

SOVEREIGN 3641

### **Chapter 3641: Tu Feng**

In the Zhong clan's estate.

Although night had fallen, the main hall remained brightly lit.

The high-ranking members of the clan, led by Zhong San and Zhong Si; the respective third and fourth masters of the Zhong clan, gathered in the hall.

The brothers of the Zhong clan had always been a topic of discussion for the people of Skywind City.

The Clan Leader of the Zhong clan was also the eldest among the brothers; he was known as Zhong Da. His second brother, Zhong Ke Qi's father, was known as Zhong Er. The following were Zhong San and Zhong Si. They had a sister who was known as Zhong Wu, but she had changed her name when she had gotten older. She was now married to an inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect.

Although the position of an inner elder was not high in the Hidden Fog Sect, Zhong Wu's husband was the son of a Supreme Elder of the sect, a Lord of Gods. For this reason, Zhong Wu was considered to be the Zhong clan's hidden ace.

Although there were many people from the Zhong clan who held high positions in the Hidden Fog Sect, due to Zhong Wu's husband's background, their status was lower.

At this moment, Zhong San and Zhong Si sat side by side.

Zhong San looked at the members present with a dark expression on his face as he asked in a deep voice, "All of you should have heard of the news, right?"

Everyone nodded.

"Although Zhong Da and Zhong Er aren't in the estate, they've already heard the news as well. We've been ordered to win that young man, Duan Ling Tian, over to our side. Failing that, we'll destroy him," Zhong San said.

Upon hearing Zhong San's words, the others were slightly surprised. They had assumed they would be ordered to deal with the new student immediately. They did not expect the new student would be given a chance to join them.

At this moment, Zhong Si, who was sitting at the side, shook his head and said, "I'm afraid we won't be able to win him over. Based on what that kid, Zhong Ke Qi, told me, and what I heard from the academy, Duan Ling Tian is rather smart. Moreover, the other king-rank forces will definitely try to win him over as well. Don't forget that kid, Zhong Ke Qi, threatened him as well. All things considered, it'd be difficult for us to win him over to our side."

Zhong Si, the fourth master of the Zhong clan, had bid against Duan Ling Tian in the Zhou clan's auction half a month ago for three divine pills. In the end, Duan Ling Tian won the three divine pills. At that time, he had been determined to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian. However, when he witnessed Yu Qiu Xuan's strength that alluded to Duan Qiao Yu's identity, he hurriedly dismissed all thoughts of revenge.

Naturally, he was unaware that the young man who had bid against him half a month ago was the new student who had evicted his nephew from the prominent-grade courtyard in the Hidden Fog Academy.

“No matter what, we have to try. Like I said earlier, if he refuses, we’ll destroy him!” Zhong San said in a deep voice, “According to the rumors, Duan Ling Tian has a high innate talent and comprehension skills. Murong Sui Feng will definitely take a liking to him. We can only hope Murong Sui Feng doesn’t accept him as a disciple. Otherwise, we won’t be able to lay a hand on him at all.”

“That’s right! Murong Sui Feng is known to be overprotective!”

“Back then, after his disciple was killed by a King of Gods from a king-rank bandit group, he spent 100 years hunting them down before killing all of them. Not even one person survived the massacre. It’s better for us not to provoke such a person,” Zhong San said.

The expressions of the members turned grim when they heard Zhong San’s words.

“I think we’re worrying over nothing,” Zhong Si said as he shook his head, “After the death of his disciple, Murong Sui Feng had declared he was not going to accept a disciple anymore. The news came from the Hidden Fog Sect itself so I think the information is credible.”

“I’ve heard about that as well...”

An elder nodded. “It’s said that he volunteered to come to Skywind City to serve as the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy because of that matter. Apparently, he needed a change in environment since the sect held many memories of his disciple.”

“Based on Murong Sui Feng’s character, I doubt he’d go back on his words and accept a new disciple now.”

Everyone nodded.

There were not many people in Skywind City, or even the Hidden Fog Academy, whom the Zhong clan was afraid of. However, Murong Sui Feng was one of the few they were fearful of. However, as long as Murong Sui Feng did not accept Duan Ling Tian as a disciple, there was not much Murong Sui Feng could do even if they killed Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, without evidence, it would be even more difficult for Murong Sui Feng to act. They could easily find a scapegoat to bear the consequences of their crime.

...

At the same time, the other king-rank forces in Skywind City, including the Zhou clan, were also holding meetings to discuss the new student of the Hidden Fog Academy.

“We should try to win Duan Ling Tian over to our side. With a genius like him, he’ll definitely achieve great things once he joins the Hidden Fog Sect!”

“As long as he’s willing, we’ll agree to any of his conditions.”

The king-rank forces were determined to win Duan Ling Tian over to their sides. After all, considering his innate talent, comprehension skills, and age, he was a top-notch prodigy even in a sect like the Hidden Fog Sect. Duan Ling Tian was not even 2,800 years old, but he had already comprehended a triple Fused Profundity, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, and was also an intermediate god.

The only person who was comparable to Duan Ling Tian was the candidate who had been selected to be the future Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect.

...

While Skywind City was still in an uproar, calm gradually returned to the Hidden Fog Academy.

At this moment, in the depths of the Hidden Fog Academy, a figure could be seen sitting at the top of a pavilion. The figure was drinking wine straight from the bottle and showed no signs of stopping.

The figure belonged to a handsome middle-aged man dressed in an elegant white robe. His long hair was loose, fluttering in the night air. The handsome middle-aged man was none other than Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy.

“Quan’er, an amazing prodigy joined the academy today. The first day he joined the academy wasn’t even over yet, but he had already proven himself to be the strongest student of the academy. He’s really outstanding, even more so than you. If you were still around, I’d definitely accept him as my disciple so he’d be your junior brother. Alas... No matter how Elder Yun Hui persuades me, I won’t accept him as a disciple. I’ll let those old men in the sect fight over him in the future. In fact, he probably won’t even enter the sect yet before those old men send their people here to win him over first....”

The Hidden Fog Academy was founded by the Hidden Fog Sect. Murong Sui Feng, as the dean, was naturally responsible for all of the academy’s affairs.

There were rules in the academy. No matter how outstanding a student was, they had to be at least 3,000 years old before they could join the Hidden Fog Sect. Members of the sect were also prohibited from recruiting the students in advance for fear of distracting them from their cultivation. Nevertheless, there were many who would find ways around the rules. For example, some of them would send their people over to recruit the students. This had happened many times in the history of the Hidden Fog Academy.

...

After obtaining the right to live in a prominent-grade courtyard, Duan Ling Tian returned to cultivate. He could not hear what was going on outside nor was he interested in hearing what was going on outside. No one bothered him for a long time until...

Knock! Knock!

Duan Ling Tian who was abruptly awakened from his cultivation frowned. He muttered, “I don’t think it’s time for the Ten Stars students’ trials, right?”

The Hidden Fog Academy had trials for students of all ranks. They were held quite frequently to improve the students’ combat abilities. Usually, these trials would be held outside of the academy in a mountainous area that was overrun by beasts and monsters.

As far as he knew, the last trial for Ten Stars students was held rather recently so it was impossible for there to be another one now.

Creak!

When Duan Ling Tian opened the door, he saw two people hovering above the courtyard's entrance.

The first person was a tall man dressed in a blue and brown robe who looked to be in his thirties. His complexion was jade-like, and he had a pair of bushy eyebrows. He stared at Duan Ling Tian intently as Duan Ling Tian walked out.

The second person was a young man dressed in a green robe. Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian, he asked with a hint of contempt, "You're Duan Ling Tian?"

Duan Ling Tian glanced at the green-clad young man and asked, "How can I help you?"

The green-clad young man looked at Duan Ling Tian expressionlessly and said, "I'm Tu Feng, an inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect. My master is the second inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect. He wants to accept you as a disciple. When you enter the sect, you can use this Soul Pearl to contact me, and I'll bring you to meet him."

After Tu Feng finished speaking, he tossed the Soul Pearl to Duan Ling Tian.

However, Duan Ling Tian waved his hand, sending the Soul Pearl back to Tu Feng before he said, "No, thank you. Even if I join the Hidden Fog Sect in the future, I have no plans to acknowledge a master. Please thank the second inner elder for his offer.."

#### **Chapter 3642: Dragon Mark Divine Herb**

"Hm?" Tu Feng's expression darkened when Duan Ling Tian returned the Soul Pearl to him. His eyes glinted coldly as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, are you going to trample on my and my master's dignity by refusing us?"

"You can say whatever you want," Duan Ling Tian shrugged as he said, "I'll decide the path I'll take in life. There's no need for others to interfere."

Tu Feng asked frostily, "Do you really think I won't attack you?"

With that, an aura of destruction swept out of Tu Feng's body. Clearly, he had comprehended the law of destruction. Moreover, based on the Divine Energy rising from his body, he was a King of Gods.

Tu Feng, the chief disciple of the second inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect, was a rudimentary King of Gods. He had yet to reach the age of 10,000. Although he was not the most outstanding among the younger generation, he was still considered rather outstanding.

"Oh? So you dare to attack me in the Hidden Fog Academy?" Duan Ling Tian smiled mockingly. There was no fear to be seen in his eyes at all as he looked at Tu Feng. He had already familiarized himself with the rules of the academy. Outsiders were prohibited from trespassing into the academy. Most importantly, those who harmed students on the academy grounds would be punished with death.

Although members of the Hidden Fog Sect might be able to gain entry into the Hidden Fog Academy, it did not mean they could simply attack the students. Attacking or killing disciples with no good reason was punishable by death.

Tu Feng, who had lost his composure, was about to attack Duan Ling Tian when another young man suddenly called out, "Eldest Senior Brother!"

The grey-clad young man stepped out from behind Tu Feng before he said through Voice Transmission, "Eldest Senior Brother, there are rules in the academy. Even disciples of the Hidden Fog Sect aren't exempted from punishment if caught breaking the rules. We'll be killed if we attack or kill a student. Many disciples were sentenced to death for breaking this rule. One of them was even a disciple of a Supreme Elder. The Supreme Elder didn't even dare to protest when the Vice Sect Leader executed his disciple. In fact, he even apologized profusely to the Vice Sect Leader!"

