

Chapter 3651: The Power Brew

After all, surpassing more than 20,000 points relied on more than just one's strength, but it relied on one's luck as well. If one were lucky, one would run into more monsters. Naturally, it was not too special a feat. All of the top five strongest Ten Stars students had accumulated more than 20,000 points during a trial before. It was just that during the previous trial, no one managed to do so. The top ranker for the previous trial only managed to accumulate about 19,000 points.

"More than 20,000 points.... Your current points would have earned you the top spot in the past," Ding Yan said with a sigh.

"You're right." Hou Qing Ning smiled wryly. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complex expression as he said, "Based on Teacher Yu's surprised expression, Duan Ling Tian undoubtedly accumulated much more than 20,000 points. I wonder how many points he accumulated exactly."

However, since Duan Ling Tian did not wish to speak about it, Hou Qing Ning did not persist in asking.

Similar to Hou Qing Ning, Ding Yan and the others, including the teachers, looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously as well, eager to find out how many points he had accumulated.

The other Ten Stars students could barely contain their curiosity and began to speculate among themselves.

"Hey, hey, how many points do you think Duan Ling Tian accumulated to be able to shock Teacher Yu?"

"Ten years ago, I remember Teacher Yu didn't even look so shocked when Hong Jun accumulated 24,000 points."

"Then, do you think Duan Ling Tian accumulated 30,000 points?"

"That's not impossible. After all, he's the strongest among us."

It's possible... After all, Duan Ling Tian is the strongest among us. Even Hong Jun had to use his divine artifact to withstand Duan Ling Tian's attack even though Duan Ling Tian didn't use his divine artifact."

"The rankings will be revealed tomorrow morning. At that time, we'll find out how many points Duan Ling Tian managed to accumulate."

"We can only wait until tomorrow to satiate our curiosity."

"I can't wait for tomorrow to come!"

"If you're so eager to know, why don't you ask Duan Ling Tian about it?"

"Is there a point? He didn't even reveal his points to Hou Qing Ning and Ding Yan. He's clearly trying to maintain the suspense like Teacher Yu."

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After arriving at the Hidden Fog Academy, Duan Ling Tian prepared to return to his courtyard like the other Ten Stars students.

However, just as Duan Ling Tian, Hou Qing Ning, and Ding Yan were about to leave, Yu Qian Shan suddenly called out, "Duan Ling Tian. Come with me. The dean wants to meet you."

Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned. When he regained his composure, he followed Yu Qian Shan, leaving his two fellow students behind.

Hou Qing Ning smiled wryly as he watched Duan Ling Tian leave with Yu Qian Shan. "I was going to ask Duan Ling Tian about his points again during our journey back to our courtyards. I didn't expect him to be called away by the dean."

Ding Yan, who was standing next to Hou Qing Ning, only watched silently.

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Yu Qian Shan led Duan Ling Tian into the heart of the area where the Ten Stars students' courtyards were located. After walking into a thick fog, Duan Ling Tian discovered he had stepped into what looked like a paradise.

The air was permeated with the fragrance of flowers while the sounds of birds chirping melodiously rang in the air. From outside, the place seemed deceptively small, especially when surrounded by the student courtyards that were like stars surrounding the moon.

"This way," Yu Qian Shan said as he led Duan Ling Tian to a pavilion located in the middle of the place.

The pavilion was built at the back of a courtyard of a huge mansion. It was surrounded by a few lush trees that Duan Ling Tian was unfamiliar with. The pavilion towered over the trees and into the clouds.

After arriving at the top of the pavilion, Yu Qian Shan said respectfully, "Dean Murong, I've brought Duan Ling Tian here."

The top of the pavilion was empty, but as soon as Yu Qian Shan's voice fell, Duan Ling Tian saw the void ripple and distort before a figure suddenly appeared.

The figure belonged to an elegant middle-aged man who was dressed in a snow-white robe. He was handsome, and his long hair fell neatly down his back. He looked scholarly, and his expression was aloof. He stood with one hand placed on his back when he appeared. He was none other than Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy and the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect.

"You may leave."

As soon as Murong Sui Feng's voice fell, Yu Qian Shan bade farewell and left immediately.

With this, only Duan Ling Tian and Murong Sui Feng were left.

"Come and take a seat," Murong Sui Feng said with a gentle smile on his face. He waved his hand casually, and a wine jar and two empty wine cups appeared on the table instantly. With that, he took a seat at the table.

"Dean Murong," Duan Ling Tian greeted Murong Sui Feng. He did not hesitate to take a seat at the table.

Murong Sui Feng's smile brightened when he saw Duan Ling Tian behaving decisively in front of him. He said, "Duan Ling Tian, I'm impressed by your decisiveness and straightforwardness. Students and even teachers would hesitate for a while when I asked them to take a seat."

"It'd be a waste of time and energy if we're too hung up on formalities," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Under normal circumstances, it was rather rare for students to be seated at the same table with Murong Sui Feng. However, since Murong Sui Feng took the initiative to invite Duan Ling Tian over, Duan Ling Tian treated him as an equal. After all, to save his wife, Ke'er, in the future, he would definitely be stronger than a Lord of Gods like Murong Sui Feng. Hence, he did not feel inferior to Murong Sui Feng. Saying that, he would not have taken a seat without an invitation from Murong Sui Feng. After all, currently, he was still weaker than Murong Sui Feng. It would be unwise to offend Murong Sui Feng, a Lord of Gods, with his current strength.

"Very good!" Murong Sui Feng smiled brightly. Then, he poured wine for Duan Ling Tian and himself before he said, "I brewed this wine myself. It's called the Power Brew."

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware that Power Brew was named after Murong Sui Feng's deceased disciple.

"Power Brew?" Although the name was peculiar, Duan Ling Tian was intrigued by the fragrance of the wine. When the fragrance wafted into his nose, he could feel his Divine Consciousness trembling slightly. He thought to himself, surprised, "This is no ordinary wine!"

"Try it," Murong Sui Feng said with a smile, "Power Brew is incredibly beneficial to those who have yet to try it. Perhaps, after drinking it and consuming the Dragon Pattern Divine Grass that you'll receive tomorrow, you'll be able to break through and become an advanced god soon."

Upon hearing Murong Sui Feng's words, Duan Ling Tian emptied the wine from the cup in just one gulp. It slid down his throat before he even had time to savor its taste. Following that, apart from the burning sensation in his throat, he felt a mysterious force brewing in his body. He instinctively mobilized the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique and merged that mysterious energy with his Divine Energy. His eyes lit up as soon as he felt his Divine Energy had grown stronger from the fusion.

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he looked at the wine jar intently.

At the same time, Murong Sui Feng took a sip from his wine cup before he poured another cup of wine for Duan Ling Tian and said, "You're not supposed to drink the wine in that manner. You should slowly savor it. After having three cups, the Power Brew will lose its efficacy on you. Hence, you should slowly savor it."

Murong Sui Feng felt it was a waste for Duan Ling Tian to have drained his wine cup so quickly. If it were another student, he would not have poured another cup of wine for that student.

Duan Ling Tian smiled sheepishly before he slowly savored his second cup of wine. His eyes lit up suddenly as he exclaimed, "The wine is magnificent!"

Duan Ling Tian did not drink wine often, but he had tried some of the best wine when he was in the mundane realms and the Devata Realms. The Power Brew was undoubtedly one of the best that he had ever tried. The Power Brew had a distinctive flavor that he had never tasted before in his life.

“Dean Murong, this is the best wine I’ve ever had! You brewed this yourself?” Duan Ling Tian asked as his eyes shone with a hint of anticipation.

As though he could read Duan Ling Tian’s mind, Murong Sui Feng shook his head and said, “The brewing process is not complex, but the ingredients are rare. I’ve only managed to brew three jars over the past 100 years. I finished a bottle myself and gave another to the Sect Leader. This is the last of the three bottles..”

Chapter 3652: Duan Ling Tian Reveals His Origin

Duan Ling Tian’s hope of asking for several jars of Power Brew was crushed upon hearing Murong Sui Feng’s words.

