Yun Jin and refused to accept bets from those who thought his Little Junior Brother would win. Since the payout he was giving if Han Yun Jin won was rather high compared to the others, many people who wanted to bet on Han Yun Jin would place their bets with him.

After some time had passed, Hong Fei sent a Voice Transmission to Ouyang Qi Fei. "I've received more than 1,000,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals now."

Ouyang Qi Fei said bluntly, "I want 20% of the profit."

"Fifth Senior Brother, how can you be so shameless?! You didn't even do anything, but you want 20% of the profit? This isn't fair!" Hong Fei exclaimed indignantly.

"How can you say I didn't even do anything? Am I not standing next to you, guarding you and the Celestial Crystals in your possession?" Ouyang Qi Feng said with a straight face.

Hong Fei was rendered speechless by these words. After a beat, he said, "Fifth Senior Brother, how come I didn't realize you're so shameless until now? Let me tell you this; I'm planning to give Little Junior Brother half of these Celestial Crystals. You can ask for your 20% from him!"

Ouyang Qi Fei remained unfazed as he said, "It's rare for you to be so generous. Since you're giving half to Little Junior Brother, he should keep his half of the profit. I'll just take 10% of your half..."

“You...” Hong Fei could not refute Ouyang Qi Fei’s words. He only continued to receive bets from the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples. Soon enough, he collected more than 2 million Royal Grade Celestial Crystals. In fact, he was close to hitting the 3 million mark.

Heaven-grade forces, naturally, owned many Royal Grade Celestial Crystals. Therefore, they would give their disciples Royal Grade Celestial Crystals every once in a while. They would also earn Celestial Crystals by accepting missions like hunting Celestial Beasts or trading with each other.

Just when Hong Fei was about to hit the 5 million mark, he began to receive a lot of attention.

“Is that Hong Fei, Xu Lang’s sixth prodigious disciple? He’s Duan Ling Tian’s senior brother, right?”

“What’s he doing? He’s refusing those who want to bet on Duan Ling Tian and is only taking bets from those who bet against Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, the payout he’s giving is much higher compared to the others.”

“Just how much confidence does he have in Duan Ling Tian? It seems like he doesn’t doubt Duan Ling Tian would win.”

“Hey, isn’t this like insider trading?”

“In any case, there are many people placing bets with him...”

“Based on this, you can see the majority of the people think Han Yun Jin will definitely win. However, as Duan Ling Tian’s senior brother, his understanding of Duan Ling Tian is better than ours. Is it really possible that Duan Ling Tian might win?”

“I’m going to try my luck betting on Duan Ling Tian!”

“Me too.”

At this moment, Ouyang Qi Fei looked at Hong Fei meaningfully as he said through Voice Transmission, “Sixth Junior Brother, it’s time to stop. What if Han Yun Jin becomes frightened and refuses to fight?”

Hong Fei chuckled and decided to listen to Ouyang Qi Fei. He said to those around him, “I won’t be accepting any more bets. Junior brothers, I can only accept this many bets. If I accept any more, I won’t be able to make the payout if Han Yun Jin wins...”

Upon hearing Hong Fei’s words, many people felt like vomiting blood.

“So he’s taking these bets not because he’s confident that Duan Ling Tian would win?”

“It seems like he’s just doing this as a form of support to Duan Ling Tian?”

“Isn’t he being too extravagant? I think he has accepted roughly 4 or 5 million Royal Grade Celestial Crystals in bets. Even if his payout weren’t high, he would still need to fork out about 1 million Royal Grade Celestial Crystals if Han Yun Jin wins.”

“I’ve heard that Xu Lang’s sixth prodigious disciple comes from a wealthy clan. It seems like he’s the only son of the clan leader. He can afford to be so extravagant with such a background...”

“That’s right! I also heard the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor only accepted him for his grandfather’s sake. Otherwise, with his talent, how could he catch the eye of Lord Xu Lang?”

“He’s really wealthy... Comparisons are really hateful...”

In the end, almost everyone thought Duan Ling Tian who had just joined the Heavenly Pool Palace stood a chance of defeating Han Yun Jin who had long established his status as one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

...

Although the bets were just a small matter, Han Yun Jin who had yet to arrive at the Prodigy Arena had already heard about it.

“Senior brother, do you think Lord Xu Lang’s sixth prodigious disciple dares to accept the bets because he doesn’t think you’ll be able to win?”

Among the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor’s prodigious disciples, Wu Quan, his third disciple, was the most intelligent. Even his senior brother, Han Yun Jin, would listen to him sometimes.

Wu Quan said solemnly, “Senior brother, it’s possible they’re trying to intimidate you into backing out, but I can’t help but think there’s something strange about this...”

In fact, Han Yun Jin had confided in Wu Quan and told him that he had hired two titled Celestial Emperors to assassinate Duan Ling Tian. Apart from that, Han Yun Jin had also complained that he was unable to leave the Heavenly Pool Palace’s estate to meet Dugu Wu. He had a feeling that Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples were not trying to gather evidence or catch Han Yun Jin in the act. He was inclined to believe Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples were trying to prevent Han Yun Jin from meeting Dugu Wu. Perhaps, Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples were worried Han Yun Jin would discover something if Han Yun Jin met Dugu Wu. Although these were only his speculations, he was rather certain he was right.

“Why? Third Junior Brother, is your confidence in me really so lacking?” Han Yun Jin asked with a smile.

“It’s not that, senior brother. I just find the entire matter strange. On the surface, it seems like Xu Lang and his prodigious disciples are trying to gather evidence and catch you in the act. However, I can’t help thinking they’re actually trying to prevent you from meeting Dugu Wu. Otherwise, why would they make it so obvious that they’re watching you?” Wu Quan said worriedly.

At this moment, a young man dressed like a scholar and was holding a fan said, “Third Junior Brother, you’re overthinking things...”

This young man was Zhao Ji Lie, the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor’s second prodigious disciple, Han Yun Jin’s Second Junior Brother, and Wu Quan’s Second Senior Brother. Among the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor’s prodigious disciples, his strength was only second to Han Yun Jin.

Zhao Ji Lie shook his head as he continued to say, “You’re too paranoid. How many times did you misjudge a situation in the past? I think you’re wrong again this time... Everyone knows Duan Ling Tian is human and isn’t even 300 years old. Do you really think someone like that is capable of defeating Eldest Senior Brother? Moreover, during the battle, one can only rely on one’s strength, and external items, including Celestial Weapons, are prohibited. What tricks can he play?”