The vice sect leader that the grey-clad young man mentioned was none other than Murong Sui Feng, who was also the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy.

Upon hearing these words, Tu Feng returned to his senses. He restrained his energy as he looked at Duan Ling Tian icily. "Duan Ling Tian, you'll join the Hidden Fog Sect sooner or later. At that time, I'll settle the account with you. I hope you'll be able to live until then."

Tu Feng sneered when he finished speaking. He had already received the news about Duan Ling Tian offending the Zhong clan, a king-rank force in Skywind City. With his understanding of the Zhong clan, he knew they would not let the matter slide so easily. He thought there was a rather high chance that Duan Ling Tian would die before he even had a chance to join the Hidden Fog Sect.

Duan Ling Tian watched expressionlessly as Tu Feng before he returned to his cultivation.

...

During this time, many people from the Hidden Fog Sect came to the Hidden Fog Academy to look for Duan Ling Tian. However, he did not even open the door. He stayed behind closed-door, cultivating.

He only left the building and the courtyard on the day of the trial for Ten Stars students.

Before leaving for the trial, the Ten Stars Pavilion would distribute divine pills that could restore energy and heal injuries to the students. Naturally, the pills distributed to the Ten Stars students were not the same and were distributed according to their ranks.

Ten Stars students were divided into ranks according to the courtyards they lived in. Needless to say, the better the grade of one's courtyard, the better the pills one would receive.

For example, the pills Duan Ling Tian would receive were the highest grade divine pills among all the Ten Stars students.

When Duan Ling Tian entered the Ten Stars Pavilion, he did not attract much attention. Not many recognized him. However, things changed as soon as he strode into the Ten Stars Hall., causing quite a stir.

"It's Duan Ling Tian! He's here!"

“After so many months, Duan Ling Tian finally made an appearance!”

At this time, Liu Jin stepped forward with an uneasy expression on his face before he forced a smile and said, “You’re finally here...”

Duan Ling Tian nodded and smiled. “Did you come to collect the divine pills as well?”

“Yes.” Liu Jin felt relieved when he saw that Duan Ling Tian’s attitude toward him did not change. The smile on his face no longer looked forced.

“Duan Ling Tian!”

At this time, another one of Duan Ling Tian’s acquaintances walked over. It was Ding Yan whom he had defeated previously.

Duan Ling Tian smiled and nodded in response as well. Since Ding Yan had helped him out previously, his impression of Ding Yan was not bad.

When Ding Yan arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian, his expression was solemn as he said through Voice Transmission, “I advise you to skip the trial this time. No one’s going to say anything even if you don’t participate in the trial. No one in the academy doubts your strength, after all.”

Under normal circumstances, it was mandatory for students to participate in the trial. Failing that, they would be expelled from the Hidden Fog Academy.

However, with Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent and comprehension, Ding Yan believed an exception would be made for Duan Ling Tian. In his opinion, the Hidden Fog Academy would definitely feel reluctant to expel such a prodigy.

“Why?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Hey, stop pretending to be dumb,” Ding Yan said, somewhat annoyed, “Everyone in Skywind City knows you’ve offended the Zhong clan. If you participate in the trial, the Zhong clan will definitely seize the chance to deal with you. Moreover, there might be other king-rank forces who’ll harm you in order to push the blame to the Zhong clan as well.”

Ding Yan’s voice grew more and more solemn as he reached the end of his words.

“They’re so bold? Do you really think they have the guts to attack me after I leave the sect for the trial?” Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. Although it was not completely unexpected, he did not think the Zhong clan would dare to attack a Ten Stars student during a trial.

“Under normal circumstances, they naturally dare not do such a thing,” Ding Yan said as he shook his head, “However, during the trial, students would be separated from the teachers leading their teams. Those from the Zhong clan or other king-rank forces only need to hide and wait for a chance to act. After getting rid of the evidence, who would know they killed you?”

Ding Yan's words managed to sway Duan Ling Tian, who was determined to grow stronger as soon as possible. Slightly. Hence, he began to consider Ding Yan's suggestion. When a thought appeared in his mind, he asked, "As far as I know, those stronger than Kings of Gods can't enter the trial grounds, right?"

"That's right." Ding Yan nodded. "There's a Formation at the periphery of the grounds. An alarm will sound if a King of Gods or those who are stronger appear. However, the Formation does nothing to keep advanced gods out. These king-rank forces in Skywind City have no lack of advanced gods in their respective ranks. I know you're strong enough to handle an advanced god. However, do you think you'll be able to deal with a group of advanced gods at the same time? No matter how strong you are, it'd be difficult for you to deal with all of them at once."

Duan Ling Tian asked again. "So you're certain it's impossible for Kings of Gods to enter the trial grounds to harm me?"

Ding Yan nodded. "That's right. The teachers will be us until we enter the trial grounds; they're quite strong as well. As long as you don't leave the trial grounds, it's impossible for Kings of Gods or those who are stronger to get to you."

Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief inwardly upon hearing Ding Yan's words. With that, he decided to go ahead and participate in the trial. It would be too troublesome to skip the trial unless it was absolutely necessary. After all, he would have to see the dean to obtain the dean's permission to skip the trial. Apart from that, if one ranked at the top, one would be rewarded with many rare treasures. Naturally, these rewards were only useful to ordinary gods. They had no effect on Kings of Gods or those who were stronger.

"What are the rewards for the trial this time?" Duan Ling Tian asked Ding Yan.

Duan Ling Tian learned that the reward for the Ten Stars trial this time was a Dragon Mark Divine Herb that could help improve ordinary gods' cultivation bases. Its effect was not as good as the effects of the three divine pills he had obtained from the auction, but it was still useful.

Since he had already consumed the three divine pills, even if he managed to get another three, they no longer had any effect on him. On the contrary, the Dragon Mark Divine Herb that he had never tried before was sure to help him improve.

'Even if the Dragon Mark Divine Pill can't help me to break through immediately, it'd still bring a step closer to becoming an advanced god!'

Duan Ling Tian grew even more determined to obtain the reward.

Duan Ling Tian had considered the threats. Even if the Zhong clan or other king-rank forces sent a group of advanced gods to deal with him, he was confident he would be able to deal with them as long as he went out with strength. If he was cornered, he could always use his prominent divine artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. Now that he had become an intermediate god, he could harness more of the sword's power.

Moreover, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword's artifact soul, Huang'er, had definitely gotten stronger as well.

When Ding Yan saw Duan Ling Tian was tempted by the Dragon Mark Divine Herb and intended to participate in the trial, he said again, "Duan Ling Tian, if you really want the Dragon Mark Divine Herb, you can just ask for it from the dean. He'd definitely give it to you considering your innate talent and comprehension skills.. There's no need for you to risk your life for it."

### **Chapter 3643: The Trial of Ten Stars Students**

'Ask for one from the dean?' Duan Ling Tian was slightly tempted by Ding Yan's solution. Nevertheless, he dismissed the suggestion in the end. After all, if he did that, he would owe Murong Sui Feng a favor. He disliked owing favors. In the end, he said with a faint smile, "I still plan to participate in the trial."

"You..." Ding Yan thought about persuading Duan Ling Tian again, but when he saw Duan Ling Tian's determined gaze, he gave up. In the end, he only said, "Then, let's stick together during the trial. Those king-rank forces will refrain themselves if I'm with you..."

Before Duan Ling Tian could reply, Ding Yan hastily added, "Don't misunderstand. I'm not trying to use you to gain trial points. I'm sure you've heard that only those who killed the monsters will be given points."

Ding Yan had been worried Duan Ling Tian might misunderstand his intention when he proposed this idea so he quickly explained himself.

"They'll refrain themselves because of you?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Ding Yan, puzzled. Then, he said with a laugh, "If my memories serve me right, I defeated you..."

Ding Yan hesitated for a moment before he said, "I'm not saying they're afraid of my strength. I meant that my identity might give them pause."

"Your identity?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow as he looked at Ding Yan curiously. "What about your identity?"

After all, if Ding Yan's identity could make the king-rank forces in Skywind City refrain from acting, he would not have to live in a primitive-grade courtyard.

"When the time comes, you'll see for yourself..." Ding Yan said vaguely, obviously reluctant to speak more about this matter.

Duan Ling Tian did not pursue the matter. Moreover, it did not matter to him what Ding Yan's identity was since he could very well protect himself. As long as there were no Kings of Gods in the trial ground, he was confident about keeping himself safe. He might not even have to run from a group of advanced gods. This meant in the unlikely event that he could not deal with them, he would still be able to escape from them with ease.

"In any case, thank you for your kindness." Duan Ling Tian nodded to Ding Yan before he went forward to collect his divine pills.

Duan Ling Tian was about to return to his courtyard after collecting the divine pills when...

"Duan Ling Tian!"



When Duan Ling Tian turned around, he saw a cyan-clad young man with a medium build and an ordinary appearance hurrying toward him.

“How can I help you?” Duan Ling Tian did not recognize the cyan-clad young man.

At the same time, Ding Yang’s Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears.

“He’s Zhong He Liang, a member of the Zhong clan. However, he’s not a lineal disciple of the clan. Hence, his status in the clan can’t compare to Zhong Ke Qi’s at all.”

Zhong He Liang said solemnly as soon as he arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian, “Duan Ling Tian, I’ve been sent by the Zhong clan to express our sincerity. If you’re willing to join our clan and swear using the Devil Heart’s Blood Oath to be loyal to the clan, the clan will forget about your conflict with Young Master Ke Qi. Otherwise...”

Zhong He Liang used silence to make his threats clear.

“Otherwise what?” Duan Ling Tian glanced at Zhong He Liang with a faint smile on his face. “Is your clan going to kill me just because I seized the prominent-grade courtyard from Zhong Ke Qi? Don’t forget that I earned the right to occupy that prominent-grade courtyard according to the rules of the Hidden Fog Academy.”

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re strong and talented. I’m sure you’ve heard of the saying ‘a wise man knows when to submit to fate’,” Zhong He Liang said as he shook his head, “This is my advice to you. Please give me an answer before the start of the trial. This is my Soul Pearl.”