At this moment, Murong Sui Feng’s expression turned solemn as he suddenly said, “Duan Ling Tian, I assumed you were attacked on the trial grounds?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded in response.

“The members of the 10,000 Leaves Sect approached the trial grounds but left shortly after. Is it true that Hou Qing Ning asked them to protect you, but you refused?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded again.

“Why did you reject him?” Murong Sui Feng asked, “Even if their Sect Leader, a King of Gods, couldn’t enter the trial grounds, his men shouldn’t have a problem with that. Did you have help or were you confident about your strength?”

“I didn’t want to owe him a favor,” Duan Ling Tian replied honestly.

“You didn’t want to owe him a favor?” Murong Sui Feng glanced at Duan Ling Tian from the corners of his eyes. “This excuse is flimsy at best. It’s more accurate to say you’re confident about your strength, right?”

“Dean Murong, since you know the answer, what’s the point of asking then?” Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile on his face, “Indeed. I was confident I’d be able to defend myself as long as they weren’t Kings of Gods.”

“Are you sure you’re only capable of defending yourself?” Murong Sui Feng looked at Duan Ling Tian knowingly. “From what I know, all of the death warriors the Zhong clan sent are dead. Even their leader, one of the strongest clan members below the stage of a King of Gods, is dead. He was an advanced god who had comprehended several Fused Profundities from the law of space. Based on the strength you displayed during your battle with Hong Jun, it would’ve been impossible for you to defeat him, let alone kill him, unless you hid your true strength during the battle.”

Duan Ling Tian was surprised that Murong Sui Feng was privy to so many matters about him. At the same time, he thought it was not that surprising since Murong Sui Feng was not only the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy but also the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect. This kind of information was not difficult for someone like Murong Sui Feng to find out.

“Did I guess right?” Murong Sui Feng asked.

Duan Ling Tian said with a faint smile, “Dean Murong, your intelligence network is rather impressive. In fact, not only were the death warriors from the Zhong clan who came to the trial grounds, but the death warriors from various king-rank forces were there as well. I tried to question them, but they all chose to commit suicide. Hence, I don’t know which specific forces they came from. I’m sure you know better than I do regarding this matter.”

“That seems like an admission,” Murong Sui Feng said with a smile, “I wanted to meet you not only to verify this matter, but also to inform you that I plan to recommend you to enter the Hidden Fog Sect as a core disciple. Are you interested?”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up immediately. He hurriedly thanked Murong Sui Feng, expressing his intention. “Thank you, Dean Murong!”

Duan Ling Tian knew it was not easy to become a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect when he had just joined the Hidden Fog Academy. A core disciple’s status was on par with an inner elder of the sect. After being a core disciple for 1,000 years, one would be promoted and become a core elder of the sect who had an even higher status.

If one did not wish to become a core elder of the Hidden Fog Sect, alternatively, one could join the emperor-rank force that controlled the Hidden Fog Sect through recommendation. Although one would have to start from the bottom again, one’s status would still be respectable. An ordinary elder of the emperor-rank force was even higher than that of a core elder of a lord-rank force, after all. Needless to say, it was not easy becoming an ordinary elder of an emperor-rank force. Even with the recommendation from the Hidden Fog Sect, one would need to pass a test first. Failing to pass the test meant one could only stay in the Hidden Fog Sect.

Murong Sui Feng said, “However, to become a core disciple, you’ll have to pass a series of tests first even with my recommendation. You’ll still be accepted into the sect even if you fail the test. However, you’ll only be an inner disciple of the sect. You can naturally take the test again in the future to become a core disciple.”

“I understand, Dean Murong,” Duan Ling Tian said. It was only normal that he would only be able to become a core disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect after they determined his strength. This was the same even if he joined an emperor-rank force.

“You should prepare yourself for the test during this period of time. I’ll ask the sect to send someone to meet you after a month,” Murong Sui Feng said as he poured another cup of wine for himself and Duan Ling Tian.

“Thank you, Dean Murong,” Duan Ling Tian said.

Following that, the duo’s conversations leaned toward more casual topics.

Murong Sui Feng tried to find out more about Duan Ling Tian’s origins.

Duan Ling Tian naturally did not dare to lie and say he was from the Glorious Heaven Sect like before. After all, Murong Sui Feng’s status meant that it was likely he was well-connected and well-informed.

Duan Ling Tian sighed before he said, “Dean Murong, it’s been a while since I came to the Profound Energy Land, but I’ve never told anyone about my origins before. Since you’ve taken such good care of me, I naturally can’t lie to you. To be honest, I’m not a native of the Profound Energy Land.”

“You’re not a native of the Profound Energy Land?” Murong Sui Feng was stunned by this revelation.

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Then where are you from?” Murong Sui Feng asked.

“I’m from a Devata Realm,” Duan Ling Tian replied truthfully.

“A Devata Realm?” Murong Sui Feng chuckled. “I see. To be so talented at such a young age, you must have an extraordinary background.”

Murong Sui Feng did not doubt that Duan Ling Tian was slightly below the age of 3,000. In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian must have come to the Profound Energy Land before the passages from the Realms of Gods and Devata Realms were sealed.

“So you’ve been here 1,000 years?” Murong Sui Feng asked.

“1,000 years?” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“So you’re here for fewer than 700 years? You came shortly before the passages were sealed?” Murong Sui Feng asked again.

“No.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head again. “I’ve only been here for a few years.”

“A couple of years?” Murong Sui Feng frowned. “How can that be? With the Realm Battlefield and the sealed passages, that’s impossible, right? How did you end up in the Profound Energy Land under such circumstances?”

“To be honest, I’m not sure if I should consider myself fortunate,” Duan Ling Tian said with a bitter smile, “When I was cultivating in the Land of the Dead, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, a spatial tear suddenly appeared and pulled me into the space turbulence. When I regained consciousness, I found myself in a foreign place. Slowly, I came to realize I had been accidentally sent to Realm Battlefield due to the space turbulence.”

“So that’s how you ended up in the Realm Battlefield... I’ve heard of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, but I didn’t know the space there is so unstable,” Murong Sui Feng said, “However, based on your strength, you’re lucky to have escaped from the Realm Battlefield alive and arrived in the Profound Energy Land.”

“Frankly speaking, if I weren’t lucky enough to have met a kind senior who sent me to one of the bases in the Realm Battlefield, I wouldn’t have survived,” Duan Ling Tian said with a bitter smile.

“You’re truly lucky,” Murong Sui Feng nodded with a smile as he said, “Not everyone in the Realm Battlefield is kind, after all. Instead, they’re a rarity there.”

"I agree." Duan Ling Tian nodded. He said determinedly, "Hence, I'm determined to return the favor of the kind senior."

A hint of admiration could be seen in Murong Sui Feng's eyes when he saw Duan Ling Tian was truly determined to repay his benefactor's kindness. For this reason, his impression of Duan Ling Tian rose again.

If it were not for his vow to never again accept a disciple, Murong Sui Feng who had taken Duan Ling Tian as his disciple. He was sure this extraordinarily talented genius from a Devata Realm would reach great heights in the Realm of Gods if given a chance.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian discovered Murong Sui Feng had been telling the truth. Now that he was having his fourth cup of Power Brew, it was no longer effective.

The duo continued to chat for a little while more before Duan Ling Tian finally bade farewell to Murong Sui Feng.

Murong Sui Feng summoned Yu Qian Shan and told Yu Qian Shan to lead Duan Ling Tian back to the Ten Stars students' courtyards.

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When Duan Ling Tian returned to his courtyard, the Ten Stars students were still excitedly speculating how many points Duan Ling Tian had accumulated during the trial.

"I'm very curious about Senior Brother Duan's points!"

"I can't wait for tomorrow to come!"

Chapter 3653: Xue Hai Chuan

Duan Ling Tian could not help but shake his head when he heard his fellow students' conversation. He thought that it was likely that there would be an uproar tomorrow when his points were announced.