“Nevertheless, I think it’s better to be safe than sorry,” Wu Quan said with a slight frown on his face. Indeed, he had misjudged many situations in the past. However, this matter was of utmost importance; it concerned his Eldest Senior Brother’s life. Therefore, he thought it was imperative they proceeded with caution.

“Third Junior Brother,” Han Yun Jin said with a smile, “I appreciate your concern, but you know I’d be humiliated and my reputation would be tarnished if I back out of the battle today. Unless you’re absolutely certain, I can’t risk my reputation based on your speculations alone. If my reputation is tarnished, the other heaven-grade forces will hear about this and look down on me. Although I’m not someone who prioritizes reputation over life, I’m determined to fight Duan Ling Tian since my chances of winning are incredibly high.” His eyes glinted with a vicious light at the end of his sentence.

“Senior brother,” Wu Quan said with a sigh, “Of course the decision is up to you. I understand that you’re in a difficult spot as well, and I can’t guarantee that my speculations are 100% correct...”

Han Yun Jin nodded. His eyes glinted coldly as he said with a faint smile on his face, “Let’s go to the Prodigy Arena!”

Chapter 3306: The Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor

A huge crowd had gathered in the Prodigy Arena. From afar, one could only see a sea of heads.

At this moment, Elder Qin from the Sword Trial Pavillion was already waiting in the battle ring with his eyes closed.

Many people were still swarming to the Prodigy Arena at this time. It seemed like there was an endless stream of spectators coming to the arena.

“That’s the Cloud Zither Celestial Emperor’s first disciple, Sima Yu. Among the prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace, he’s only ranked behind the top five prodigious disciples. I didn’t expect he’d come to watch the battle as well.”

The first disciple of the Cloud Zither Celestial Emperor, one of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace, Sima Yu, was a young man dressed in a simple robe and carried a zither on his back. He had become a Ten Directions Celestial Lord before he reached the age of 1,000. Apart from that, he had also comprehended all the profundities to the mastery stage.

“In the past, he had fought Han Yun Jin and managed to exchange more than 100 moves before he was defeated... Most importantly, he is only a Celestial Lord. Many people think he’ll have no problem defeating Han Yun Jin once he becomes a Celestial Emperor.”

“That’s right. I wonder when he’ll have a breakthrough. It’s really exciting.”

“He must be really interested in Duan Ling Tian and Han Yun Jin’s battle. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have come.”

Sima Yu caught many people’s attention as soon as he arrived. After all, he was only second to the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. This meant that he was the top sixth prodigious disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Although he was famous in the Heavenly Pool Palace, outsiders were only aware of the top five prodigies in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Unless he defeated Han Yun Jin

and replaced Han Yun Jin as one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace, he would only be known in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

At this moment...

“Liu Bai Feng is here!”

These words caught everyone’s attention as soon as they were spoken.

Soon enough, a woman dressed in a black loose and long robe that hid her figure and a hat that hid her face appeared.

This woman’s arrival caused another uproar because not only was she one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace, but she was also the only female among them. Nevertheless, she was strong enough to be ranked in the top three among the top five prodigious disciples. Her talent and aptitude put many men to shame. She had also defeated Han Yun Jin before. She was the disciple of the You Han Celestial Emperor, one of the nine titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace.

“I didn’t think Liu Bai Feng would come.”

“Not only is Liu Bai Feng powerful, but she’s the You Han Celestial Emperor’s first disciple... However, she rarely shows herself in public. I didn’t expect her to be interested in the battle today.”

“It seems like many people are interested in today’s battle. I wonder if any of the titled Celestial Emperors will show up? I heard a few titled Celestial Emperors showed up three years ago when Duan Ling Tian fought Fan Qi.”

“Two titled Celestial Emperors came because the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor came. The Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor came at that time because he was worried about Duan Ling Tian. The Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor and the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor came to stop the Verdant Prairie Celestial from intervening in Duan Ling Tian and Fan Qi’s life-or-death battle...”

“In another one of Duan Ling Tian’s battles, apart from the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, the Merciless Celestial Emperor showed up as well...”

“Those two battles had special circumstances. That was why the titled Celestial Emperors showed up. If there’s nothing wrong with today’s battle, I don’t think any of the titled Celestial Emperors would come...”

Among the nine titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace, the You Han Celestial Emperor was ranked in the top three. The three strongest titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace were the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, the You Han Celestial Emperor, and the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace. Following that, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, the Merciless Celestial Emperor, the Cloud Zither Celestial Emperor, the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor, and another titled Celestial Emperor were ranked behind them. The weakest among them was the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor.

After Sima Yu and Liu Bai Feng’s arrival, many other prodigious disciples of the various titled Celestial Emperors came as well. Nevertheless, the commotion they caused was not as big as the commotion Sima Yu and Liu Bai Feng’s arrival had caused until another young man showed up.

The young man was dressed in a grey robe, and a gourd and a long rod hung from his waist. His messy hair that hung over his shoulders made him look unkempt.

Many people's eyes brightened as soon as they saw him.

"It is Sun Xing!"

"Even Sun Xing came!"

"Sun Xing is the first and only disciple of the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor. Apparently, he was once taught by Yang Jian, the Jade Emperor Heaven's Three-eyed Celestial Emperor. He's the most powerful among the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Even Liu Bai Feng and Lu Ji aren't a match for him."

"I heard that Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor's true form is a Howling Heaven Celestial Dog that stayed by the side of the Jade Emperor Heaven's Three-eyed Celestial Emperor... I wonder if this is true?"

"I'm not sure. However, there's no doubt that the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor is a Celestial Beast. Many people have confirmed this."

The Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor was one of the Heavenly Pool Palace's titled Celestial Emperors. His strength was on par with the Cloud Zither Celestial Emperor and the Martial Dragon Celestial Emperor. However, the ranking was not especially accurate. This was because since he had joined the Heavenly Pool Palace, he had only battled and defeated the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor. Apart from that, no one had seen him fight. For this reason, he was only ranked above the Smoke Wave Celestial Emperor.

"With Sun Xing here, three of the top five prodigious disciples of the Heavenly Pool Palace are here!"

"I think at least four out of the top five prodigious disciples would be here. Don't forget that Duan Ling Tian's Second Senior Brother is Lu Ji. It's likely that Lu Ji will come..."