When Zhong He Liang handed Duan Ling Tian his Soul Pearl, Duan Ling Tian naturally refused. “I don’t need it.”

“Very well.” Zhong He Liang no longer tried to persuade Duan Ling Tian. He left after putting his Soul Pearl away. As soon as he turned away, a sneer appeared on his face. When faced with Duan Ling Tian, he did not dare to go overboard. After all, he was no match for Duan Ling Tian at all.

Before Duan Ling Tian could leave again, several people from the king-rank forces in Skywind City stepped forward one after another to extend an invitation on behalf of the forces they belonged to. This included a member of the Zhou clan. Unlike the Zhong clan, they did not make excessive demands such as requiring Duan Ling Tian to swear on the Devil Heart’s Blood Oath. It did not matter to them if he only stayed in the forces temporarily, it would still benefit them.

Alas, Duan Ling Tian refused them. After all, he already had a plan. He was now in the Hidden Fog Academy, set to join the lord-rank Hidden Fog Sect in the future. It did not make sense for him to join a king-rank force now.

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The trial for Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy was held annually. Rewards would be given to the top student of the trial.

Similar to the past, the Hidden Fog Academy was giving away many attractive rewards. The best among them was the Dragon Mark Divine Herb.

At this moment, a group of Ten Stars students was chatting in front of the Ten Stars Pavilion while they waited to depart for the trial.

“The academy is quite stingy this year. Last year, the academy rewarded the top student with three divine pills. However, this year they’re only giving away a Dragon Mark Divine Herb.”

“That’s right. Although the effects are the same, the Dragon Mark Divine Herb’s efficacy can’t compare to the divine pills.”

“What does it matter? You’re not going to rank first in the trial anyway. In any case, the rewards for the second and third place are better this year so everything is balanced out.”

The trial would last for three months once the Ten Stars students enter the trial grounds which were usually located in remote mountainous areas that were overrun by beasts and monsters.

Regardless of how many monsters were killed, there never seemed to be a lack of them at trial grounds. This was because the Hidden Fog Sect would frequently capture monsters and release them at the trial grounds.

Similar to before, before the commencement of the trial, the members of the Hidden Fog Sect had already released a huge number of monsters at the trial grounds.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was also standing among the crowd, waiting to be brought to the trial grounds.

Ding Yan who was standing next to Duan Ling Tian said, “The rules of the trials are...”

Duan Ling Tian learned that the trial grounds for Ten Stars students was called the Monster Forest. A Point Token would be given to all the students only moments before they entered the trial grounds to prevent students from cheating. Points will be given when the blood of the monster touched the token. The points gained varied according to the kind of monster one killed.

The members of the Hidden Fog Sect had cast a Formation in the forest that would ensure the points would only be given by killing the monsters that they had released there. The Formation could detect if a monster had recently been in a spatial ring or a Little World and only give points to token touching blood of a monster within 15 minutes of the kill. This was to prevent students from cheating.

The teachers of the Hidden Fog Academy would also patrol the trial grounds before the start of the trial to make sure no outsiders were inside.

Alas, these methods were not foolproof. After all, the Hidden Fog Academy could not completely prevent outsiders from entering the trial grounds. Only those at or above the level of Kings of Gods were restricted from entering the trial grounds.

Ding Yan said, “The Point Tokens not only recognizes its owner, but it recognizes the law that the owner comprehends as well. Hence, you can only gain points by using the law you comprehended to kill monsters.”

When Duan Ling Tian heard Ding Yan's words, he felt that the Hidden Fog Academy really went to great lengths to ensure students could not cheat even if it was not completely foolproof. He thought it would be easier if the academy directly barred outsiders from entering the trial ground instead of just barring those at or above the level of a King of Gods.

When he asked Ding Yan about it, Ding Yan had said that the academy thought it was safer to lay a Formation that restricted those at or above the level of a King of Gods. After all, many Kings of Gods or those who were stronger who were skilled in Formation could easily deactivate a general Formation that barred others from entering. Moreover, although Ding Yan used the word 'restrict', in fact, the current Formation could not restrict Kings of Gods or those who were stronger at all. It would only sound the alarm if those at or above the level of Kings of Gods approached or entered the trial grounds.

Moreover, there were no Formation masters in the Hidden Fog Sect. In the end, they could only rely on using multiple restrictions to lower the chance of cheating.

At this moment, at one of the corners, a grey-clad young man approached Hong Jun.. He looked at the purple-clad figure in the distance with twinkling eyes as he asked Hong Jun, "Hong Jun, you were defeated by him? Is he really that strong?"

#### **Chapter 3644: Off to the Trial Grounds**

Hong Jun glanced at the gray-clad young man before asking tonelessly, "There's a Floating Image Pearl in the Ten Stars Pavilion that recorded my fight with Duan Ling Tian. Didn't you have a look at it?"

The gray-clad young man shook his head and said with a wry smile, "I only emerged from my closed-door cultivation two days ago. When I went to receive the divine pills in the Ten Stars Pavilion, but the few Floating Image Pearls that recorded your fight were all unavailable."

Ten Stars students could borrow Floating Image Pearls from the Ten Stars Pavilion with credits.

Credits could generally be obtained through trials. The points were used for rankings of the trials and would be converted into credits after the trials.

The credits were like a currency in the Hidden Fog Academy. Only credits could be used for transactions with the academy.

In Hidden Fog Academy, one could borrow cultivation methods, Floating Image Pearls, and buy all kinds of divine pills, divine fruits, divine herbs, and artifacts using credits.

Credits were also non-transferable. This was to prevent stronger students from threatening others to transfer credits to them.

The gray-clad young man asked again, "I heard he didn't use any divine artifact during the fight, but you barely withstood his attack with your divine artifact?"

"Since you're aware of what happened, is there a need to ask me again?" Hong Jun said tonelessly, "He Yi Ping, if you're really curious about his strength, why don't you challenge him. He lives in a prominent-grade courtyard now. Go to the pavilion and ask for a notice of challenge."

He Yi Ping was as famous as Hong Jun in the Hidden Fog Academy. His strength was comparable to Hong Jun's. However, similar to Hong Jun, due to his ordinary background, he could not occupy a prominent-grade courtyard despite his strength. For this reason, he became good friends with Hong Jun.

Upon hearing Hong Jun's words, He Yi Ping said indignantly, "You bast\*rd! Do you really want to see me make a fool out of myself so badly?"

"Calm down. It's a joke. Since he's mastered a triple Fused Profundity from the law of space, we won't be able to defeat him even if we join forces, let alone fight him individually," Hong Jun said. Then, he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian. His expression turned solemn immediately. He would never forget the battle where he was thoroughly defeated by someone much younger than him.

...

At the same time, someone called out, "Duan Ling Tian!"

A young man dressed in a fine robe appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian. A determined expression could be seen on his face. His eyes were bright, and his hair was curly. His appearance was rather distinct, and his aura was gentle, making people remember him with just a glance.

Duan Ling Tian thought that the person's appearance was one of the most unique ones he had seen.

"Hello, I'm Hou Qing Ning," the young man introduced himself with a smile on his face before Duan Ling Tian could speak.

'Hou Qing Ning?' Duan Ling Tian was not unfamiliar with this name. When he had first arrived at the Hidden Fog Academy, Liu Jin had mentioned this name. Hence, he knew Hou Qing Ning was one of the two who rightfully earned the right to live in a prominent-grade courtyard. Moreover, his background was not bad as well. He was the son of the Sect Leader of a king-rank force.

"Duan Ling Tian." Duan Ling Tian nodded in greeting.

"Duan Ling Tian, I heard about you after I emerged from closed-door cultivation. I thought we could learn from each other, but then, I found you were in closed-door cultivation," Hou Qing Ning said. He was clearly very outgoing. He continued to say, "Although I'm no match for you, as someone who also comprehends the law of space, I'd like to exchange insights. It's not every day I meet someone who's not only younger but also stronger than me who also comprehends the law of space. You won't disdain to exchange insights with me just because I'm weaker than you, right?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly as he replied, "We can do that after the trial."

Although Duan Ling Tian had only met Hou Qing Ning, based on Liu Jin's words, he had quite a good impression of him. Moreover, his short interaction with Hou Qing Ning now also improved his impression of Hou Qing Ning.

"Alright! I'll look for you after the trial ends!" Hou Qing Ning's eyes lit up upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's reply. With that, he bade farewell to Duan Ling Tian and left.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian felt a malicious stare coming from the direction where Hou Qing Ning had left. He did not even need time to guess who it might be. He knew it was Zhong Ke Qi, the lineal disciple of the Zhong clan, otherwise known as the little prince of the Zhong clan, whom he had defeated.

Standing next to Zhong Ke Qi was Zhong He Liang who had approached Duan Ling Tian previously on behalf of the Zhong clan. He had tried to threaten Duan Ling Tian to join the clan or die.

At this time...

“Great, everyone’s here.”

A loud voice rang in the air before a figure appeared in the air. It belonged to an aloof and dignified man who was more than two meters tall. He had suddenly appeared out of thin air.

As soon as the man appeared, Ding Yan asked, “Duan Ling Tian, this should be your first time meeting Teacher Yu Qian Shan, right?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Although he had met many teachers, he had never met the man in front of him since he joined the Hidden Fog Academy. This man made him feel a sense of danger that none of the teachers did. The man’s aura was mysterious and unfathomable.

“Teacher Yu Qian Shan is one of the strongest teachers in the academy. His strength is only second to the dean. He’s said to be as strong as Teacher Yun Hui and Teacher Tang Hao,” Ding Yan explained, “Those three, not counting the dean, are the three strongest teachers in the Hidden Fog Academy. They’re all advanced Kings of Gods. He usually doesn’t appear in the academy much, and we usually only see him during the trials. He’ll lead us to the trial grounds to ensure our safety. After all, we’re considered inner disciples of the Hidden Fog Sect as Ten Stars students and are valued by the sect. To be honest, I wish some of those king-rank forces would be stupid enough to send Kings of Gods to kill you. When the alarm from the Formations rings, I’d like to see Teacher Yu Qian Shan kill them!”