'The highest points in the past were only more than 20,000 points. I could've avoided this commotion if I'd spoken to Ding Yan and Hou Qing Ning about this matter...'

After Duan Ling Tian entered his room, he sat on his bed and brought out a stalk of grass that glowed with a green light. The grass' edge was like a sawtooth. Despite being plucked, it was still brimming with vitality. The stalk of grass was none other than his reward for ranking first in the trial, the Dragon Pattern Divine Grass.

Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy, had told Yu Qian Shan to give him the Dragon Pattern Divine Grass before he returned to his courtyard.

Duan Ling Tian knew Murong Sui Feng showed so much care for him due to his talent.

Although he had told Murong Sui Feng about his origin, he naturally did not mention he had only managed to go to the Realm Battlefield with the help of the Five Divine Elements in his body.

The Five Divine Elements were not only highly coveted in the Devata Realms, but in the Realms of Gods as well. Most people would stop at nothing to get their hands on any of the Five Divine Elements, especially those with a high form. After all, with the Five Divine Elements, one's chances of becoming a supreme powerhouse were very high. How could Emperors of Gods or Supreme Gods not be interested in something like that?

For this reason, Duan Ling Tian knew he could never expose the existence of the Five Divine Elements in his body.

He was not afraid of Murong Sui Feng digging deeper into his story. Even if Murong Sui Feng managed to go to the Land of the Dead, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, it would be at least 300 years in the future. At that time, even if the space in the Land of the Dead was stable, he could brush it off as the space there only being unstable due to the collision between the Realms of Gods. Most importantly, even if Murong Sui Feng found out about his lie at that time, it would not affect him at all.

Duan Ling Tian had decided to reveal part of his origin to Murong Sui Feng to prevent the Hidden Fog Sect from suspecting him. After all, it was only normal that the sect would be wary of someone whose identity was a mystery.

'The turning point for me will come in a month's time. With the Hidden Fog Sect as a springboard, I'll be able to enter the emperor-rank force in the future...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes lit up.

Then, he shifted his attention to the Dragon Pattern Divine Grass. He imbued the grass with his Divine Energy, and what looked like dragon scales began to surface on the grass.

'So that's how the grass got its name. No wonder Teacher Yu told me to imbue the grass with my Divine Energy before consuming it to unleash its full potential.'

Duan Ling Tian wasted no time in ingesting the Dragon Pattern Divine Grass. After that, he closed his eyes and began to cultivate. Since he had blocked out everything that might interfere with his cultivation, the night was peaceful.

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On the contrary, the Ten Stars student could barely catch a wink of sleep. Their curiosity about Duan Ling Tian's points that even shocked Yu Qian Shan kept them up all night.

Since word about it had spread, the other students were just as curious.

Yu Qian Shang's strength was only second to Murong Sui Feng, the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy, after all. How could they not be curious when Duan Ling Tian's points were able to elicit surprise from Yu Qian Shan?

It was not an exaggeration to say that all the students of the Hidden Fog Academy were eagerly waiting to find out about Duan Ling Tian's points.

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Meanwhile, Chu Feng Yang had gone to Yun Hui's cultivation ground for a visit.

“Junior Uncle.”

Yun Hui was Chu Feng Yang’s junior uncle. He was also the teacher that was assigned to monitor the Ten Stars assessment.

Chu Feng Yang was only confident about Duan Ling Tian’s battles against Ding Yan and Hong Jun because he had heard about Duan Ling Tian’s strength from Yun Hui.

“Boy, what brings you here?” A kind and gentle smile appeared on Yun Hui’s face when he saw Chu Feng Yang. Before Chu Feng Yang could reply to his question, he added, “Did you come because of Duan Ling Tian?”

“Junior uncle, you must have heard about what happened then,” Chu Feng Yang said with a sheepish smile. Then, he said, “Junior uncle, I came to ask about Duan Ling Tian’s points. Everyone in the academy is wondering about the points he accumulated during the trial.”

“What makes you think I know?” Yun Hui asked.

“Junior uncle, Teacher Yu will definitely tell you if you ask him. After all, you’re his senior, and he respects you a lot since you saved his life when he was young,” Chu Feng Yang said as he looked at Yun Hui with an anticipatory gaze.

“I planned to ask him about it, but the dean has ordered him not to reveal Duan Ling Tian’s points. Hence, there’s nothing I can tell you. In my opinion, Duan Ling Tian’s points must be incredibly shocking,” Yun Hui said with a sigh.

Chu Feng Yang was taken aback. “The dean intervened? That’s unusual.”

It was unprecedented for Murong Sui Feng to intervene in such a trivial matter, after all.

“Indeed.” Yun Hui nodded. “I suspect Duan Ling Tian must have exceeded 50,000 points.”

“50,000 points?! T-that’s impossible, right?!” Chu Feng Yang exclaimed in shock.

“Well, we’ll find out tomorrow,” Yun Hui said.

Chu Feng Yang nodded. Then, as though he had just recalled something, he asked, “Junior uncle, I heard that the dean plans to let Duan Ling Tian join the Hidden Fog Sect as a core disciple. Is that true?”

“Yes.” Yun Hui nodded. “He has already spoken to the sect. After a month, the sect will send someone here to bring Duan Ling Tian to the sect.”

“A month? That’s fast!” Chu Feng Yang said, surprised, “From what I know, the test for core disciples will be held half a year later, right?”

Yun Hui said with a nod, “That’s right. I think the dean plans to let Duan Ling Tian enjoy the cultivation resources of an inner disciple while Duan Ling Tian waits to take the test to become a core disciple. After all, the cultivation resources of an inner disciple are much better than that of a Ten Stars student.”

“That’s true,” Chu Feng Yang said with anticipation flashing in his eyes, “Duan Ling Tian might just be able to pass the test and become a core disciple as well...”

“Perhaps...” Yun Hui nodded.

“Junior uncle, you don’t think Duan Ling Tian will be able to pass the test?” Chu Feng Yang asked. He was confused when he saw Yun Hui’s reaction.

“That’s not it. However, due to his cultivation base, the test will be more difficult for him compared to those who are already Kings of Gods. Although the test varies depending on one’s cultivation base, you should know that there weren’t any inner disciples who managed to pass the test over the past 10,000 years,” Yun Hui said as he shook his head.

Chu Feng Yan fell silent upon hearing Yun Hui’s words. He would have forgotten about that if Yun Hui did not mention it.

There were many inner disciples who participated in the test to become core disciples in the Hidden Fog Sect. However, over the past 10,000 years, no one managed to pass the test. For this reason, there were no more than 100 core disciples in the Hidden Fog Sect. Moreover, due to the difficulty of the test, even the weakest core disciple was a rudimentary King of Gods.

“I hope Duan Ling Tian will pass the core disciple test. If he manages to pass the test, he might just become the next Xue Hai Chuan!” Yun Hui said with a hint of excitement.

“Xue Hai Chuan...” Chu Feng Yang’s eyes lit up when he heard the name Xue Hai Chuan.

Xue Hai Chuan was about the same age as Chu Feng Yang. However, he had to address Xue Hai Chuan as senior when they were in the sect. Xue Hai Chuan was the last person to become a core disciple in the Hidden Fog Sect. He was now a respectable elder in the emperor-rank force that controlled the Hidden Fog Sect.. Even the Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect was respectful to Xue Hai Chuan.

Chapter 3654: Everyone is Shocked by the Results

As soon as dawn broke, figures began to emerge from the Ten Stars students’ courtyards, making their way to the Ten Stars Pavilion.

“The rankings will be released in an hour! Let’s head over there and wait.”

“I wonder how many points Senior Brother Duan accumulated. Teacher Yu was shocked after all.”

“We’ll have our answer in an hour.”

At this time, Yuan Lei was the only teacher on duty in the Ten Stars Pavilion. Initially, he had looked down on Duan Ling Tian due to his relationship with Ding Yan and Hong Jun. However, he no longer doubted Duan Ling Tian after Duan Ling Tian’s crushing victory over Hong Jun.