At this moment, five people appeared in the Prodigy Arena. There was a purple-clad young man standing in the middle while a white-clad young woman who was wearing a veil held onto his arm. The veil could hardly conceal the young woman's beauty. Next to the white-clad woman was a young woman who looked gentle and warm. At the far end, there was a stunning young woman with a captivating figure who was dressed in a tight robe. A young man with a cold and determined expression on his face flew next to her.

These five people's arrival caused an even bigger commotion than the ones before.

"It's four of Lord Xu Lang's prodigious disciples and Pavilion Master Lei Ying's newest prodigious disciple."

"The one in the middle is Lord Xu Lang's seventh disciple, Duan Ling Tian, right? He's the one fighting the life-or-death battle today, right?"

"That's right."

“The other young man in the group with a cold expression must be Lu Ji, one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace. His strength is on par with Liu Bai Feng and is only second to Sun Xing!”

“The other two young women are Hu Mei and Wen Wan’er. Both of them are Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples as well.”

Among these five people, Duan Ling Tian garnered the most attention even though Lu Ji was more famous. After all, Duan Ling Tian was one of the main characters of today’s battle.

At this moment, Ouyang Qi Fei and Hong Fei called out, “Little Junior Brother”

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he saw the number of people who had come to watch the battle. He did not expect so many people to turn up. When he returned to his senses, he responded, “Sixth Senior Brother, Fifth Senior Brother.”

Duan Ling Tian did not know Hong Fei and Ouyang Qi Fei had arrived early in the Prodigy Arena. Hu Mei tried looking for the duo before they left but could not find the duo.

Hong Fei said with a grin, “Little Junior Brother, I have a surprise for you after you kill Han Yun Jin.”

“A surprise?” Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned. Then, he asked, somewhat embarrassed, “Did you prepare a gift for me, Sixth Senior Brother?”

“You can see for yourself later,” Hong Fei said mysteriously.

Meanwhile, Hu Mei who was looking around the Prodigy Arena said, “Han Yun Jin is still not here? Is he frightened and decided not to show up?”

“If he doesn’t show up, he probably has to leave the Heavenly Pool Palace. Otherwise, he’d only be a laughingstock here,” Hong Fei said as he laughed. Then, he turned to Wen Wan’er and said, “Fourth Senior Sister, just watch how our Little Junior Brother avenges you!”

“Alright,” Wen Wan’er said softly. However, a hint of hatred could be seen in her eyes when Han Yun Jin was mentioned.

Shortly after, Duan Ling Tian bade farewell to Huan’er and his seniors before he flew into the battle ring.

“Senior.” Duan Ling Tian smiled at the Sword Trial Pavillion elder. He had a good impression of this elder.

The Sword Trial Pavilion elder nodded with a smile. At the same time, he asked Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission. “Are you confident?”

Although the elder had no enmity with Han Yun Jin, he despised Han Yun Jin’s actions. Therefore, he was rooting for Duan Ling Tian to win.

“Elder, you’ll just have to watch and see,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, clearly confident.

The elder was puzzled. He could not figure out the source of Duan Ling Tian’s confidence.

Meanwhile, many Heavenly Pool Palace disciples shook their heads as they looked at Duan Ling Tian and discussed among themselves. All of them thought Duan Ling Tian had a death wish.

“Duan Ling Tian only joined the Heavenly Pool Palace a few years ago, but he has caused so many commotions. Nevertheless, I don’t think there’s anyone in the history of the Heavenly Pool Palace who progressed as fast as he does.”

“I agree.”

“Regardless, it’s going to be tough for someone who’s not even 300 years old to defeat, let alone kill, Han Yun Jin.”

“I wonder how long he’ll be able to last.”

“If I were him, I wouldn’t show up even if it meant my reputation would be tarnished.”

“Considering his age, it’s an amazing feat that he managed to kill Fan Qi. No one would have thought worse of him if he didn’t show up. After all, Han Yun Jin was nowhere as talented as him when Han Yun Jin was his age.”

Chapter 3307: The First Round

All of the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples thought Han Yun Jin would arrive first considering he had the upper hand in the battle that was about to take place. Who knew Duan Ling Tian, the prodigious disciple who was not even 300 years old and had just joined the Heavenly Pool Palace a few years ago, would show up first.

After greeting the Sword Trial Pavilion elder, he closed his eyes and waited for the battle to start. His expressionless face showed that he did not feel any pressure and that today was no different from any other day.

“Duan Ling Tian seems really confident!”

“Maybe he’s unaware of Han Yun Jin’s strength? Not only is Han Yun Jin a Celestial Emperor, but he has also comprehended all the profundities from the law of fire to the mastery stage. Moreover, I heard he has begun learning how to fuse his profundities...”

“Based on Duan Ling Tian’s movements, it seems like he’s just a Five Elements Celestial Lord...”

“For someone who’s not even 300 years old to become a Five Elements Celestial Lord and comprehend all the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage, there’s no doubt that Duan Ling Tian’s talent and aptitude are heaven-defying. In fact, I dare say there’s no prodigious disciple in the Heavenly Pool Palace who has his innate talent. It’s just a pity that he’s foolish and agrees to a life-or-death battle with Han Yun Jin.”

“Perhaps he had gotten arrogant after killing Fan Qi three years ago...”

The Heavenly Pool Palace disciples were busy discussing among themselves when three figures appeared in the distance. These three figures instantly caught their attention.

“Han Yun Jin is here!”

“He’s here rather early. He seems rather confident. As expected of one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace.”

“Even if he’s here early, he’s not as early as Duan Ling Tian...”

“There’s no point mentioning Duan Ling Tian; he’s just seeking death.”

The three newcomers were Han Yun Jin; his Second Junior Brother, Zhao Ji Lie; and his Third Junior Brother, Wu Quan.

Normally, Zhao Ji Lie and Wu Quan would draw attention whenever they went out. However, their presence today was eclipsed by the battle and two main characters for today.

‘He came even earlier than I did?’ Han Yun Jin sneered inwardly when he saw the purple figure standing in the battle ring. The killing intent in the depths of his eyes intensified at once.

“Han Yun Jin.”

At this time, Han Yun Jin heard a familiar voice in his mind. It was none other than Lei Jun, the only son of Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor.