A sneer could be seen on Ding Yan’s face when he mentioned the king-rank forces that might be out to get Duan Ling Tian.

‘Yu Qian Shan.’ When Duan Ling Tian looked at Yu Qian Shan, he noticed Yu Qian Shan was already looking at him.

Yu Qian Shan smiled and nodded at Duan Ling Tian before he said loudly, “I heard there’s a highly talented new student among all of you. He’s already known to be the strongest student of the Hidden Fog Academy...”

With these words, almost all of the Ten Stars students’ eyes shifted to Duan Ling Tian in unison.

“However, don’t feel discouraged,” Yu Qian Shan continued to say, “The new student may be strong, but he’s inexperienced. This is his first time taking the trial so all of you still have a chance to rank ahead of him.”

Many of the students’ eyes lit up upon hearing these words. In particular, Hong Jun, Hou Qing Ning, and He Yi Ping’s eyes shone brightly with hope when they heard these words. They really hoped they could surpass Duan Ling Tian in the trial.

“We’ll set off to the trial grounds when the other three teachers arrive,” Yu Qian Shan said.

It only took a few minutes before the other three teachers arrived. Duan Ling Tian had never seen them before as well.

“Let’s go.”

As soon as Yu Qian Shan’s voice fell, dozens of people leaped into the air.

Yu Qian Shan took the lead while there was one teacher at each side and one teacher bringing up the rear.

During their journey, the three teachers would look at Duan Ling Tian from time to time. Each of them harbored different intentions.

One teacher in particular made Duan Ling Tian feel uncomfortable.. Although the teacher was not hostile, his gaze was icy. Hence, he tilted his head slightly and asked Ding Yan through Voice Transmission, “Is he related to the Zhong clan?”

### **Chapter 3645: The Trial Begins**

Ding Yan glanced in the direction Duan Ling Tian had gestured and asked, “How did you know?”

“I can sense his gaze is different from the other two teachers,” Duan Ling Tian replied truthfully.

“That’s Teacher Zhu Chun. His wife and the wife of the Third Master of the Zhong clan are friends. For this reason, he’s very close to the Zhong clan. He’s almost like a half-member of the clan,” Ding Yan said.

With this, Duan Ling Tian finally understood why he sensed hostility from Zhu Chun’s gaze.

“Don’t worry. Although he has connections with the Zhong clan, he won’t dare to do anything with Teacher Yu Qian Shan’s presence unless he has a death wish. At most, he’ll reveal your location to the Zhong clan. Even then, it’s unlikely since the clan has Zhong Ke Qi and Zhong He Liang to provide them with this kind of information,” Ding Yan said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

At this time, a Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. It was from Hou Qing Ning, a student with a good background who lived in a prominent-grade courtyard.

“Duan Ling Tian. The Zhong clan will definitely use the trial to act against you. Before the trial, I’d spoken to my elders and told them to send some people to the trial grounds so they can protect you if you’re in danger if you’re willing. After all, I don’t wish for you to die. I’d have one less opponent to learn from and lose a chance to improve myself.”

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Hou Qing Ning to make such an arrangement. After all, they had only just met. He had only agreed to exchange insights with Hou Qing Ning after the trial.

“Thank you. However, I think I’ll be able to handle it,” Duan Ling Tian said through Voice Transmission. Although he was rather moved, he still refused Hou Qing Ning. In fact, it would be easier to rely on Hou Qing Ning since he could maintain a low profile. However, with that, he would owe Hou Qing Ning and the force he belonged to a favor. He did not want to owe anyone favors unless it was absolutely

necessary. Moreover, he had already come up with a plan. Even if he exposed some of his strength this time, he would make sure not to expose his 'trump cards'. If he showed more of his strength, the Hidden Fog Sect would place greater importance on him. Although it was important to keep a low profile to avoid jealousy, it was necessary to show his strength once in a while. All he needed to learn was to balance the two.

"Alright," Hou Qing Ning responded, "I'll tell them to return then."

Hou Qing Ning did not persuade Duan Ling Tian to accept his help and easily accepted Duan Ling Tian's decision.

Duan Ling Tian's impression of Hou Qing Ning grew even more favorable when he saw how decisive and straightforward Hou Qing Ning was. Moreover, there was no doubt Hou Qing Ning was very generous to make such an offer even if Hou Qing Ning did not fear the Zhong clan.

They continued to fly behind Yu Qian Shan as the scenery sped past them.

After a while, Ding Yan's Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears.

"Duan Ling Tian, we're about to reach the trial grounds. Remember what I said and follow me."

"There's no need for that." As expected, Duan Ling Tian refused Ding Yan's offer. If only Ding Yan was like Hou Qing Ning. He had already refused Ding Yan many times, but Ding Yan seemed undeterred. Naturally, he was not displeased. After all, he knew Ding Yan was just trying to help him. He could not tell Ding Yan he was confident about killing a group of advanced gods. After all, even the most outstanding intermediate god in the Hidden Fog Sect was not capable of such a feat. It would only sound like he was bragging if he said such words.

"We're here." Yu Qian Shan came to a stop above a huge clearing surrounded by forests and mountains. Then, he looked at the students and said, "I'll issue your Point Tokens now. Don't forget to claim ownership of your tokens once you obtain them. After claiming ownership, you'll be bound to your tokens. They'll disappear if you die. Under normal circumstances, the Ten Stars trial isn't life-threatening. You can retreat if you encounter a monster you can't deal with. If you encounter a dangerous situation such as being surrounded by monsters, you can shatter your token. I'll rush over to save you as soon as I can."

Upon hearing these words, Duan Ling Tian asked Ding Yan through Voice Transmission, puzzled, "If Teacher Yu Qianshan will rush to our aid once we shatter our tokens, why is the Zhong clan so bold to take action during the trial? Aren't they afraid that I'll shatter the token?"

Ding Yan shook his head as he replied through Voice Transmission, "You underestimate the Zhong clan. If they're determined to kill you during the trial, they'll naturally take all things into consideration. They'll likely bring a Formation compass that will hinder the token from alerting Teacher Yu Qian Shan. Moreover, even if they don't bring a Formation compass, they can simply ask other students from the Zhong clan to shatter their tokens the moment they act to distract Teacher Yu Qian Shan."

Ding Yan continued to say, "There's no way a king-rank force like the Zhong clan would come unprepared. Their goal is to kill you; sacrificing a few of their advanced gods to achieve their goal is

nothing. Who knows they might even send death warriors who had sworn on the Devil Heart's Blood Oath to be loyal to the clan."

The Devil Heart's Blood Oath was taken very seriously in the Realms of Gods. Although it was useless in other places, in the Realms of Gods, they were not to be trifled with. After swearing the Devil Heart's Blood Oath, one would be linked to the supreme powerhouses. If one broke one's oath, the supreme houses would send his or her men to hunt the oathbreaker down. Even Supreme Gods could not escape the consequences of breaking a Devil Heart's Blood Oath.

In cases where the supreme powerhouses' subordinates were unable to kill their target, one of the supreme powerhouses would personally make a move.

Violating the Devil Heart's Blood Oath was like trampling on the pride and dignity of the supreme powerhouses. Hence, how could the supreme powerhouses tolerate oathbreakers?

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this time, Yu Qian Shan raised his hand.

One after another, tokens flew out toward the students. They came to a stop in midair, in front of the students.

After Duan Ling Tian grabbed the token, he did not waste time and claimed ownership of it immediately.

"You can go now."

As soon as Yu Qian Shan's voice fell, the Ten Stars students began to scatter in all directions, disappearing into the forests and mountains in just a flash.

The forests were vast, and the mountains were tall. The trial grounds for the Ten Stars students spanned a vast area.

"Duan Ling Tian, I'll take my leave first," Hou Qing Ning said before he swooped down toward the forest.

"Let's go!" Ding Yan said before the duo flew into the forest beneath their feet.

However, when Ding Yan landed, he discovered Duan Ling Tian had vanished into thin air.

"Sh\*t!" Ding Yan finally realized Duan Ling Tian had no intention of sticking together at all. He muttered to himself, exasperated, "Isn't he afraid of death at all?"

Ding Yan did not have many friends in the Hidden Fog Academy. He had regarded Duan Ling Tian as a friend after Duan Ling Tian showed mercy during their battle. Not only did Duan Ling Tian not kill him, but Duan Ling Tian also held back from seriously injuring him.

Ding Yan, who had been without friends for a long time in the academy, was naturally very enthusiastic now that he had found a friend. However, he was unaware that his enthusiasm had overwhelmed Duan Ling Tian. For example, Duan Ling Tian had refused his offers to help many times, but he still did not understand Duan Ling Tian's thoughts and continued to insist on helping.



...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian could roughly guess that Ding Yan might have a powerful background when Ding Yan kept repeating that he would be safe as long as he stayed by Ding Yan's side. However, similar to why he refused the others' help, he did not want to owe Ding Yan a favor. Moreover, he felt that he could solve this problem on his own.

Duan Ling Tian recalled Ding Yan's words.

"We need to hunt and kill monsters in the trial grounds. After killing the monsters, remember to let your token touch the blood of the monster you kill to obtain points. You also have to do it within a certain time. If the monster's parts are valuable, you can keep them for yourself. Our speed and techniques of killing various monsters will also be judged during the trial. There are various monsters with various habits. For example, some would only attack when there's a group of people. There are some that aren't threatening. Some aren't worth hunting because it would take too long to kill them."

Duan Ling Tian had learned quite a lot about the trial from Ding Yan before entering the trial grounds. Hence, he had a rough idea of what to do and what not to do.

...

Meanwhile, in the depths of the forest, figures appeared one after another. All of them moved stealthily, and their leader seemed to be the thin figure standing in the lead.

"I just received Young Master Ke Qi's message.. Duan Ling Tian has entered the trial grounds."

#### **Chapter 3646: The Dean Intends to Test Duan Ling Tian's Strength?**

The leader was a skinny old man with a fierce expression and piercing gaze. A dozen young men and middle-aged men stood behind him expressionlessly. They were like a pack of starving wolves, and the old man was their alpha.