“Teacher Yuan Lei, the rankings will be released in an hour, but do you know how many points Duan Ling Tian accumulated?” Ding Yan asked. He stared at Yuan Lei intently, looking for changes in Yuan Lei’s expression.

“Get lost!” Yuan Lei said irritably, “What makes you think I know? Only Duan Ling Tian, Teacher Yu, and the dean know how many points Duan Ling Tian accumulated. Even I have to wait for the rankings to be released just like you.”

Ding Yan was disappointed when he heard Yuan Lei’s words.

At this time, a group of people had already gathered in one corner of the Ten Stars Pavilion, in front of a Formation. A blank screen that would show the rankings of the students hung in the air. Needless to say, all of these people had gathered here to find out about Duan Ling Tian’s points.

About half an hour later, the top five Ten Stars students before Duan Ling Tian’s appearance showed up as well, drawing everyone’s attention.

Following that, the teachers began to show up as well.

“How crowded! I guess everyone’s here to see Duan Ling Tian’s points.”

When it was 15 minutes before the rankings would be released, everyone, except for Duan Ling Tian and Zhong Ke Qi, the Young Master of the Zhong clan, had gathered.

“Duan Ling Tian isn’t here yet?”

“Zhong Ke Qi isn’t here as well...”

Since there were not many Ten Stars students, they could tell who was absent with just a quick look.

“Teacher Chu is here!”

All of the students recognized Chu Feng Yang since he was frequently on duty in the Ten Stars Pavilion.

The Ten Stars students and the teachers waited eagerly as they looked at the blank screen with anticipation shining in their eyes. Although it was just 15 minutes, it felt like years to them.

“Just a few more breaths left...”

The entire place fell silent. Soon after, the names of the Ten Stars students began to appear on the screen.

The names of those ranked in the bottom appeared first and slowly made its way up.

“Hong Jun accumulated 17,821 points and is ranked sixth.”

“Senior Hong Jun ranked the lowest among the six strongest senior brothers... There’s only five of them left, including Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian.”

One of the strongest Ten Stars students who were on par with Hong Jun and Hou Qing Ning ranked fifth and scored about slightly over 200 points more than Hong Jun with 18,030 points.

The student who ranked fourth had scored less than 100 points more than the student ranked fifth while the student ranked third scored more than 300 points compared to the student ranked fourth.

“Senior Brother Hou Qing Ning is in second place! He could’ve ranked first if it weren’t for Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian!”

“He scored more than 20,000 points!”

A commotion broke out when Hou Qing Ning’s name appeared on the screen. After all, the previous student who ranked first only scored close to 20,000 points.

“He scored more than 20,000 points, but he’s not in first place. Senior Brother Hou Qing Ning must feel very dissatisfied.”

Many of the Ten Stars students looked at Hou Qing Ning curiously. However, they discovered Hou Qing Ning did not look unhappy or dissatisfied. He only looked at the screen expressionlessly.

“Senior Brother Duan’s points are about to be shown!”

The crowd held their breaths as they waited for Duan Ling Tian’s name to appear. Silence continued to reign over the place even when Duan Ling Tian’s points were revealed.

Everyone looked at each other in shock and disbelief when they finally regained their senses. Then, an uproar broke out immediately.

“H-how’s this possible?!”

“Is this real?”

“These points are heaven-defying!”

“Duan Ling Tian...” A bitter smile could be seen on Hou Qing Ning’s face at this moment.

Ding Yan had still yet to recover from his shock.

Even the teachers looked at each other incredulously when they regained their senses.

Chu Feng Yang’s felt his eyebrows twitching as he looked at Duan Ling Tian’s points. “I thought junior uncle might have overestimated Duan Ling Tian when he speculated Duan Ling Tian might have accumulated more than 50,000 points... No, all of us have underestimated him...”

“D-Duan Ling Tian is a monster...” Yuan Lei said tremblingly.

The teachers nodded in agreement.

Duan Ling Tian had scored 125,613 points! He had 100,000 points more than Hou Qing Ning who was ranked second.

“This has to be the craziest score in the history of the Hidden Fog Academy, right?” one of the Ten Stars students asked.

“The highest points recorded in history was almost 30,000 points. Not only did Senior Brother Duan break this record, but his points are four times greater!”

“Senior Brother Duan is truly a monstrous talent!”

“I didn’t expect to witness such a historical moment before I graduate from the Hidden Fog Academy. I can brag about this for the rest of my life!”

The Ten Stars Pavilion grew lively again as students and teachers discussed the rankings among themselves. To be precise, they were discussing Duan Ling Tian's points.

Among everyone present, only one person seemed to be in a terrible mood. It was none other than Zhong He Liang, a disciple of the Zhong clan. Upon seeing the results, he had sent a message to Zhong Ke Qi, informing him of the matter.

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"More than 120,000 points?"

Zhong Ke Qi, who was lying on the bed, sprung to his feet immediately with a shocked expression on his face. Soon after, his expression turned unsightly. He did not go to the Ten Stars Pavilion not because he was afraid Duan Ling Tian might attack him. He just did not want to see Duan Ling Tian being the focus of everyone's attention. Moreover, based on Yu Qian Shan's expression, he could tell Duan Ling Tian would definitely rank first. Since he saw Duan Ling Tian as his enemy, how could he feel good seeing Duan Ling Tian doing so well?

Nevertheless, he had instructed Zhong He Liang to inform him about the results as soon as the rankings were released. Who knew the news would shock him so much?

Chapter 3655: The Man from the Hidden Fog Sect

When news of Duan Ling Tian accumulating more than 20,000 points during the trial of the Ten Stars students spread, it caused a huge uproar in the Hidden Fog Academy.

"Heavens! Senior Brother Duan is a monster! Previously, the highest points for the trial were nearly 30,000 points, but he actually accumulated more than 120,000 points!"

"He's crazy! Is he even human?"

On the other hand, the teachers were calmer despite being shocked by the reveal as well.

"In fact, one of the factors for Duan Ling Tian's achievement has something to do with the monsters arranged by the sect as well. After all, even the strongest monster is weaker than Hong Jun and the other four. The monsters might not be easy for the other five to deal with, but they're nothing to Duan Ling Tian."

"Indeed. During his battle with Hong Jun, Hong Jun used his divine artifact and managed to barely withstand his attack. If he uses a divine artifact, he'd be able to kill the strongest monster on the trial grounds in a few breaths. It'd be even faster if he had launched a sneak attack."

"That's right. It's not really surprising he managed to accumulate so many points."

"Nevertheless, accumulating more than 120,000 points is still an incredible feat."

The teachers calmed down even more when they found reasons for Duan Ling Tian's overwhelming points.

Similarly, the students were no longer as shocked after listening to the teachers' analysis. Even so, in their eyes, Duan Ling Tian was someone they could only dream about becoming. The gap between them was too big, after all. Duan Ling Tian was not even 2,800 years old, and yet, he was so strong. They had never met anyone as talented or strong as him.

"Senior Brother Duan has made history in the Hidden Fog Academy. I wonder how long it'll take for someone to break his record."

"Perhaps, there might not be anyone who's able to break it."

...

Duan Ling Tian was fully immersed in his cultivation. He could feel the change in his Divine Energy. This meant that he was close to becoming an advanced god and that a breakthrough was just around the corner.

At this time, he was suddenly woken up by Chu Feng Yang.

He had a good impression of Chu Feng Yang after interacting with Chu Feng Yang many times.

He asked curiously, "Teacher Chu, has it been a month since the trial ended?"

"That's right," Chu Feng Yang nodded with a smile as he said, "You haven't forgotten the dean's words, right? The person the sect sent arrived yesterday. However, my junior uncle drank with him all night so he didn't ask for you."

Chu Feng Yang continued to say, "The sect sent an inner elder here. I address him as senior uncle. He's had a good relationship with my junior uncle since they were both young. In fact, they entered the Hidden Fog Academy and the Hidden Fog Sect together. They even became inner elders together."

Duan Ling Tian knew Chu Feng Yang's junior uncle was Yun Hui, the teacher responsible for the Ten Stars students' assessment.