Lei Jun had arrived a while ago and hid among the crowd. Upon seeing Han Yun Jin, he reminded Han Yun Jin through Voice Transmission. “Be careful. You should go all out as soon as the battle starts and kill him with one move if you can. I have a feeling that Duan Ling Tian has some tricks up his sleeve. After all, he dares to enter a life-or-death battle with you.”

“Lei Jun, I don’t need your reminder,” Han Yun Jin said indifferently, “Even a lion wouldn’t hold back when hunting a rabbit. I won’t even give him a shred of hope. I’ll send him to the pit of despair and kill him...”

“Good.” Lei Jun looked at the purple figure in the battle ring with a grim expression on his face. In the past, he had thought he could easily crush this young man who was not even 300 years old. He did not expect the young man would be as strong as him, based on the power the young man had shown. If the young man was allowed to continue to grow, he would not be able to compete with the young man at all.

‘Junior Sister Huan’er, you’re mine. I’m the only one worthy of you,’ Lei Jun thought to himself as he shifted his eyes to a woman standing next to Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples. She was dressed in all white, and her face was hidden by a veil. Nevertheless, the veil could barely conceal her beauty.

Whoosh!

While Lei Jun was looking at Huan’er in a daze, Han Yun Jin appeared in the battle ring in just a blink of an eye. After he took his place across from Duan Ling Tian, he said, “Duan Ling Tian, I didn’t expect you to show up...”

Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes. He stretched his limbs and yawned before he lazily said, “Oh, you’re here. I thought you didn’t dare to show up...”

Han Yun Jin’s expression turned unsightly when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s reply. The killing intent in his eyes intensified as he said, “I should be saying that to you...”

“Stop talking nonsense and make a move already if you want to kill me. Huan’er’s waiting for me to return and cultivate...” Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he looked at Lei Jun who was hidden among the crowd. He could clearly see the killing intent in Lei Jun’s eyes. He thought to himself ruefully, ‘It won’t be easy for me to kill Lei Jun after today’s battle...’

Duan Ling Tian knew once he killed Han Yun Jin, he would not be able to hide his strength any longer. If he challenged Lei Jun to a fight, there was no way Lei Jun would accept it. Lei Jun would only secretly scheme to kill him. Outside of a sanctioned life-or-death battle, it would be difficult for him to kill Lei Jun in the Heavenly Pool Palace. After all, Lei Jun was the only son of Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor. If he killed Lei Jun without a legitimate reason, not only would he incur the wrath of Lei Ying, but he risked offending the Heavenly Pool Palace as well. At that time, even his teacher, Xu Lang, would have a hard time defending him.

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder announced, “As agreed upon three years ago, today’s battle between Duan Ling Tian and Han Yun Jin is a life-or-death battle without the option to surrender. The battle will only end once one of them dies.”

Everyone’s eyes were fixed on the two opponents in the battle ring. The tension between the two kept rising, and it was palpable. Although they were not in the battle ring, they could keenly feel the tension in the air.

“Since you’re in a hurry to die, I’ll fulfill your wish!” Enraged by Duan Ling Tian’s words, flames surged out of his body immediately.

Swoosh!

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, Han Yun Jin shot toward Duan Ling Tian like a ball of flames, leaving flames in his wake. He charged fiercely toward Duan Ling Tian like an enraged beast.

Duan Ling Tian’s expression remained unchanged as he looked at Han Yu Jin fiercely charging at him. With just a thought, he manifested the Pine Willow Divine Tree using the Godly Image Phenomenon. After that, he borrowed the power of the Clear Heavens Divine Wood as well.

The energy of the sixth-form Clear Heavens Divine Wood surged into the Pine Willow Divine Tree. With this, the Pine Willow Divine Tree seemed to solidify into being.

As the Pine Willow Divine Tree kept growing, it cast a shadow over Han Yun Jin who had yet to get close to Duan Ling Tian. By the time he drew close, Duan Ling Tian was almost completely covered by the Pine Willow Divine Tree.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this time, Duan Ling Tian used the branches from the Pine Willow Divine Tree and whipped them at Han Yun Jin. Their movements were swift and powerful as they moved toward the fiery beast that was Han Yun Jin.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions rang in the air when the two opponents collided.

Soon after, Han Yun Jin who was still shrouded in flames was forced to retreat under the fierce attacks. Nevertheless, he did not suffer any injuries.

Just like that, the first round was over with no one gaining the upper hand.

The energy from the collision rolled out in all directions, stirring up violent wind and causing everyone's robes to flutter loudly.

When the dust settled, one could see cracks on the ground where Han Yun Jin stood. It should be noted that the Heavenly Pool Palace had used unique materials and spent a lot of effort to build the battle ring. To leave a mark in the battle ring, one had to be incredibly powerful.

"The Pine Willow Divine Tree?" After retreating, Han Yun Jin's expression changed drastically when he saw the Pine Willow Divine Tree in front of him. "Y-you... You managed to manifest the Godly Image Phenomenon's Pine Willow Divine Tree by using my junior brother's dead body!"

"Now that I think of it, I really have to thank him." Duan Ling Tian's mocking voice rang from within the tree. "If it weren't for him, I might not be able to win today's battle."

As Duan Ling Tian spoke, the branches from the tree continued to move as though they were provoking Han Yun Jin.

...

Meanwhile, the onlookers finally regained their senses at this moment.

"Duan Ling Tian mastered the Godly Image Phenomenon?"

"Isn't he too lucky? Where did he learn it?"

"I had been thinking about this for some time. Although Fan Qi managed to last longer in the battle after reverting to his true form, he was still defeated moments later. He should be much stronger in his true form, and yet Duan Ling Tian easily killed him. In hindsight, Duan Ling Tian must have mastered some special technique that could overpower Fan Qi."

"It seems like he obtained the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from Fan Qi. As it turns out, Fan Qi's death only increased Duan Ling Tian's strength."

The onlookers could not help but be impressed by the sight before their eyes.

Even Sima Yu, Liu Bai Feng, and Sun Xing's eyes brightened when they saw Duan Ling Tian using the Godly Image Phenomenon.

"Duan Ling Tian is really amazing," Sima You muttered to himself.

Liu Bai Feng did not say anything. However, her eyes indicated she was not as calm she seemed.

"Interesting." Sun Xing who had seemed disinterested and lazy looked as though he was in a much better mood as well.

...

Back in the battle ring.