"Search for the target thoroughly and avoid detection. Inform the others as soon as any one of you finds the target. Once everyone gathers, we'll make a move together. We'll kill him with just a strike. Remember not to make a move on your own. None of you are a match for him in a one-to-one fight," the old man said tonelessly, "Now, go!"

"Understood," the dozen or so men replied in unison before they scattered in all directions.

These men moved with ease in the forest. It was like they were born hunters. They blended easily into their surroundings that most people would have a hard time detecting them even if they were in close proximity.

This group of men was death warriors who were cultivated by the king-rank Zhong clan in Skywind City. Their duty was to carry out secret missions for the clan and to sacrifice their lives for their cause if need be.

...

At the same time, a few groups of people in various places scattered in different directions of the forest as well. The groups had an average of six people.

These people were death warriors from the other king-rank forces in Skywind City sent out to kill Duan Ling Tian. Even the Zhou clan was among the king-rank forces intended to get rid of Duan Ling Tian.

The Zhong clan wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian because he had offended the Zhong Ke Qi and the Zhong clan. After all, if Duan Ling Tian continued to grow unchecked, he would likely become a threat to the Zhong clan in the future.

On the contrary, the other king-rank forces wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian so they could blame his death on the Zhong clan. They wanted to use Duan Ling Tian to bring down their competitor. Moreover, getting rid of a prodigy who had refused to join them would only be beneficial to them.

...

High above the trial grounds.

"It seems like the Zhong clan isn't the only one who sent their people here..." Yu Qian Shan muttered as he shook his head and withdrew his Divine Consciousness.

The trial grounds for the Ten Stars student was so vast that even the Divine Consciousness of an advanced King of Gods like Yu Qian Shan could only cover a part of the trial grounds.

"Elder Qian Shan..." one of the teachers standing at the side called out.

Yu Qian Shan interjected with a hint of impatience, "How many times have I told you that there's no need to address me as an elder when we're in the Hidden Fog Academy."

"I apologize, Teacher Yu," the teacher said sheepishly. Then, he said solemnly, "Duan Ling Tian is in danger. Are we really going to stay here and do nothing?"

"Who says we're not going to do anything?" Yu Qian Shan said, "We're going to kill those foolish Kings of Gods who try to trespass into the trial grounds." Then, he said meaningfully, "What do you think, Teacher Zhu Chun?"

Zhu Chun, who seemed to be lost in his thoughts, regained his senses and quickly said, "You're right, Teacher Yu."

In fact, Zhu Chun did not even hear Yu Qian Shan's words. It did not make a difference if he had heard Yu Qian Shan's words or not, he would have agreed with whatever Yu Qian Shan anyway.

Although they were all teachers of the Hidden Fog Academy, there was naturally a hierarchy. Yu Qian Shan not only had a good relationship with Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy, but Yu Qian Shan also held a high position in the Hidden Fog Sect. Yu Qian Shan had only volunteered to be a teacher in the academy to alleviate his boredom and get away from the mundane affairs he had to deal with at the sect.

On the contrary, Zhu Chun had only volunteered as a teacher so it would look good. With this, he hoped to be promoted to a higher rank when he returned to the Hidden Fog Sect.

Another one of the teachers looked at Zhu Chun and asked, "Teacher Zhu Chun, the Zhong clan must have sent many people over here to kill Duan Ling Tian, right?"

Zhu Chun's expression changed slightly. He tried to hide his expression before he shook his head and said, "I have no idea. However, I don't think the Zhong clan dares to do such a thing."

"You don't think they dare to do such a thing? Teacher Yu just sensed quite a number of outsiders on the trial grounds. Who do you think those people are if they aren't from the Zhong clan?" the teacher asked, clearly unwilling to let Zhu Chun off the hook.

"I really have no idea." Zhu Chun shook his head. Then, he looked at Yu Qian Shan and said, "Teacher Yu, if need be, I'll help you capture them so you can question them."

These were just perfunctory words. Zhu Chun knew Yu Qianshan would not ask him to do such a thing because Yu Qian Shan knew of his connections with the Zhong clan. In other words, Yu Qian Shan did not trust him and likely thought he would seize the chance to kill Duan Ling Tian if he were sent into the forest.

Indeed, Zhu Chun was right.

"That's unnecessary," Yu Qianshan said as he shook his head, "You'll wait here with us. If any of the students shatters his or her token, we'll go to his or her rescue as a group."

Yu Qian Shan clearly had no intention of letting Zhu Chun leave his sight, and Zhu Chun easily acquiesced since he had already expected this.

The teacher who was reprimanded by Yu Qian Shan earlier frowned before he asked, "Teacher Yu, what are you and the dean thinking? Duan Ling Tian is an outstanding talent even if we compare him to those in the Hidden Fog Sect. Don't you think it's too dangerous to let him participate in the trial? What if he dies?"

Everyone looked at Yu Qian Shan, waiting for his answer.

Yu Qian Shan replied in an even tone, "He's not a child and has his own opinions. Since he didn't go to the dean to ask for an exemption, it proves that he wants to participate in the trial. Under such circumstances, do you think it's appropriate for me and the dean to dissuade him from participating in the trial? Moreover, we're curious about his confidence. If he dies, then he's only fated to be a speck of dust in the history of the Hidden Fog Academy. If he survives, then it'll prove that he's truly extraordinary. The dean has said that if he survives, he'll consider letting Duan Ling Tian join the sect as a core disciple and provide him with the best resources."

Realization dawned on the other teachers. It seemed like the dean wanted to test Duan Ling Tian's strength. Soon after, they looked at each other in shock when they recalled the words 'core disciple'.

If Duan Ling Tian joined the sect as a core disciple, his status would be the same as theirs, inner elders. Moreover, there had never been more than 100 core disciples at one time in the Hidden Fog Sect.

...

Duan Ling Tian who was moving stealthily and swiftly through the forest was unaware that the dean had decided not to intervene when he faced the people who were sent to kill. How could he know the dean wanted to test his strength? The teachers would not intervene unless Kings of Gods got involved.

Although Duan Ling Tian was a prodigy, there were quite a few like him or even better than him in the Hidden Fog Sect. Hence, the dean was not afraid to risk Duan Ling Tian's life just to test Duan Ling Tian's strength.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian continued to move swiftly in the forest, unimpeded. He killed all the monsters he encountered regardless of their strength and size. None of the monsters managed to last more than a breath against him. Not only did he use his triple Fused Profundity from the law of space, but he had also used his primitive divine artifact that was without an artifact soul. The sword helped him reap countless monsters' lives.

After a few days, Duan Ling Tian began to lose count of the monsters he had killed. He had begun to grow bored of killing the monsters.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian sensed a strange fluctuation in the air. A smirk appeared on his face immediately as his eyes brightened.. He stopped moving as he thought to himself, "They're finally here."

#### **Chapter 3647: The Leader of the Death Warriors**

After discovering the suspicious presence, Duan Ling Tian did not leave. Instead, he wandered around slowly. After he ascertained he was indeed being followed, he concluded it had to be the death warriors sent by one of the king-rank forces in Skywind City.

Although the person tailing him was an advanced god and was skilled in camouflage, he could not avoid Duan Ling Tian's detection due to Duan Ling Tian's superior senses honed from his experience as a soldier in his past life. He easily discovered traces of his stalker.

"Two, three people..." When Duan Ling Tian sensed more and more people, he knew the first person who found him must have called for reinforcements.

'Aren't they going to attack? Are they waiting for more people? If that's the case, I should deal with them first.'

After a while, when the death warriors still did not make a move, Duan Ling Tian realized they were waiting for people to arrive.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian flashed and vanished into thin air.

The trio, two young men and a middle-aged man, hiding behind a large tree was shocked by Duan Ling Tian's sudden disappearance. They began to search for him immediately.

At this moment...

“Are you looking for me?”

The trio looked up and saw a purple figure hovering in the air with his hands on his back, looking at them contemptuously.

“Attack!”

The trio exchanged a glance and decisively mobilized their Divine Energies and cast their profundities. Killing intent shone in their eyes as they rushed toward Duan Ling Tian. Each of them wielded a primitive divine artifact as they attacked Duan Ling Tian viciously without holding back.

“How weak.” Duan Ling Tian discovered his opponents were weaker than he had expected when they made a move. Although they were advanced gods, they had only comprehended their profundities to the mastery stage and had barely comprehended a Fused Profundity. Although their Divine Energies were strong, the forces of their profundities were truly lacking.

Duan Ling Tian brandished his sword. The void began to twist and distort around the trio. In just a moment, the trio was killed by the explosions of spatial energy, turning into a mist of blood. Apart from their divine artifacts, everything, including their spatial rings, was destroyed.

“Self-destructive spatial rings? What a shame...” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself after he put away the divine artifacts. He thought it was a pity that the rings were self-destructive spatial rings.

Self-destructive spatial rings were unique to Realms of Gods. Only artifact experts in Realms of Gods were capable of forging self-destructive spatial rings. After they self-destruct, the possessions in the rings would be scattered in the void or remote corners of the Realms of Gods. Naturally, the purpose of these rings was to prevent the enemy from obtaining one’s possessions. Most people who could afford them would use them in place of ordinary spatial rings.

‘The others must be on their way here. Instead of waiting for them, I should search for them and kill them one by one. It’s easier than having to face them all together, and I won’t have to reveal too much of my strength...’

Duan Ling Tian began moving instantly. When he first arrived, he thought he would have to reveal more of his strength to face a group of advanced gods. However, since the trial grounds was too vast, the death warriors had no choice but to separate and look for him.

‘How can they be so careless if they want to kill me?’ Duan Ling Tian scoffed before teleporting away.

If those who were trying to kill Duan Ling Tian were aware of his thoughts, they would likely vomit blood out of frustration.

It did not take long before Duan Ling Tian found another two people. He killed them before they even had a chance to react.

After 15 minutes, Duan Ling Tian had already killed 13 people.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian sensed another person drawing close to him. However, unlike those whom he had previously killed, he could sense this person’s aura was much stronger than the others.