"I was with them when they were drinking yesterday. My junior uncle told my senior uncle that he was very fond of you. He asked my senior uncle to look after you when you join the sect. So, if you run into any trouble, you can speak to my senior uncle," Chu Feng Yang said.

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Yun Hui, who looked strict and serious, would do this for him.

As Duan Ling Tian and Chu Feng Yang walked, Chu Feng Yang said, "Before I bring you to my senior uncle, you should bid farewell to the dean."

After emerging from the dense white fog from the Formation that shrouded the Ten Stars students' courtyards, Chu Feng Yang led Duan Ling Tian to Murong Sui Feng's cultivation ground.

Murong Sui Feng smiled slightly when he saw Duan Ling Tian before he said, "Duan Ling Tian, after arriving at the sect, you'll have to wait a while for the core disciples' test. During that time, you should try your hardest to break through and become an advanced god. With that, you'll have a higher chance of passing the test."

Although the core disciples' test for intermediate gods was easier than that for advanced gods, it was not by much.

"If you pass the test and become a core disciple, I'll give you a gift," Murong Sui Feng said.

Upon hearing this, Chu Feng Yang grinned. He could barely contain his excitement. He said enviously, "Duan Ling Tian, you have to work hard. The dean's gifts are always precious."

Duan Ling Tian smiled at Murong Sui Feng as he said, "Dean Murong, I'll be even more motivated if the gift is the recipe for the Power Brew."

There were not many things that could hold Duan Ling Tian's interest. Hence, he did not think any of Murong Sui Feng's gifts would interest him unless they were divine pills, divine fruits, or divine herbs that were helpful to his cultivation. He was not interested in divine artifacts or cultivation methods since the ones in his possession would definitely be superior to whatever was given to him. After all, his Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword was a prominent-grade divine artifact, and his cultivation method was a supreme cultivation method left behind by a supreme powerhouse. As long as he was diligent, and his talent kept up with his growth, he would definitely become a supreme powerhouse in the future.

"The recipe for the Power Brew?" Murong Sui Feng was briefly stunned. When he regained his senses, he shook his head and said, "Is that all? If you really want the recipe for the Power Brew, I can give it to you now."

Murong Sui Feng did not wait for Duan Ling Tian's reply and brought a jade token out as soon as he finished speaking. Then, he sent a strand of his Divine Energy into the jade token. After he retracted his Divine Energy, he handed the jade token to Duan Ling Tian and said, "This is the recipe for the Power Brew. Once you become a core disciple, I'll give you another gift."

"Thank you, Dean Murong!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened when he looked at the jade token that contained the recipe for the Power Brew. He no longer refused Murong Sui Feng. After all, he could not tell Murong Sui Feng he was not interested in the gift unless it was something that could improve his cultivation. If he told Murong Sui Feng such a thing, it would clearly imply that he had superior divine artifacts and cultivation methods.

"I won't be able to help you much after you join the Hidden Fog Sect. You can only depend on yourself. After all, I'm the dean of the Hidden Fog Academy and only the Vice Sect Leader of the Hidden Fog Sect. I don't have a free run of the sect like I do with the academy. The guardians of the sects have the same status as I do. There are also a few other Vice Sect Leaders like me. Many of the guardians are also the deans for the academies in other cities like Skywind City," Murong Sui Feng said, "In the sect, the members are all in different factions. This includes inner elders, inner disciples, core elders, and core disciples as well. Unless you join a faction, you'll first be associated with the Skywind City Progeny."

Murong Sui Feng paused briefly before he said, "In the sect, I can help you mediate if you have conflicts with those from the Skywind City Progeny. However, there's nothing much I can do if you have conflicts with those from other factions."

"I understand." Duan Ling Tian was rather surprised by Murong Sui Feng's words. He did not expect it to be complicated in the Hidden Fog Sect. Nevertheless, he did not dwell on the matter. In his opinion, all he needed to do was to play his part well. He would take the initiative to cause trouble. Needless to say, he would not back down if someone came to look for trouble with him.

"Alright. You can leave now. Don't make Elder Tang Chun wait for too long."

After bidding farewell to Murong Sui Feng, Chu Feng Yang led Duan Ling Tian to Tang Chun who was staying with Yun Hui.

"Teacher Yun," Duan Ling Tian called out and bowed when he saw Yun Hui. Then, he shifted his eyes to Tang Chun and said, "Greetings, Elder Tang Chun."

Tang Chun was a tall and sturdy old man with messy white hair that lay on his back. With his body and hair, he gave off a rather unrestrained aura. At this moment, he was sizing Duan Ling Tian up. After a while, he said, "Duan Ling Tian? You're a very handsome young man. Yun Hui has spoken to me and asked me to look after you. If you encounter any problem in the sect, don't hesitate to speak to me. Even if I can't solve it, I can still help you think of a solution."

Tang Chun's voice was rough and loud when he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian had a good impression of Tang Chun. He could tell Tang Chun was an honest and straightforward person. This type of person was worth being friends with. They were usually kind and would never scheme against their friends.

Duan Ling Tian smiled and said, "Thank you, Elder Tang Chun."

Tang Chun grinned and nudged Yun Hui. "I'll spar with you next time. I'll bring him back to the sect first. When you have the time, come back to the sect to have a drink with me."

"Alright, you old geezer. You can look for me in Skywind City when you're free as well!"

As Duan Ling Tian stood at the side and watched the two old men's friendly banter, he could not help but think of his old friends. He had not seen them for a long time now.. Some of them had even died.

Chapter 3656: The Zhong Clan's Trap

Tang Chun was very honest. Even after leaving the Hidden Fog Academy and Yun Hui was not around, he was still very friendly toward Duan Ling Tian.

"Duan Ling Tian, it's the first time a genius like you has appeared in Skywind City's Hidden Fog Academy. With this, the Skywind City Progeny will be thrust into the spotlight."

After leaving the Hidden Fog Academy, Tang Chun was not in a hurry to bring Duan Ling Tian to the Hidden Fog Sect. Instead, he brought Duan Ling Tian to a restaurant first.

"Elder Tang Chun, you're overpraising me." Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled.

"If you maintain this momentum, even if you can't become a core disciple now, you'll definitely become a core disciple when you're a King of Gods," Tang Chun said with a smile, "As a core disciple, the sect won't hold back in nurturing you. You'll also enjoy the same treatment as the inner elders of the sect."

Then, Tang Chun said enviously, "For me and Yun Hui, our talents are considered mediocre in the Hidden Fog Sect. It's only through many years of hard work that we managed to arrive at where we are today. Once you become a core disciple, you'll be able to receive resources equal to ours without so many years of hard work."

After that, Tang Chun looked at the crowded restaurant and said, "The signature dishes of this restaurant aren't bad. Every time I come to Skywind City, I'd come here to eat. Let's have a meal before we start our journey."

Duan Ling Tian naturally had no objections to this.

When they walked into the restaurant, Tang Chun discovered there were no private rooms left.

"Sir, I'm really sorry. It's lunchtime so the rooms are all occupied. We only have a few vacant tables left in the common area. Do you want to dine in the common area instead?"

Tang Chun's frown eased when he heard the waiter's words. He said, "Alright. Please arrange a table for both of us."

"Please come with me."

The waiter led the duo to a table before he handed them the menu. While they were looking at the menu, he brought a pot of tea and teacups over.

Tang Chun said with a smile, "Like I said, their signature dishes are quite good. You should try them."

Duan Ling Tian nodded. "Since you highly recommend them, I'm sure they'll be tasty. Coincidentally, I'm hungry as well."

At this time, a group of people emerged from one of the private rooms. Duan Ling Tian would have recognized a few of the people if he had seen them. One of them was Zhong Ke Qi, the Young Master of the Zhong clan, who was also a Ten Stars student of the Hidden Fog Academy.

Zhong Ke Qi walked in the lead as five people followed behind him. They all looked to be around his age.

One of them said, "Young Master Qi, it's rare for you to be able to obtain the academy's permission to come out and see us. You should stay for a few more days. There's no need to rush back."