“Duan Ling Tian, do you really think you’ll be able to beat just because you can manifest the Pine Willow Divine Tree using the Godly Image Phenomenon?” Han Yun Jin sneered and said contemptuously, “I’ll teach you a lesson today. You’ll see that even if you’ve mastered the Godly Image Phenomenon and comprehended all the profundities from the law of space to the mastery stage, they still won’t be able to make up the difference between a Celestial Lord and a Celestial Emperor!”

Chapter 3308: The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor

“We’ll see!” Duan Ling Tian remained unruffled by Han Yun Jin’s threats.

On the contrary, Han Yun Jin was further enraged by Duan Ling Tian’s indifference. He began moving again, shrouded by flames. He charged toward Duan Ling Tian who was now protected by the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The flames on Han Yun Jin’s body surged out and split into ten balls of flames before falling toward Duan Ling Tian and the Pine Willow Divine Tree like a shower of meteorites.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian began to wave the branches from the Pine Willow Divine Tree again. However, whenever the flames touched the branches, they erupted in flames immediately. The flames seemed to be highly flammable and spread swiftly. In just a moment, the flames had already spread to the trunk of the Pine Willow Divine Tree.

...

Many Heavenly Pool Palace disciples’ eyes lit up immediately upon seeing this.

“Impressive.”

“I’ve long heard the rumor that Senior Brother Han Yun Jin managed to fuse his law of fire’s Explosion Profundity and Corrosive Profundity... It seems like the rumor is true! The move he used earlier is a perfect fusion of the two profundities...”

“That’s right. Although he hasn’t completely mastered fusing profundities, the effect is already very impressive.”

“Wow! He is so powerful!”

Although the Heavenly Pool Palace disciples were impressed by Han Yun Jin’s move, Sima Yu, the plainly dressed young man carrying a zither on his back, shook his head and sigh. ‘I thought my strength was, at least, on par with Han Yun Jin. I didn’t expect him to have fused law of fire’s Explosion Profundity and Corrosive Profundity. Even if I’m a Celestial Emperor now, I still won’t be able to defeat him...’

Despite his thoughts, Sima Yu did not seem defeated. Instead, his eyes glinted with determination. He grew even more motivated by this discovery.

‘Han Yun Jin managed to fuse two profundities?’ Liu Bai Feng was slightly taken aback as well. She, along with Lu Ji and another prodigious disciple, managed to rank in the top three among the top five

prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace because she had managed to fuse two profundities. Although it could be seen that the fusion was not perfect, it was not hard to see that Han Yun Jin would be able to perfect the fusion between the Explosion Profundity and the Corrosive Profundity soon.

“Han Yun Jin... improved so much?” Even Lu Ji, Duan Ling Tian’s Second Senior Brother, was slightly taken back. In fact, he seemed slightly impressed as well.

Upon hearing Lu Ji’s words, Hong Fei’s confidence in Duan Ling Tian did not waver. He said, “So what? He hasn’t even perfected the fusion. I’m sure Little Junior Brother isn’t afraid of him!”

...

In the battle ring.

The Sword Trial Pavilion elder was slightly anxious as he saw the Pine Willow Divine Tree being burned by the flames.

On the contrary, a confident and victorious smile appeared on Han Yun Jin’s face as he watched the burning Pine Willow Divine Tree.

Swoosh!

A soft noise rang in the air at this moment. Following that, an energy as gentle as water surged out of the trunk of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon, returning the charred branches to their previous states. As the energy flowed into the branches, not only did it heal them, but it began to put out the fire as well.

...

“What...?”

The onlookers watched with their mouths agape, dumbfounded.

“Fire clearly trumps wood. We could see that earlier? What’s with this sudden turn?”

“Why is the Godly Image Phenomenon’s Pine Willow Divine Tree so strong?”

“It seems like the water-like energy is putting out the fire...”

Although they could see the fire was being extinguished, they could really see the details.

...

Duan Ling Tian had discovered earlier that it would be difficult for him to defeat Han Yun Jin just by relying on the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon and the strength from the Clear Heavens Divine Wood. In fact, there was a chance that he might be defeated. Hence, he decisively borrowed the strength from the World Cleansing Divine Water. As the law of the universe dictated, just like fire trumped wood, water trumped fire.

Although the World Cleansing Divine Water could not unleash as much power as the Clear Heavens Divine Wood in order to hide its presence, it was still sufficient for Duan Ling Tian to turn the tide of the battle.

“How’s this possible?!” Han Yun Jin was dumbfounded. This turn was completely out of his expectations.

“Kill him now.” The Chaos Divine Earth’s childlike voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s Little World at this moment. Then, it quickly sent its energy into the manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon.

With that, as though it had been given a boost, the Pine Willow Divine Tree that was the size of a hill earlier grew to the size of a mountain in just an instant.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The branches from the Pine Willow Divine Tree were now thicker. They formed a cage around Han Yun Jin, trapping him inside.

“Restraining Profundity.”

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian cast the law of space’s Restraining Profundity to aid the branches in restraining Han Yun Jin. With the Chaos Divine Earth’s strength, he knew the battle was coming to an end soon. There was no need for him to hold back now.

“Do you really think it’s so easy to kill me?” When Han Yun Jin returned to his senses, his gaze turned icy as the flames on his body surged and burned hotter than before. In just a moment, the restraining energy from the law of space’s Restraining Profundity was shattered by the growing flames. The speed of the growing flames seemed to have slowed down after breaking the restraint, but it did not stop growing until it was stopped by the branches that had formed a cage.

“Do you think these can hold me?” The man shrouded in flames reached out and grabbed the branches to pull them apart. However, he soon discovered that even if he managed to destroy the branches, they would quickly regenerate. Was this not the law of wood’s regenerative ability?

“How’s this possible?! How can your manifestation of the Pine Willow Divine Tree from the Godly Image Phenomenon contain the regenerative skill from the law of wood?” Han Yun Jin could not conceal the shock and disbelief in his voice. He discovered that it was useless to pull the branches apart or burn them; they only kept regenerating. At the same time, the cage began to shrink. As a result, the surging flames grew smaller and smaller.

Needless to say, the onlookers were equally shocked.

“What...”

...

The Pine Willow Divine Tree’s branches grew stronger and stronger as they restrained Han Yun Jin. In fact, they seemed indestructible. No matter how hard Han Yun Jin struggled, he could not break free at all.

It did not take long before the flames died off, and Han Yun Jin appeared in front of everyone’s eyes. His face was as pale as a sheet of paper, and his energy was weak. It was clear that his life was hanging on a thread.