‘He’s much stronger than the others...’

A skinny old man with the same killing intent and cold eyes as the others slowly crept forward, unaware he had been found. When he sensed the fluctuation of energy from Duan Ling Tian's Teleportation Profundity, he bellowed, "Who's there?"

A golden sword ray shot out immediately, landing on a tree. It was where Duan Ling Tian was hiding. When the tree fell, it revealed Duan Ling Tian.

The old man's eyes widened imperceptibly when he saw Duan Ling Tian. "You're... You're Duan Ling Tian?"

"You brought so many people here to kill me, but you don't even recognize me?" Duan Ling Tian said tonelessly.

The old man's expression changed drastically upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. He hurriedly sent messages to his 16 subordinates and only received a reply from three of them. His expression turned grim as he asked in a low voice, "You killed 13 of my men?"

The old man was certain Duan Ling Tian had killed 13 of his subordinates due to their lack of response.

Duan Ling Tian shrugged before he said with a smile, "I killed about a dozen people. I don't know who they were; I only know they weren't from the academy."

"I've underestimated you," the old man said before he asked grimly, "How did you kill them?"

This was an important question. If Duan Ling Tian killed them at the same time, then he knew he might have to retreat. After all, he would not have been able to fight against all of his subordinates at the same time. If Duan Ling Tian was capable of that, then there was no doubt he was no match for Duan Ling Tian. Although he was a death warrior and had sworn loyalty to the Zhong clan using the Devil Heart's Blood Oath, it was not considered as a betrayal to retreat and report back to the clan. At that time, the clan would provide him with reinforcements to deal with Duan Ling Tian again.

"Since they were scattered everywhere, I hunted them down one after another and killed all of them," Duan Ling Tian honestly replied. Then, his eyes narrowed as he continued to say, "Now, it's your turn to die."

The old man sighed in relief when he heard Duan Ling Tian's answer. Then, he chuckled. "Duan Ling Tian, I have to admit you're really strong. However, you're wrong if you think you can kill me. I'm different from those you killed earlier."

The old man's Divine Energy surged as soon as his voice fell. He glowed with a golden light as he cast a triple Fused Profundity. This was the reason he was unafraid of Duan Ling Tian.

"Duan Ling Tian, if you were an advanced god, I'd have no choice but to flee. Alas, you're just an intermediate god. Although you've comprehended a triple Fused Profundity from the law of space, there's no way for you to escape death today!"

With that, the old man sent out golden sword rays toward Duan Ling Tian from all directions. Then, he rushed toward Duan Ling Tian with a long spear in his hand. The long spear, a divine artifact, shone brilliantly, and its aura was terrifying.

“How dare you attack me when you’re so weak...” Duan Ling Tian remained unfazed. The corners of his lips curled up into a disdainful smile as he looked at the golden sword rays and the old man who were drawing close to him.

‘Mastery Dao!’ With just a thought, the space around him fell under his control. This was the first time Duan Ling Tian had cast the Mastery Dao, one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, since he came to the Profound Energy Land..

### **Chapter 3648: The Mystery of the Deaths of the Death Warriors**

The old man could not react in time to Duan Ling Tian’s sudden attack. He had assumed he could strike preemptively and gain the upper hand, easily killing Duan Ling Tian. He did not expect the void would twist and ripple, devouring his attacks. It was as though Duan Ling Tian had full control over the space around them. It took him a while to discover he had indeed entered the range of the space Duan Ling Tian controlled. He found that his body was no longer under his control. He could only watch with a shred of his Divine Consciousness as his physical body was destroyed. Before he could even figure out what was happening, he had died.

“Your strength isn’t bad. You’re just unlucky that your opponent is me. After all, even the top five strongest Ten Stars students aren’t a match for you,” Duan Ling Tian said as he shook his head and put away the old man’s divine artifact.

The old man was much stronger than the death warriors he had killed earlier. If he did not cast one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, he would have a hard time killing the old man. Of course, he could have killed the old man easily if he had cast his quadruple Fused Profundity. However, that was one of his trump cards.

The old man could barely react to Duan Ling Tian’s sudden attack. He thought he could preemptively attack Duan Ling Tian and killed him easily. However, he never expected a terrifying space turbulence would appear and devoured his attack as he approached Duan Ling Tian. It was as if Duan Ling Tian had full control over whatever and whoever within that space.

The old man had entered Duan Ling Tian’s space territory before he could even react. The next moment, he realized his body was out of control. His Divine Consciousness watched as his physical body shattered into pieces before his spirit and Divine Consciousness gradually were destroyed... The old man could not figure out what had happened even moments before his death.

“Your strength level is not bad, however, unfortunately, I’m your opponent today.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head after he put away the old man’s divine artifact. “If the ten-star students of the Hidden Fog Sect come across him, even the top five strongest students would never survive against this old man...”

The old man was much stronger than the Death Soldiers Duan Ling Tian had killed earlier. It would be difficult for him to kill the old man without using one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, unless he used four Fused Profundities against him. However, that was Duan Ling Tian’s secret weapon. Compared to the Mastery Dao, the risk of exposure of using a quadruple Fused Profundity was higher. After all, even if someone was secretly observing his fight, they would likely mistake his Mastery Dao as a special

technique he cultivated. Moreover, the Mastery Dao would catch his opponent off guard and swiftly kill his opponent before his opponent could send a message out.

“What a pity! Another self-destructive spatial ring. Based on his strength, the things in his ring are likely more valuable than the others,” Duan Ling Tian said with a sigh.

Following that, he continued to search for his enemies.

...

Over the past few days, Duan Ling Tian found another three suspicious people. They all possessed the same killing intent as those he had killed.

‘They must be death warriors from the Zhong clan as well...’

...

After another two days had passed.

‘The Zhong clan must have only sent 17 death warriors here...’ Duan Ling Tian muttered inwardly.

The Zhong clan was likely the only king-rank force in Skywind City who would send so many death warriors after him.

Duan Ling Tian decided to start hunting and killing monsters again after not finding anyone for two days. Killing the monsters was like a walk in the park for him. With just a slash of his sword, he could easily kill them. With that, his points continued to rise swiftly.

His true capabilities would be exposed if the old man had the slightest opportunity to inform his peers before Duan Ling Tian killed him. Hence, Duan Ling Tian decided to use the Mastery Dao against the old man because nobody could easily tell even if he was secretly watched. They might take it as a special method Duan Ling Tian had mastered. Moreover, the Mastery Dao’s sudden appearance would catch his opponent off guard and prevent him from sending out messages right before his death.

“What a pity... He had the Self-destructive Spatial Ring as well... Based on his strength level, he must possess a lot of treasures,” Duan Ling Tian sighed. Then, he continued to search around.

For the next few days, he came across three more suspicious people who possessed the same aura as the people he had killed for the past few days.

‘They must be the same group of people... If I’m not mistaken, they must be from the Zhong Clan.’

The Zhong Clan was the only king-rank force in the Skywind City that would send so many Death Soldiers after Duan Ling Tian after all.

‘It seems like the Zhong Clan had only sent 17 Death Soldiers.’

After wandering for another two days, Duan Ling Tian finally left the area and continued his demon beast slaughtering journey. Killing the demon beasts in the training ground was a piece of cake for Duan Ling Tian, he could easily kill them with just a single slash of his sword! As a result, the points in his Points Accumulating Token continued to skyrocket.



'The difference between our strength is too vast. Even if it's Hong Jun, I can kill him with just a blow or two with my divine artifact using the same strength I used during our first battle...'

In fact, the monsters in the trial grounds were not weak. Even the top five strongest Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy would have a difficult time killing some of the monsters on the trial grounds. After all, the Hidden Fog Sect had carefully selected monsters that would challenge the Ten Stars students.

Since Duan Ling Tian had just joined the Hidden Fog Academy, the Hidden Fog Sect naturally did not have the time to look for monsters that would challenge Duan Ling Tian.

...

The Zhong clan's estate in Skywind City.

The main hall was packed with people despite the early hours.

Zhong Si, who had rushed back from one of the clan's restaurants, asked Zhong San who was sitting next to the main seat, "Third Brother, what happened? Why did you summon us here so urgently? Today's the day of the Ten Stars students' trial, right? Don't tell me something happened to our death warrior?"

Upon hearing these words, the high-ranking members of the Zhong clan looked at Zhong San anxiously, waiting for his answer.

"They're all dead," Zhong San said grimly.

It was as silent as a graveyard at this moment. Everyone, including Zhong Si, was in shock and disbelief.

17 death warriors died? Moreover, one of them was one of three leaders of the death warriors. The leader's strength was on par with Zhong Si's, the Fourth Master of the Zhong clan.

When Zhong Si regained his senses, he asked in a grave tone, "Did the Hidden Fog Academy kill them?"

"No." Zhong San shook his head. "Elder Zhu Chun sent a message earlier. He had said that the dean has no intention of intervening; he sees this as a test of Duan Ling Tian's strength. If Duan Ling Tian survives, he's considering making Duan Ling Tian an exception and letting him join the Hidden Fog Sect as a core disciple."

"A core disciple?!"

"Is Duan Ling Tian talented enough to be a core disciple?"

"Why would the dean do such a thing?"

Everyone was baffled by Zhong San's words.

Since the founding of the sect, there were no more than 100 core disciples at a time in the Hidden Fog Sect. The core disciples were all under 10,000 years old and would no longer be considered core disciples after passing that age. However, from there, they would graduate to become a core elder of the sect. They could even choose to join the emperor-rank sect that the Hidden Fog Sect was under.

Although they would have to start from the bottom ranks after joining the emperor-rank sect, the cultivation environment and resources were far superior to the Hidden Fog Sect's. This was only natural due to the huge difference between a lord-rank force and an emperor-rank force.

For this reason, becoming a core disciple was a guarantee that one would be able to join an emperor-rank force in the future.

Let alone an emperor-rank force, the Zhong clan was already wary of a lord-rank sect like the Hidden Force Sect.

"Impossible! He must have had help! How could he kill 17 death warriors, including Xue Er, on his own?" Zhong Si exclaimed, filled with disbelief.