"No," Zhong Ke Qi shook his head and said, "I only took two days off, and today is the last day. I have to go back. When we meet again, I'll treat all of you to a nice meal."

These people were not from the Zhong clan. There were disciples from small forces under the Zhong clan. They would usually follow Zhong Ke Qi around and flatter him endlessly.

Needless to say, Zhong Ke Qi enjoyed this feeling of superiority.

"Young Master Qi," another person asked in a deep voice, "Should we think of a way to help you get rid of that jerk Duan Ling Tian who offended you and the Zhong clan? It'd be bad once he joins the Hidden Fog Sect."

"Do you think we don't want to kill him?" Zhong Ke Qi said angrily as he turned back to glare at the person who had spoken, "When do you think we'll have a chance to kill him if he doesn't leave the

Hidden Fog Academy? During the Ten Stars students' trial, Yu Qianshan was there so even our clan's Kings of Gods couldn't do anything to him."

Zhong Ke Qi had asked to leave the Hidden Fog Academy for a few days because he had been feeling depressed in the academy. Although no one made fun of him for being defeated by Duan Ling Tian and having to give up his prominent-grade courtyard, he still could not let go of his hatred toward Duan Ling Tian. He had taken two days off to relax and also to ask the clan if they had any plans to deal with Duan Ling Tian.

When he learned that the clan was only going to deal with Duan Ling Tian after Duan Ling Tian joined the Hidden Fog Sect, he was in a bad mood. Hence, he invited a few people out to eat with him.

Zhong Ke Qi led the others out, walking through a long corridor before finally arriving at the common area. To leave the restaurant, everyone would have to cross the common area.

Whenever Zhong Ke Qi walked past the restaurant's staff members, they would all greet him respectfully and address him as Young Master Zhong. He naturally ignored them and made his way to the exit.

At this time, one of the people standing behind Zhong Ke Qi looked at the crowded restaurant and said, "The business is booming in this restaurant. Even the common area is packed."

Zhong Ke Qi instinctively swept his eyes across the common area. However, his gaze was soon fixed to a spot. He had seen a familiar figure who had a prominent feature in his nightmares recently.

'Duan Ling Tian? Why isn't he in the academy? Did he ask for leave as well?' Zhong Ke Qi thought to himself. Then, he looked at the other person sitting across from Duan Ling Tian, confirming the other person was not a teacher of the Hidden Fog Academy. He thought to himself, 'Is that person his elder? Did he ask for leave because his elder came to visit him in Skywind City? Is it a coincidence that they came to our clan's restaurant?'

Zhong Ke Qi inhaled deeply before he turned around and returned to the long corridor he had just left. His actions puzzled the people with him and the staff of the restaurant.

One of them asked, "What's wrong, Young Master Qi?"

"Shut up!" Zhong Ke Qi said coldly.

The other person naturally did not dare to speak again.

When an idea appeared in his mind, Zhong Ke Qi hurriedly sent a few messages through the Soul Pearls in his spatial ring. The recipients of the messages were his father, Zhong Er; the Second Master of the Zhong clan, Zhong Da; his uncle and the Clan Leader of the Zhong clan, and his other two uncles; Zhong San and Zhong Si.

...

Zhong Da and Zhong Er had both returned to the Zhong clan's estate at this time.

When the four brothers learned that Duan Ling Tian was with his elder in the Zhong clan's restaurant, killing intent flashed in their eyes.

Zhong Da immediately sent a message to Zhong Si, asking, "Zhong Si, are you at the restaurant?"

"Yes, I am," Zhong Si replied immediately, "I'm with Ke Qi."

"Send your people here to get the Formation compass. We need to seal the restaurant and prevent news from leaking. We'll trap Duan Ling Tian and kill him. Is he in the common area? Arrange for him to eat in a private room. After that, set up a Formation to prevent him from leaving and isolate him from the outside world."

"Yes, brother," Zhong Si replied respectfully.

Zhong Da then sent a message to Zhong Ke Qi, asking, "Ke Qi, are you sure the person with him is his elder, not a teacher of the Hidden Fog Academy?"

Zhong Ke Qi replied confidently, "Yes! Uncle, I've been in the academy for almost 2,000 years now. I'm familiar with all the teachers at the academy. I'm sure I've never seen the person with him before. He's definitely not a teacher of the academy!"

"Alright," Zhong Da said, "I'll send your father there now. Tell your fourth uncle to wait until your father arrives before he does anything. Before we set up the Formation, make sure you don't expose your presence or let Duan Ling Tian discover our plan. After killing him, we must destroy his corpses and get rid of everything that might connect his death to us. Without evidence, if someone saw him entering our restaurant, even the dean can't do anything to us. This is a good chance for us. Perhaps, today will be able to get rid of that nuisance."

Zhong Da was very cautious. Based on his words, it was clear he regarded Duan Ling Tian as an enemy as well.

...

Meanwhile, Zhong Ke Qi's eyes lit up when he heard Zhong Da's message. Then, he conveyed Zhong Da's message to Zhong Si.

After speaking to his staff, Zhong Si learned that Duan Ling Tian and his elder had initially asked for a private room. Hence, he called the young man who waited on the duo earlier over and said, "Tell the two guests you served earlier that we have a vacant private room. Tell them that you felt apologetic so you did your best to find them a private room."

Although this excuse was rather shabby, Zhong Si felt that as long as Duan Ling Tian did not know the restaurant belonged to the Zhong clan, Duan Ling Tian would not be suspicious.

As Zhong Si expected, Duan Ling Tian did not think much of it when the waiter told him that there was a private room available.

Even Tang Chun did not find the waiter's words suspicious..

Chapter 3657: Sudden Intrusion By Uninvited Guests

After being seated in a private room, Tang Chun ordered another round of dishes instead of having the waiter bring in the dishes from the common area. Since the waiter had gone to great lengths to secure a room for them, he decided to spare the waiter from having to bring the dishes into the room.

“Thank you, sir.” The waiter bowed to express his gratitude. Before he left, he said, “Please wait a moment, sir. I’ll place your order now.”

After the waiter left, Tang Chun asked Duan Ling Tian, “Duan Ling Tian, are you married? I have a beautiful niece. If you’re interested...”

Duan Ling Tian hurriedly interjected with a wry smile on his face, “Elder Tang Chun, I’m already married with children.”

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Tang Chun, who was just chatting with him about another matter, would suddenly switch the topic and become a matchmaker.

Tang Chun, clearly undeterred by Duan Ling Tian’s words, said, “It’s normal for capable men to have multiple wives and concubines.”

“Elder Tang Chun, I really want to marry again,” Duan Ling Tian said firmly.

Upon seeing this, Tang Chun gave up on introducing his niece to Duan Ling Tian.

...

At this time, one of the Zhong clan’s men had already collected the Formation compass and were on their way back to the restaurant.

Similarly, Zhong Er was also on his way to the restaurant.

The man who was sent to retrieve the Formation compass was an old man. He was also Zhong Si’s right-hand man. Duan Ling Tian would have found him familiar. After all, during the Zhou clan’s auction, the old man had bribed a worker at the Zhou clan’s auction house and entered Duan Ling Tian’s room at that time.

The Formation compass was an heirloom of the Zhou clan. The Formation would cut off all means of communication once it was set up.

When the old man handed the Formation compass to Zhong Si, Zhong Si said, “Let’s set up the Formation first.”

While Zhong Si was setting up the Formation, Zhong Ke Qi’s eyes flashed with killing intent as he thought to himself, ‘You must die today, Duan Ling Tian!’

In Zhong Ke Qi’s opinion, there was no way Duan Ling Tian could escape death today.

A month ago, after learning Duan Ling Tian had accumulated more than 120,000 points during the trial, he had fallen into despair. He worried for his future now that he had made an enemy out of such a genius. The only way was to kill Duan Ling Tian before Duan Ling Tian grew into his potential.

Although the Zhong clan wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian badly, they knew there was nothing much they could do if Duan Ling Tian stayed in the Hidden Fog Academy or if the teachers were by his side.