...

The onlookers wore varying expressions of shock and disbelief on their faces. It seemed like Duan Ling Tian was going to win. All Duan Ling Tian needed to do now was deal the killing blow. It was a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender after all; the battle would not end until one of them died.

...

“I didn’t expect you to be so strong...” Han Yun Jin knew he could no longer turn the tide of the battle. An expression of despair appeared on his face as he said, “I, Han Yun Jin, am going to die in the hands of a man who’s not even 300 years old! What a joke! This must be the first time in the Heavenly Pool Palace for a Celestial Lord to kill a Celestial Emperor...”

Duan Ling Tian only scoffed. The Pine Willow Divine Tree moved at this moment, ready to deal the killing blow...

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian suddenly felt an oppressive energy locking onto him. He could somehow feel that if he landed the killing blow, he would be instantly killed.

Suddenly, an ancient and hoarse voice rang in the air.

“Young man, you should know when to stop.”

Soon enough, an old man dressed in a Daoist robe appeared. He had a full head of white hair and long white eyebrows. However, his face was rather young. All these combined made him look like an immortal sage.

“Master!” Han Yun Jin smiled pitifully when he saw the newcomer. “I’ve embarrassed you.”

‘Master?’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes widened imperceptibly. Based on the way Han Yun Jin addressed the newcomer, it was clear the old man was the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, the strongest titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace. This was his first time seeing the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor.

...

Needless to say, the arrival of the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor caused an uproar among the onlookers.

“The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor is here?”

“Since he’s here, it seems like Han Yun Jin won’t die today.”

“Isn’t that against the rules? It is a life-or-death battle without the option to surrender after all. Is it really going to intervene? It’s an insult to those who died in this kind of battle!”

“What rules? The titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace made these rules...”

“That’s right. Not only is he a titled Celestial Emperor, but he’s one of the three strongest titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace.”

Although most people did not think it was right for the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor to intervene, they did not dare to voice out their dissatisfaction.

...

Duan Ling Tian's expression turned frosty as he stared at the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor from a distance. He said in a low voice, "Senior, I'm fighting a life-or-death battle with no option to surrender with Han Yun Jin. The Sword Trial Pavilion can stand witness to the legitimacy of the battle. Isn't it against the rule for you to intervene?"

Chapter 3309: The Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Lu Ji, his Second Senior Brother, stepped forward and solemnly said, "Senior Xuan Tian, everyone in the Heavenly Pool Palace has long known about this battle. If you don't want Han Yun Jin to die, you should've stopped him from challenging my Little Junior Brother in the first place. You could've even stopped him from showing up in the Prodigy Arena today. However, you waited until he's about to intervene; don't you think it's inappropriate?" His expression turned grave at the end of his words.

Although the others did not speak up, all of them looked at the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor with dissatisfied expressions on their faces.

The old man glanced at Duan Ling Tian briefly before he raised his hand and rescued Han Yun Jin.

At this moment, the Sword Trial Pavilion elder cupped his fists together and said, "My lord, the Sword Trial Pavilion is the judge of today's battle. If Duan Ling Tian were the one's defeated today, I don't think you would've intervened, right?" Although a hint of fear could be seen in his eyes, he mustered all his courage to speak up.

"Did I allow you to speak?" The old man looked at the elder indifferently as a powerful energy shot out and pushed the elder back, causing the elder to stumble.

The elder spat out a mouthful of blood immediately, and his energy visibly weakened.

The Heavenly Pool Palace disciples gasped. They whispered among themselves fervently. Although they disagreed with the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor's actions, there was nothing they could say or do.

"It seems like the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor is determined to save his disciple."

"Han Yun Jin has been his disciple for a very long time, right? Moreover, he's the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor's most outstanding disciple. It's not surprising that the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor couldn't stand and watch him die."

"The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor is too arrogant."

"Well, the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor has the strength to be arrogant."

At this moment when everyone thought Han Yun Jin would be able to keep his life...

"Xuan Tian, since it's a life-or-death battle, you shouldn't intervene."

A voice echoed from the distance. It was hard to discern if it was a man or woman's voice. However, there's no doubt the person who spoke was drawing closer.

Upon hearing the voice, the old man's expression changed slightly. Then, he cupped his fists together and bowed in the air. "Greetings, Palace Master."

As soon as he finished speaking, three figures appeared in the distance. The two figures at the back belonged to Xu Lang, the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor, and Lei Ying, the Merciless Celestial Emperor. The person in the lead was a dignified middle-aged man with a jade-like complexion dressed in a long white robe. This man was none other than You Feng Yu, the First Trial Celestial Emperor. He was also the strongest titled Celestial Emperor in the Heavenly Pool Palace. It was said that even if the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor and the Cold Gloom Celestial Emperor joined forces, they were still not a match for him. Although this was not confirmed, based on the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor's reaction now, it was possible there was a grain of truth in the rumor.

"Teacher?" Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback when he first saw Xu Lang. After a moment, he figured Xu Lang must have predicted that the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor would intervene. Xu Lang must have looked for the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace with Lei Ying before inviting the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace here.

"Greetings, Palace Master!"

After the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor bowed and greeted You Feng Yu, everyone followed suit and greeted him. Many of them were excited as though they had just seen their idol. After all, it was their first time seeing the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace.

"I didn't expect to be able to see our Palace Master today!"

"After joining the Heavenly Pool Palace for more than 1,000 years, this is the first time I'm seeing the Palace Master."

"What's so great about 1,000 years? I've been in the Heavenly Pool Palace for more than 4,000 years, and this is also my first time seeing the Palace Master."

"So, should we be grateful to Duan Ling Tian and Han Yun Jin for this opportunity?"

"No, you should be thankful to the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor. If he didn't intervene, we wouldn't be able to see the Palace Master today!"

...

Meanwhile, You Feng Yu looked at Xuan Tian, the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, and calmly asked, "Xuan Tian, do you have any objections to the words I said?" Despite the calmness of his voice, it was filled with unmistakable authority. It made one feel as though they could not defy him.

The old man inhaled deeply before he solemnly replied, "Since the Palace Master has spoken, I've no other objection." After that, he cupped his fists together at You Feng Yu before he said again, "Palace Master, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

After You Feng Yu nodded slightly, Xuan Tian seemed to turn into a streak of light before he vanished in front of everyone's eyes.