"I agree," Zhong San said with a nod. Then, he said solemnly, "If that's the case, this means someone is helping him. It seems like it won't be easy for us to kill him."

"Who could it be?" Zhong Si frowned.

Zhong San was lost in thoughts upon hearing this question. When he regained his senses, he said, "Zhu Chun told me that Hou Qing Ning seems very keen to befriends Duan Ling Tian. A few days ago, the fifth elder of the 10,000 Leaves Sect, Chen Feng, who's stationed in Skywind City left his base for the trial grounds for the Ten Stars student..."

The 10,000 Leaves Sect was also a king-rank force on par with the Zhong clan in Skywind City. Hou Qing Ning was the Young Master of the 10,000 Leaves Sect. To protect Hou Qing Ning, Chen Feng, an advanced god, was stationed at Skywind City.

"10,000 Leaves Sect?" Zhong Si frowned. He said frostily, "What's wrong with Hou Qing Ning? Is he unaware that the Zhong clan has conflicts with Duan Ling Tian? How dare he befriend Duan Ling Tian? Isn't he afraid of offending our Zhong clan?"

Zhong San shook his head. "Who knows?"

"What are we going to do if our death warriors are really killed by those from the 10,000 Leaves Sect? We can't just let the matter go, right?" Zhong Si asked indignantly.

"Of course, not." Zhong San's eyes flashed coldly. "Although the 10,000 Leaves Sect is on par with our clan, we won't let them get away with killing our men. They'll have to pay for their actions!"

At this moment, Zhong San suddenly frowned.

"What's wrong, Third Brother?" Zhong Si asked upon seeing the change in Zhong San's expression.

Zhong San said with a strange expression on his face, "I just received a message. Chen Feng and his men returned to Skywind City before Xue Er' died. However, Chen Feng is the only one from the 10,000 Leaves Sect capable of killing Xue Er..."

A commotion broke out in the main hall of the Zhong clan's estate immediately.

"Does this mean the deaths of Xue Er and the death warriors have nothing to do with the 10,000 Leaves Sect?!"

“It can’t be them!”

“Then who could it be? Did the death warriors from the other king-rank forces join forces to kill Xue Er?”

“Impossible. Our death warriors would have time to send messages back if that was the case. Our death warriors clearly died before they even had a chance to react!”

...

While the people from the Zhong clan were still figuring out who killed their death warriors, various king-rank forces in Skywind City began to learn of the deaths of their death warriors.

### **Chapter 3649: Zhong Ke Qi Left the Trial Grounds Ahead of Time**

‘There’s more than a group of them? They must be from the other king-rank forces in Skywind City...’

While Duan Ling Tian was busy slaying the monsters, he discovered another person stalking him.

Similar to before, the person had contacted his comrades, and they had all gathered to deal with Duan Ling Tian. Alas, also similar to before, all these people were killed by Duan Ling Tian.

After killing a few more of the death warriors, Duan Ling Tian discovered there was no one else tailing him anymore.

‘Did I get everyone? Or did their respective forces call them back after discovering the shattered Soul Pearls of the others?’

Not long after this thought appeared, Duan Ling Tian found another group of death warriors. He deliberately left one of them alive so he could question the other party. Alas, the death warrior did not answer Duan Ling Tian’s questions and directly committed suicide. After that, for a while, Duan Ling Tian did not come across any death warriors.

Considering how the death warrior had chosen to commit suicide, Duan Ling Tian knew the death warriors must have sworn on the Heard Devil Blood Oath to be loyal to their respective forces. It was also likely that these death warriors had relatives in their respective forces who were being used to threaten them.

Although Duan Ling Tian admired the death warriors’ determination and decisiveness, he knew he could not show mercy to them. After all, their goal was to kill him. As such, how could he spare their lives?

Among all the death warriors Duan Ling Tian encountered, none was as strong as the old man from the Zhong clan. With this, one could only imagine how easy it was for him to kill the other death warriors.

Duan Ling Tian no longer encountered any death warriors following that. The only people he encountered after that were Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy.

The Ten Stars students whom Duan Ling Tian would greet him respectfully and address him as Brother Duan. Although he was a newcomer, he had proven to be stronger than all of them. In this world where the strong were revered, it was only natural that Duan Ling Tian garnered so much respect.

There are more than a group of them? It seems like the rest of them must be the Death Soldiers from other king-rank forces of the Skywind City.'

When Duan Ling Tian continued his demon beast slaughtering journey, he discovered another person stalking him. The person contacted his peers to regroup and eventually all of them succumbed in the hands of Duan Ling Tian. After killing a few of them, Duan Ling Tian realized no one appeared anymore.

As for Duan Ling Tian, despite not being acquainted with the Ten Stars students he ran into, even if his response was not particularly enthusiastic, he would still respond to them with a smile and a nod.

While Duan Ling Tian wandered the trial grounds, his mind wandered to Zhong Ke Qi.

'I wonder if I'll run into Zhong Ke Qi. If I see him, I'll definitely kill him...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as killing intent flashed in his eyes.

Zhong Ke Qi had taken offense when Duan Ling Tian had stripped him of his right to stay in the prominent-grade courtyard for Ten Stars students in the Hidden Fog Academy. Although Duan Ling Tian had done so according to the rules of the academy, Zhong Ke Qi and the Zhong clan had held a grudge against him. For this matter, the Zhong clan even sent their death warriors to kill Duan Ling Tian.

In fact, if the Zhong clan did not send the death warriors to kill Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian would not have killed Zhong Ke Qi. However, Zhong Ke Qi and the Zhong clan's actions had crossed his bottom line. Hence, if he were to run into Zhong Ke Qi, he would not hesitate to kill Zhong Ke Qi. His lips curled into a smile when he thought about there were no rules prohibiting students from attacking each other.

...

Zhong Ke Qi was naturally unaware that Duan Ling Tian had already sentenced him to death in his heart. At this time, he had just received a message from Zhong San, the Third Master of the Zhong clan, asking him and Zhong He Liang to leave the Ten Stars students' trial grounds at once and to stay close to Zhu Chun.

"Why, Third Uncle?" Zhong Ke Qi was confused by Zhong San's message. He did not understand why he and Zhong He Liang had to leave the trial grounds immediately.

Zhong He Liang, who reunited with Zhong Ke Qi not too long ago, was also confused after Zhong Ke Qi relayed Zhong San's message to him. After a moment, his expression changed before he asked, "Young Master Ke Qi, what happened? Could it be that Duan Ling Tian is still alive?"

Zhong Ke Qi's expression darkened. He said through gritted teeth, "You're right. Not only is he alive, but the 17 death warriors, who were all advanced gods, are dead as well! This includes Elder Xue Er." His eyes shone with killing intent as he continued to say, "Once I find out the identity of the person who helped Duan Ling Tian, I won't let him or her go!"

Zhong He Liang speculated out loud, "Could it be members from the 10,000 Leaves Sect? Hou Qing Ning seems intent on befriending Duan Ling Tian, after all."

"That's what Third Uncle thought initially. However, when Elder Xue Er died, Chen Feng, the fifth elder of the 10,000 Leaves Sect, and his men had already returned to Skywind City. Chen Feng is the only one capable of killing Elder Xue Er, but it's been proven he didn't do it. Hence, it's unlikely that Hou Qing

Ning and the 10,000 Leaves Sect are involved in this matter. In any case, let's leave first. We'll have to give up on the trial this time..."

A hint of reluctance could be heard in Zhong Ke Qi's voice when he spoke. Nonetheless, he still obeyed Zhong San's orders and left the trial grounds, returning to where the teachers were.

"Teacher Yu, we were injured so we left the trial grounds."

Zhong Ke Qi and Zhong He Liang looked like they were in a bad shape when they met up with the teachers from the Hidden Fog Academy. Blood stained the corners of their lips. In order to look more convincing, they had deliberately injured themselves, finding a legitimate excuse to quit the trial.

Yu Qian Shan nodded immediately. "Give me your Points Accumulating Token."

"Yes, Teacher Yu."

After the duo obediently returned their tokens, they stood next to Zhu Chun.

"Uncle Zhu Chun," Zhong Ke Qi greeted Zhu Chun respectfully. After all, Zhu Chun was his uncle by marriage to his aunt.

Zhu Chun said through Voice Transmission, "I assumed you've already heard about what happened, right? Third Brother said he'd speak to you."

"Yes. However, I wonder who helped him?" Zhong Ke Qi asked.

Zhu Chun smiled wryly before he said, "I'm afraid he might be the one who killed the death warriors. The death warriors died one after another with not much time passing in between. It's likely Duan Ling Tian hunted them down and killed them one after another."

"Impossible!" Zhong Ke Qi said confidently, "He might be able to kill the others, but he definitely couldn't have killed Elder Xue Er. You're aware of Elder Xue Er's strength. It's impossible for him to have killed Elder Xue Er!"

"I understand, but there's still the possibility that he did it. If he did kill Elder Xue Er, it proves that he's much stronger than he has let on..." Zhu Chun solemnly said, "With that, he'll be able to join the Hidden Fog Sect ahead of time and become their core disciple."

"Become a core disciple of Hidden Fog Sect ahead of time? What do you mean?" Zhong Ke Qi narrowed his eyes as his expression changed. He tried to calm down and said, "No, it's impossible for him to have killed Elder Xue Er. Someone must have helped him!"

"Nevertheless, if the dean can't find the person who helped him, the dean will definitely recommend him to be a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect. However, he still has to pass a test before he'll be formally accepted as a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect," Zhu Chun said.

"It's impossible for him to have such a high innate talent or comprehension skills to pass the test!" Zhong Ke Qi said disdainfully. However, inwardly, unease began to rise in his heart.

Following that, Zhong Ke Qi sent a message to his uncle, Zhong San. "Third Uncle, Duan Ling Tian has to die! Regardless of whether he's capable of passing the test to become a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect or not, his existence is a great threat to the Zhong clan!"

Zhong Ke Qi felt relieved when he received Zhong San's reply that expressed his agreement. The conflict between the Zhong clan and Duan Ling Tian was started by him, after all. If Duan Ling Tian grew stronger in the future, there was no doubt he would be the first to suffer the consequences.