None of them expected Duan Ling Tian to show up at their restaurant without any protection. For them, this was a golden opportunity to get rid of Duan Ling Tian. After all, they knew that with Duan Ling Tian's age and talent, he would definitely grow very strong in the future. At that time, the Zhong clan would be in trouble. Hence, they were rather eager to get rid of him.

"Fourth uncle, is it done?" Zhong Ke Qi's eyes lit up when he saw Zhong Si returning.

"Yes." Zhong Si nodded with a smile before he asked, "Where are those people with you? They didn't leave, did they?"

"No." Zhong Ke Qi shook his head. "I left them in the room where we ate earlier. I didn't tell them about our plan. I only said I had something to attend to and told them to wait for me there."

"Well done." Zhong Si nodded. His eyes shone cruelly as he said, "We just need to wait for your father to help us set up another Formation. When the two Formations are up, we'll be able to get rid of that nuisance Duan Ling Tian!"

Zhong Ke Qi's face had turned slightly red from the excitement. He smiled and said, "We're about to achieve our goal! I heard that reality is often the opposite of our dreams."

Recently, Zhong Ke Qi had been having nightmares about Duan Ling Tian killing him and massacring those from the Zhong clan. He would wake up, drenched in sweat. In fact, over the past few days, he had not been sleeping. He spent most of his time cultivating instead.

At this time, Zhong Er finally arrived. Although he and Zhong Ke Qi looked rather alike, their temperaments were completely different.

Zhong Ke Qi was young and still had the unrestrained aura that usually came with youth.

On the other hand, Zhong Er had a steady and mature air about him. Moreover, with just a glance, one could tell he had high status.

"Father! You're here!" Zhong Ke Qi's eyes lit up as soon as he saw his father.

Zhong Er nodded to Zhong Ke Qi. A rare smile appeared on his usually expressionless face. Then, he said, "Ke Qi, it's all thanks to you that we're given this golden opportunity. Otherwise, who knows how long we'd have to wait to kill. Now, which room is he in?"

After listening to Zhong Si and Zhong Ke Qi's words, killing intent shone in Zhong Er's eyes. He asked, "Did you probe the cultivation base of the old man with him?"

"No." Zhong Si shook his head. "Second Brother, since there's no King of Gods among us, we didn't dare to rashly use our Divine Consciousness to probe him. It'd be terrible if we accidentally alert them"

"Good, you did well." Zhong Er nodded. Then, he raised his hand.

A Formation compass flew up, setting up a Formation that covered the room, causing the room to tremble slightly.

...

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian and Tang Chun who were in the room had felt the tremble as well.

Tang Chun frowned. As he was about to extend his Divine Consciousness, the door opened with a loud bang.

Four people rushed into the room at once. Their speed was not fast nor did they look special. However, one of them caught Duan Ling Tian's eyes immediately.

'Zhong Ke Qi?' Duan Ling Tian recognized Zhong Ke Qi as soon as he saw Zhong Ke Qi. He found one of the old men rather familiar, but he could not remember where or when he had seen the old man before.

On the contrary, the old man did not have Duan Ling Tian's problem. He could clearly remember Duan Ling Tian. His expression changed drastically as his eyes widened in terror. He recalled the purple-clad young man in room nine in the Zhou clan's auction house.

The old man had gone to room nine to probe the young man who had successfully bid for the three divine pills, the Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Pills, against Zhong Si. Zhong Si had planned to seek revenge from the purple-clad young man at that time because the purple-clad young man had disregarded his status as the Fourth Master of the Zhong clan.

The old man remembered seeing the teenage girl and beautiful woman in the room as well. In the beginning, he did not pay any attention to the teenage girl or the beautiful woman. He only realized the beautiful woman was a Lord of Gods when she almost killed Han Li Gang, an advanced King of Gods from the 10,000 Devils Sect, for being rude to the teenage girl. With that, almost everyone realized the teenage girl had come from a powerful force.

After the teenage girl and the beautiful woman left, many people had searched for the purple-clad young man in hopes of forging a connection with him. Based on the teenage girl and the beautiful woman's strength, they were likely from a top lord-rank force or even an emperor-rank force. All of them hoped to curry favor with the purple-clad young man for this reason. Alas, they could not find him. Apart from a few people, including him, no one knew what the purple-clad young man looked like.

The old man truly did not expect to see Duan Ling Tian at this time.

'Why is he here?' Clearly, realization had yet to dawn on the old man.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian looked at the uninvited indifferently.

At this time, Zhong Ke Qi, who was standing behind Zhong Er, sneered as he coldly said, "Duan Ling Tian, I didn't think you'd be brave enough to leave the academy without a teacher by your side. Today, you're going to die here."

"You want to kill me? Or is it the Zhong clan that wants to kill me?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. Then, he looked at Zhong Er and Zhong Si.

"The Zhong clan?" Tang Chun's expression darkened immediately upon hearing these words.. To think the people of the Zhong clan dared to make an attempt on Duan Ling Tian's life in the presence of an inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect!

Chapter 3658: The Enraged Tang Chun

“Are you Duan Ling Tian?” Zhong Er asked. Then, he nodded as he continued to say, “You’re highly talented and have high comprehension skills. You’re handsome as well. If you’d joined our Zhong clan back then, both you and the clan would’ve benefited from it. What a pity that you rejected our invitation. Not only that, but you even killed the men from our clan.”

After a brief pause, Zhong Er asked slowly, “Any last words?”

When Zhong Er came in, he had used his Divine Consciousness to probe Duan Ling Tian and the old man next to him. After confirming Duan Ling Tian was just an intermediate god and the old man next to him was just an advanced god, he was no longer worried.

With the two Formations they had set up, let alone an intermediate god and an advanced god, even an advanced King of Gods would have a hard time communicating with the outside world. This meant that no one would find out the Zhong clan had killed the two people in the room.

“Last words?” Duan Ling Tian smiled. His eyes narrowed as he asked, “Who are you? The Clan Leader of the Zhong clan?”

Before Zhong Er could speak, his son, Zhong Ke Qi, scoffed. “Duan Ling Tian, he’s my father; Zhong Er, the Second Master of the Zhong clan. This person is Zhong Si, my fourth uncle and the Fourth Master of the Zhong clan.”

Duan Ling Tian looked at the two middle-aged men before he rested his eyes on Zhong Si. He smiled mockingly. He had already met Zhong Si a long time ago during the Zhou clan’s auction. He had bid against Zhong Si for the Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Pills and won.

“Zhong Er? Zhong Si?” Tang Chun, who was seated next to Duan Ling Tian, sneered. “The Zhong clan is really brave, huh?”

Zhong Er and Zhong Si ignored Tang Chun. In their eyes, he was just Duan Ling Tian’s useless elder, an advanced god. They could easily kill a person like him.

Zhong Er had long become a King of Gods in his early years while Zhong Si had successfully broken through a few days ago and became a rudimentary King of Gods.

“So you’re the Second and Fourth Masters of the Zhong clan?” Duan Ling Tian smiled mockingly. “So is it just the both of you who wants to kill me or is it the clan’s intention as well?”

“I represent the Zhong clan,” Zhong Er said. Although Duan Ling Tian was calm, he did not think much of it. After all, he was certain everything was under his control. Hence, he acted without restraint.

At this moment, Zhong Si suddenly trembled. His expression was one of shock and panic when he looked at Duan Ling Tian again. His face turned pale as though he had just seen a ghost. This was because he had just received a Voice Transmission from the old man standing behind him. He finally realized Duan Ling Tian was the young man from room nine who had bid against him for the three divine pills during the Zhou clan’s auction.

At that time, Zhong Si had been furious that Duan Ling Tian had outbid him. He had been determined to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian until the beautiful woman in room nine displayed the strength of a

Lord of Gods. At that time, she even attacked the second elder of the 10,000 Devils Sect. The people in room nine were not people he could afford to offend.