Following that, You Feng Yu shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian after he glanced at the despairing Han Yun Jin. "You're Duan Ling Tian?" Without waiting for Duan Ling Tian's reply, he glanced at Xu Lang and said, "Xu Lang, you're lucky to have such a talented student."

"Palace Master." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly in response to You Feng Yu.

"Since this is a life-or-death battle, leave the Prodigy Arena only after the life or death has been decided." You Feng Yu left in a blink of an eye after leaving these words behind.

Xu Lang and Lei Ying did not stay as well and soon left.

After You Feng Yu left, the awestruck disciples could not help but gush about him.

"The Palace Master is so cool! He made the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor leave in just a sentence."

"That's a matter of course. The Palace Master is the master of a heaven-grade force in the Boundless Heaven's Boundless territory. Not only did he fuse a few two-profundity fusions, but he has also fused three profundities. He's not inferior to the top titled Celestial Emperors in the Boundless Heaven."

"The Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor is strong, but he's no match for the Palace Master."

The disciples were still excitedly discussing You Feng Yu when a miserable cry caught their attention.

Duan Ling Tian was staring coldly at Han Yun Jin who was restrained by the branches of the pine Willow Divine Tree at this moment. With just a thought, the branches tightened themselves around Han Yun Jin, killing him.

"Eldest Senior Brother!" Zhao Ji Lie and Wu Quan cried in unison with grim expressions on their faces. They had been relieved when their master showed up, certain that their Eldest Senior Brother would live. Who knew the Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor and the Merciless Celestial Emperor would invite the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace over? With the Palace Master's presence, how could their master do anything? However, despite being mentally prepared, they were still deeply affected by Han Yun Jin's death.

Although Han Yun Jin was a bully to outsiders and was despicable in some of his actions, he had always been good to his people. Therefore, there were people who genuinely mourned his death.

"It's finally over."

The Heavenly Pool Palace disciples felt chills running up their spines as they watched Duan Ling Tian kill Han Yun Jin. When they regained their senses, they looked at Duan Ling Tian with horrified expressions on their faces.

"Is Duan Ling Tian really just a Five Elements Celestial Lord?"

"How can a Five Elements Celestial Lord kill a Celestial Emperor who had comprehended all the profundities to the mastery stage and fused the Explosion Profundity and the Corrosive Profundity? I'd never believe it if I didn't witness it with my eyes!"

“That’s right. Who would have thought that with such a huge gap between their cultivation bases, he’s still able to kill Han Yun Jin?”

“Hey, doesn’t this mean that Duan Ling Tian has now replaced Han Yun Jin as one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace! Wow, with this, two of Xu Lang’s prodigious disciples are two of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace.”

“The Verdant Prairie Celestial Emperor is really a winner in life! Not only is his daughter monstrously talented, but his two prodigious disciples are monstrously talented as well.”

Upon hearing the conversations in his surroundings, Duan Ling Tian was even more eager to meet his Eldest Senior Sister. ‘I wonder what Eldest Senior Sister is like?’

All Duan Ling Tian knew about his Eldest Senior Sister so far was that she was incredibly protective of her juniors, but she would tease them and complain about them being useless and talented. Most importantly, it was said that her strength was comparable to a titled Celestial Emperor.

Meanwhile, Lei Jun who was standing behind a group of disciples scoffed as he watched as Duan Ling Tian returned to Huan’er and his seniors’ sides. His gaze turned colder when he saw the woman he yearned for holding on to Duan Ling Tian’s arms. ‘I didn’t expect him to be so strong. It seems like it’s going to be difficult to get rid of him. I should lay low first. If Dugu Wu doesn’t complete the mission, I’ll have to think of another way to kill him.’

Chapter 3310: His Home Planet, Earth

“Brother Ling Tian.”

When Duan Ling Tian left the Prodigy Arena, he discovered something was amiss with Huan’er. He knew what was on her mind so he sent her a Voice Transmission to reassure her. “Huan’er, don’t worry. I’ll find a way to investigate the location of the Heavenly Pool Palace’s Thousands Chains Prison.”

When You Feng Yu, the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace, appeared, even he was instantly reminded of Huan’er’s parents who were imprisoned, let alone Huan’er. The reason Huan’er’s father was handed over to the Heavenly Pool Palace by the Solitary Destructive Heaven’s heaven-grade Heavenly Sword Mountain for punishment was due to the fact that Huan’er’s father annulled his marriage to You Feng Yu’s daughter.

“Alright.” Huan’er felt much more at ease after listening to Duan Ling Tian’s words.

At this moment, Hong Fei laughed heartily as he brought a Spatial Ring out and handed it to Duan Ling Tian. “Little Junior Brother, I had no doubt that Han Yun Jin was not a match for you!”

“What’s this?” Duan Ling Tian asked, puzzled. He did not know why Hong Fei suddenly gave him a Spatial Ring.

“Little Junior Brother, there are 2,500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals in there,” Hong Fei said happily.

“2,500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals?” Duan Ling Tian was shocked by the number of Celestial Crystals. Although he had never used Celestial Crystals after joining the Heavenly Pool Palace since the cultivation resources were free, he knew that with 2,500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals, he could trade for many Celestial Fruits that were helpful to Celestial Lords.

“Sixth Senior Brother, why are you giving me so many Celestial Crystals?” Duan Ling Tian did not accept the Spatial Ring.

Ouyang Qi Fei, Duan Ling Tian’s Fifth Junior Brother, said at this moment, “Little Junior Brother, just accept it. This fatty collected 5,00,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals worth of bets for your fight with Han Yun Jin. He only received bets from those who bet on Han Yun Jin. For this reason, he won a lot of Celestial Crystals. You deserve half of the Celestial Crystals he won.”

Hu Mei looked at Hong Fei from the corners of her eyes before she said with a giggle, “Sixth Junior Brother, sharing is caring... Since Little Junior Brother expended so much effort to kill Han Yun Jin, I won’t ask for part of his share. I won’t ask a lot from you; 500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals will do...”

“Third Senior Sister, that’s unfair!” Hong Fei said indignantly.

“Unfair? Ok, why don’t we settle this with a duel then? I remember before Eldest Senior Sister left, she asked us to spar with you frequently to help you improve,” Hu Mei said with a charming smile.

Hong Fei was not in the mood to admire Hu Mei’s smile at this moment. He said bitterly, “Third Senior Sister, isn’t that blackmail?”