...

Over the next few days, Duan Ling Tian continued to kill the monsters he encountered. Inwardly, he was still hoping to run into Zhong Ke Qi. Alas, he was only met with disappointment. He had run into many Ten Stars students over the past few days, but none of them were Zhong Ke Qi.

'He must have received a message from his clan due to the deaths of their death warriors and left the trial grounds. Fortunately, they didn't discover the death warriors' shattered Soul Pearls immediately before I was done killing them...'

It was true that the Zhong clan did not discover the death warriors' shattered Soul Pearls in time, resulting in the deaths of all 17 death warriors. Usually, the Soul Pearls of the death warriors were placed in a designated area. The leaders of the various groups of death warriors were responsible for monitoring the Soul Pearls of their subordinates. However, since Xue Er had led his team out on a mission, no one was left to monitor their Soul Pearls. It was only when the Zhong clan discovered none of the death warriors they had sent out were responding to their messages that it occurred to them to check on the death warriors' Soul Pearls.

...

"Time's up!"

The trial for the Ten Stars students finally came to an end.

Before the trial ended, Duan Ling Tian took a long time before he finally found another monster and killed it. Then, he left the trial grounds.

After the trial, the number of monsters in the trial grounds had diminished greatly after being killed by the Ten Stars students of the Hidden Fog Academy.

### **Chapter 3650: The End of the Trial**

Duan Ling Tian met up with more than a dozen Ten Stars students, excluding the Zhong clan's Zhong Ke Qi, Ding Yan, Hou Qing Ning, and Liu Jin.

A dozen Ten Star students already accounted for half of the Hidden Fog Academy's Ten Star students.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

Duan Ling Tian had just left the trial grounds and was heading toward a group of Ten Stars students who had gathered when he heard someone calling out to him from the distance. He turned around and discovered that it was Ding Yan.

When Ding Yan saw that Duan Ling Tian had survived the trial without any signs of injuries, he sighed in relief.

Seeing the smile of relief on Ding Yan's face, Duan Ling Tian felt slightly moved. Although he could be considered friends with Ding Yan, their relationship did not run deep. For Ding Yan to be so concerned about his safety was truly surprising.

"You came out rather quickly." Duan Ling Tian smiled at Ding Yan. At this time, he also discovered the four teachers of the Hidden Fog Academy, who were also the chaperones for the trial, looking at him. He saw Yu Qian Shan look at him with bright eyes while a hint of amazement could be seen in the other two teachers' eyes.

As for Zhu Chun, despite looking calm outwardly, his emotions were surging in his heart.

Ding Yan shook his head. "It took me less than an hour to leave. Saying that, there were some who left prematurely..." Then, his eyes shifted toward Zhong Ke Qi and Zhong He Liang before he continued to say, "I heard that they left trial grounds prematurely because they were injured. However, based on their appearances, their injuries must have been so light that it didn't warrant them leaving the trial grounds at all."

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Zhong Ke Qi and Zhong He Liang, not surprised by Ding Yan's words.

After all, once the Zhong clan discovered the deaths of their death warriors, there was no doubt the clan would get in touch with Zhong Ke Qi and Zhong He Liang immediately, asking them to leave the trial grounds.

The Zhong clan naturally did not know Duan Ling Tian was responsible for the deaths of their clan's death warriors. He had killed them so quickly that they did not even have time to send a Communication Talisman back to the clan. He was confident the Zhong clan did not know whether it was him or a helper who had killed their clan's death warriors. Nonetheless, regardless of who was responsible for the deaths of the death warriors, the clan would definitely order Zhong Ke Qi to leave the trial grounds immediately, in fear for his safety.

"So they left the trial grounds ahead of time, huh?"

"I'll return this favor to your family for sure. Keep praying you'd be as lucky as you were today," Duan Ling Tian said to Zhong Ke Qi through Voice Transmission.

Then, Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhong Ke Qi with a piercing gaze that caused Zhong Ke Qi to shudder in fear. He was so frightened that for a moment, he thought, perhaps, he should forget about his conflict with Duan Ling Tian. However, he quickly dismissed that thought. Then, he hurriedly sent a message to his father, Zhong Er, and his third uncle, Zhong San, telling them about Duan Ling Tian's threat in an exaggerated manner.

"If Duan Ling Tian doesn't die, it's fine if something happens to me, but I'm just worried he'll go after the Zhong clan..."

...

When Zhong Er and Zhong San received Zhong Ke Qi's message, both of their eyes flashed with killing intent. They were both Kings of Gods so the others around them could easily sense their killing intent.

Zhong Da, the Clan Leader of the Zhong clan, was the first to ask, "Second Brother, what happened?"

Zhong Er hurriedly recounted Zhong Ke Qi's words, causing Zhong Da's expression to turn frosty. Similar to his two brothers, killing intent flashed in his eyes as well. He said, "Wait for me to come up with a plan. We have to kill Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, he'll only bring trouble to our clan in the future."

Originally, Zhong Da, unlike the others, did not care much about Duan Ling Tian. However, he had begun to take the matter seriously when he learned that Murong Sui Feng intended to recommend Duan Ling Tian to become a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect. With this, he knew that if nothing were done about Duan Ling Tian, it would definitely bring disaster to the clan in the future. After all, if a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect were given time to mature, destroying the Zhong clan would be as easy as flipping one's hand.

...

Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the commotion he had caused in the Zhong clan. Even if he was aware, he would not have cared at all.

From the moment the Zhong clan sent their death warriors after him, he was already determined to kill them. Between him and them, only one of them was allowed to live.

It was the first time since he had come to the Profound Energy Land that he planned to annihilate an entire force. After all, even when he avenged the southern village of the Duan Clan Village, he only killed the culprit responsible and did not annihilate the force the culprit belonged to.

However, it was different this time. Zhong Ke Qi and his clan had acted against him, trying to kill him.

At this moment, Hou Qing Ning sought Duan Ling Tian out as well. Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian unharmed, he sighed in relief. Then, he said with a smile, "I'm relieved to see you're fine. I was worried you'd die in there."

After saying that, Hou Qing Ning did not beat around the bush and bluntly asked, "So what happened in the end? Did the Zhong clan make a move against you?"

Hou Qing Ning came from a king-rank force on par with the Zhong clan. Although the Zhong clan was the local tyrant of Skywind City, he naturally did not fear the clan. After all, he knew the clan would not dare to rashly make a move against him.

Duan Ling Tian replied tonelessly, "It's just as you'd guessed. They sent a group of death warriors to kill me. Alas, they all died."

"They all died?!" Hou Qing Ning exclaimed, "You killed all of them?"

Hou Qing Ning would not have been surprised if Duan Ling Tian killed two advanced gods on his own. However, he was certain the Zhong clan must have sent more than two death warriors to kill Duan Ling Tian this time. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be capable of killing all the death warriors.



“In the beginning, I found a few of them concealing their presence and tailing me so I quickly got rid of them. More and more of them appeared later, and I got rid of them as well,” Duan Ling Tian said in a leisurely manner.

“They concealed their presence, but you found them?” Hou Qing Ning was astonished. He was not surprised that the death warriors had spread out to look for Duan Ling Tian. After all, moving around in a large group would only attract attention. However, he was surprised that Duan Ling Tian managed to detect the death warriors’ presence even after they concealed their presence.

After a moment, Hou Qing Ning said in relief, “Fortunately, the Zhong clan didn’t send any of the leaders of the death warriors in their clan here. Otherwise, it would’ve been difficult for you...”

Duan Ling Tian only smiled upon hearing the words ‘leader of the death warriors’. He was rather certain he had killed the leader of the death warriors from the Zhong clan. However, he did not say anything to Hou Qing Ning. After all, to be capable of such a feat would only reveal to everyone that he was much stronger than what he had shown during his fight with Hong Jun.

...

Soon after, all the Ten Stars students finally gathered. Most of them were fine, and only a few of them were injured.

“Hand over your Point Accumulation Tokens,” Yu Qian Shan said.

Duan Ling Tian and the others obediently returned the tokens.

Yu Qian Shan’s expression remained the same as he collected the tokens from the students. However, when he received Duan Ling Tian’s tokens, his expression changed immediately as soon as he sensed the points that Duan Ling Tian had accumulated. He instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

Yu Qian Shan’s reaction did not go unnoticed by the others, resulting in them turning to look at Duan Ling Tian as well.

“What happened?”

“Teacher Yu Qian Shan looks quite surprised...”

“I’m really curious. What can make Teacher Yu look so surprised? It must be the points Duan Ling Tian has accumulated, right?”

The Ten Stars students discussed among themselves, curious.

Similarly, the other three teachers of the Hidden Academy were curious as well.

In the end, one of the teachers could no longer hold back so he asked curiously, “Teacher Yu, how many points did Duan Ling Tian accumulate?”

“You’ll find out for yourself once the ranking is out,” Yu Qian Shan replied with a smile, maintaining the suspense.

With that, Yu Qian Shan led the curious teachers and students back to the Hidden Fog Academy.

During the journey, Hou Qing Ning moved next to Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Duan Ling Tian, how many points did you accumulate? It must be shocking for Teacher Yu to look so surprised..."

Duan Ling Tian only smiled as well. Even before leaving the trial grounds, he had known his points would far surpass the others students. After all, his speed of killing the monsters was not something Hou Qing Ning, Hong Jun, and the others could hope to match.

When Hou Qing Ning saw Duan Ling Tian's response, he said, slightly exasperated, "It seems like you're trying to keep everyone in suspense like Teacher Yu."

Then, Hou Qing Ning shifted his attention to Ding Yan and asked, "Ding Yan, how many points did you accumulate this time?"

"8,000 points," Ding Yan replied.

Hou Qing Ning nodded slightly. "Not bad. You'll be able to pass the 10,000 points soon."

"What about you?" Ding Yan asked in return.

Hou Qing Ning smiled before he said, "It's better than the previous trial. This time, I accumulated more than 20,000 points."

"More than 20,000 points?!" Ding Yan exclaimed.. Then, he said, "During the previous trial, even the top ranker didn't manage to get more than 20,000 points, right?"