Nevertheless, in the end, Hong Fei gave 500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals to Hu Mei. Not only that, but he gave his other seniors 500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals each as well. After all, since they were present, it would be inappropriate if he did not give them a share. As for Ouyang Qi Fei, he had given Ouyang Qi Fei the number of Celestial Crystals they had agreed upon earlier.

When Hong Fong was done distributing the Celestial Crystals, he sighed bitterly. “After everything, I’m only left with 500,000 Royal Grade Celestial Crystals.”

Meanwhile, upon seeing the bitterness on Hong Fei’s face, Duan Ling Tian shook his head and said with a smile, “Sixth Senior Brother, the Celestial Crystals are rightfully yours. Keep it.”

“Little Junior Brother, don’t be deceived by him,” Ouyang Qi Fei smiled and said, “These Celestial Crystals are nothing to him. He’s not lacking in Celestial Crystals at all. He just likes to grumble.”

Hong Fei glared at Ouyang Qi Fei before he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said with a smile, “Little Junior Brother is the only one who truly cares for me. Little Junior Brother, keep it. Like Fifth Senior Brother said, I’m really not lacking Celestial Crystals.” Then, he handed the Spatial Ring to Duan Ling Tian again.

“Sixth Senior Brother, can you help me to procure Celestial Fruits and Celestial Pills that can help Celestial Lords? I’ll leave my Celestial Crystals with you. Due to my cultivation base, my comprehension of the law of space has stagnated. Therefore, I hope to break through and become a Celestial Emperor as soon as I can...”

Hong Fei nodded and put the Spatial Ring away. “Alright... I’ll trade these Celestial Crystals for the Celestial Fruits and Pills you need.” Hong Fei nodded and put away the Spatial Ring.

At this moment, a voice rang out in the air.

“Lu Ji!”

Soon after, two figures approached Duan Ling Tian and the others. It was a man and a woman. The woman who had called out to Lu Ji wore a hat and a long black robe that hid her curvaceous body. She flew over at top speed. The man was a sloppy young man with his hair draped over his shoulders. He was dressed in a grey robe, with a gourd and a long rod hanging from his waist.

Hong Fei's eyes rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Little Junior Brother, the young woman is Liu Bai Feng, and the young man is Sun Xing."

"Liu Bai Feng? Sun Xing?" Duan Ling Tian had heard of these two names before during his time in the Heavenly Pool Palace. Liu Bai Feng, similar to Lu Ji, was one of the top five prodigious disciples in the Heavenly Pool Palace, and her strength was on par with Lu Ji. He also knew Sun Xing was the strongest among the top five prodigious disciples.

"Liu Bai Feng is the You Han Celestial Emperor's disciple and Sun Xing is the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor's only disciple," Hong Fei continued to say.

The You Han Celestial Emperor was one of the strongest titled Celestial Emperors in the Heavenly Pool Palace. His strength was on par with the Profound Heaven Celestial Emperor, only second to the Palace Master of the Heavenly Pool Palace.

'It's said that the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor used to be the Howling Heaven Celestial Dog of the Three-eyed Celestial Emperor, Yang Jian... Based on the ancient legend on earth, he should be the Erlang god's Howling Heaven Celestial Dog,' Duan Ling Tian mused inwardly. Despite the tenuous connection, he felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity with Sun Xing, the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor's only disciple.

At this moment, Lu Ji introduced Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er to Liu Bai Feng and Sun Xing since this was their first meeting.

"Junior Brother Duan, Junior Sister Huan'er."

No one knew if it was for Lu Ji's sake or because of Duan Ling Tian's earlier performance, Liu Bai Feng and Sun Xing greeted Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er warmly.

"Senior Sister Bai Feng, Senior Brother Sun." Duan Ling Tian promptly greeted the duo.

Liu Bai Feng said, "Junior brother, you've been famous since three years ago, especially after you accepted Han Yun Jin's challenge. Initially, I thought your actions were tantamount to seeking death, but I have to say your performance today really blew me away. It's not just me, but the others didn't expect you to kill Han Yun Jin as well. They thought..." She suddenly trailed off.

Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, "They thought I'd died instead, right?"

"Duan Ling Tian, it's too bad you've already joined Lord Xu Lang. Otherwise, I'd invite you to join my master," Sun Xing said jokingly.

"In the past, I assumed Sima Yu, the disciple of the Cloud Zither Celestial Emperor, would replace Han Yun Jin. However, your victory came as... came as a bolt from the blue. Did I say it correctly, Sun Xing?" At the end of her sentence, Liu Bai Feng looked at Sun Xing for confirmation.

“You’re right.” Sun Xing nodded. A warm smile appeared on his face as he said, “‘A bolt from the blue’ is a saying from my home planet.”

‘A bolt from the blue? A saying from his home planet?’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes widened imperceptibly after Sun Xing finished speaking. He looked at Sun Xing and asked, “Senior Brother Sun, are you from Planet Yan Huang in the Yan Huang Realm?”

Sun Xing was astonished. “You know about Planet Yan Huang? Don’t tell me you’re from Planet Yan Huang as well?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Is that so?” Sun Xing’s eyes brightened immediately. “Junior Brother Duan, which era are you from? I returned to Planet Yan Huang 200 years ago, but everything had changed.”

“I was born in 2000 AD,” Duan Ling Tian said. Then, he asked, “Senior Brother Sun, how old are you now.”

“Slightly above 800 years old,” Sun Xing replied.

“Slightly above 800 years old? That’s about 500 years older than me.” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up. “Senior Brother Sun, does this mean you were born in 1500 AD? Were you from the Ming Dynasty?” Although Duan Ling Tian was not particularly knowledgeable about history during his time on earth, he knew 1500 AD was during the Ming Dynasty.

“Yes,” Sun Xing nodded and said, “Not only are you an ascender like me, but you also came from the same place as me and my master.”

Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, “Senior Brother Sun, the Howling Heaven Celestial Emperor... Was he really the Three-eye Celestial Emperor’s Howling Heaven Celestial Dog?”

“Yes.” Sun Xing nodded. “Master was originally from the Jade Emperor Heaven, and he used to stay with Senior Uncle Yang Jian... However, due to some conflict, they had a fallout. For that reason, my master came to the Boundless Heaven’s Heavenly Pool Palace. Many years ago, after I obtained his legacy in the mundane realm, he personally brought me to the Heavenly Pool Palace.”