Although he was not sure of Duan Ling Tian's relationship with the beautiful woman and the teenage girl, according to the old man, the teenage girl seemed to have a very close relationship with Duan Ling Tian. When the two women left without the young man, all thoughts of revenge had vanished from his mind. Instead, he had wanted to foster a good relationship with Duan Ling Tian. Alas, Duan Ling Tian was nowhere to be found after the end of the Zhou clan's auction.

Since the old man had seen Duan Ling Tian before, he thought he had an advantage compared to the others who were searching for Duan Ling Tian. Unfortunately, after searching for a long time, they still failed to find Duan Ling Tian.

He did not expect the genius student from the Hidden Fog Academy whom they had been trying to kill was the young man from room nine in the Zhou clan's auction house.

He repeatedly confirmed with the old man through Voice Transmission that Duan Ling Tian was indeed the young man in room nine.

The old man's reply remained the same. "I'm sure, Fourth Master. His face, his temperament, and his clothes... Everything is the same."

Zhong Si felt chills running up his spine at this moment. When he saw the mocking smile on Duan Ling Tian's face, he could not help but shiver.

At this time, Zhong Ke Qi, whose eyes shone with killing intent, said, "That's enough, Duan Ling Tian. It's time for you to die."

Duan Ling Tian only looked at Zhong Ke Qi silently.

Suddenly, Tang Chun, who was seated next to Duan Ling Tian, rose to his feet with an icy expression on his face.

At the same time, Zhong Si was informing Zhong Er about his discovery. Zhong Er was naturally shocked and frightened.

"Zhong Si, are you sure?" Zhong Er asked.

"Brother, I'm sure it's him. What should we do now? The Zhong clan and he are irreconcilable enemies now!"

"Just act like you don't know anything," Zhong Si said determinedly. His eyes narrowed as he said decisively, "He and the old man next to him are just intermediate and advanced gods. As long as we leave no traces behind, no one will know that we killed them."

"Second Brother, Ke Qi's friends are still here. They could tell he was behaving strangely earlier..." Zhong Si said.

“After killing these two people, we’ll kill the others to prevent news from leaking,” Zhong Er said viciously.

“Alright!” After listening to Zhong Er, Zhong Si’s eyes shone with determination.

Although Duan Ling Tian had a powerful background and was someone they could not afford to offend, now that things had escalated to this extent, they could not let him leave. Duan Ling Tian would definitely order his men to deal with the Zhong clan once he left.

Now, Duan Ling Tian was like a trapped beast in a cage they had set up. They had also blocked all means of communication. This meant he could not inform anyone from the force belonged to. With this, no one would know even if they killed him today.

This was the best choice. If they did not kill him now, the Zhong clan would definitely suffer a huge disaster. It was likely that the clan would be annihilated. Hence, it did not take them long to come to this decision.

While Zhong Er and Zhong Si stared at Duan Ling Tian, Tang Chun scoffed coldly and said, “Very good... The Zhong clan is truly bold! A mere king-rank clan dares to kill an inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect in front of me? Both of you and the Zhong clan must have a death wish.”

Tang Chun was well and truly enraged. He had come to Skywind City to bring Duan Ling Tian back to the Hidden Fog Sect after Murong Sui Feng recommended Duan Ling Tian to be a core disciple of the sect. Since he had yet to take the test, he was now an inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect.

“An inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect?”

Zhong Er and the others were stunned by Tang Chun’s words.

Meanwhile, Zhong Ke Qi said with a sneer, “Old geezer, you said Duan Ling Tian’s an inner disciple of the Hidden Fog Sect? Ridiculous! In any case, both of you will die today. No matter how talented or strong he is, he won’t be able to enter the Hidden Fog Sect once he’s dead.”

Zhong Ke Qi, Zhong Er, and Zhong Si remained confident.

On the other hand, the old man looked anxious and skeptical. After listening to Zhong Er and Zhong Si’s plan, he was still afraid. After all, the beautiful woman’s display of strength was still vivid in his mind. He, out of everyone present, was the only one who had been in close proximity with the people from room nine, and he knew how terrifying they were. He thought to himself uneasily, ‘After this, I better leave the Zhong clan...’

“Zhong clan really taught their disciples well. Even a junior dares to be presumptuous in front of me.” Tang Chun sneered. “Even Zhong Da has to bow to me when he sees me.”

Zhong Da was the Clan Leader of the Zhong clan.

Chapter 3659: Tang Chun’s True Cultivation Base

Zhong Ke Qi was shocked and frightened upon hearing Tang Chun's words. He wondered inwardly, uneasy, 'What does he mean by my uncle has to be respectful to him?'

On the contrary, Zhong Er laughed disdainfully upon hearing Tang Chun's words. He said, "Old geezer, you're just an advanced god. How dare you spout such nonsense in front of us? What a joke!"

Zhong Si laughed as well. He chimed in, "That's right. You're just an advanced god. Killing you is as easy as a walk in the park."

As Zhong Si spoke, he unleashed his Divine Energy, causing the air in the room to grow heavy. The Divine Energy of a King of Gods was very different from that of gods.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed slightly. He was slightly surprised. 'Wasn't he an advanced god? His Divine Energy isn't that of an advanced god. Did he break through recently and become a King of Gods?'

Before joining the Hidden Fog Academy, while he was in the Zhou clan's auction house, Duan Ling Tian had heard people talking about Zhong Si, the Fourth Master of the Zhou clan. This included his cultivation base. Hence, he knew Zhong Si was an advanced god. However, that was clearly no longer the case based on Zhong Si's Divine Energy.

"Oh? The Fourth Master of the Zhong clan has had a breakthrough and become a King of Gods?" Clearly fearless, Tang Chun cocked an eyebrow and smiled contemptuously when he sensed Zhong Si's Divine Energy. Instead, he said, "I'm very curious... Where did you get confidence from, thinking you can kill me with your cultivation base?"

Zhong Si smirked. "So you know I'm a King of Gods. Then, you should know why I'm confident about killing an advanced god like you."

Zhong Ke Qi, who was standing behind Zhong Er, said derisively, "Old geezer, if you kneel and beg for mercy now, my fourth uncle might just leave you with an intact corpse after he kills you."

Tang Chun did not pay attention to Zhong Ke Qi. Instead, he looked at Zhong Si and chuckled before he said, "How dare a rudimentary King of Gods act so impudently in front of me, Tang Chun?"

Zhong Si did not have any reaction to Tang Chun's words. However, Zhong Er frowned slightly. He thought the name 'Tang Chun' sounded familiar. However, he could remember where he had heard that name before.

Swoosh!

At this time, an even more powerful Divine Energy surged out of Tang Chun's body. It immediately suppressed Zhong Si's Divine Energy as soon as it appeared.

Zhong Si's expression changed drastically upon sensing the Divine Energy. Even his eldest brother, Zhong Da; the Clan Leader of the Zhong clan, did not have such a powerful Divine Energy. Most importantly, his eldest brother was an intermediate King of Gods. What did this mean?

"Y-you're an... an advanced King of Gods?!"

Zhong Er's expression turned grim. He did not expect the old man in front of him to have concealed his strength. He truly did not expect the old man was an advanced King of Gods pretending to be an advanced god.

In the Realm of Gods, there were many treasures that could hide one's cultivation base. However, such treasures were rare in Skywind City and the neighboring areas. Those who possessed such treasures rarely used it as well. After all, this world was one where the strong were revered. Hence, why would anyone deliberately appear weak?

Zhong Er thought that he was really unlucky to meet one of the few exceptions today.

At this time, Zhong Er and Zhong Si's expressions were very grim.

After Zhong Si had broken through and became a rudimentary King of Gods, he was still seriously outmatched by Zhong Da, an intermediate King of Gods. Hence, he did not need to think at all to know that he was no match for Tang Chun, an advanced King of Gods. When he recalled how he had mocked and threatened Tang Chun earlier, his expression turned even more unsightly. He really could not believe he had done such a thing to an advanced King of Gods. As despair flooded his heart, he said tremblingly, "M-my lord... I-I was just joking earlier. P-please don't take i-it to... to heart..."

"Joking?" Tang Chun sneered. "Do you treat me as a foolish three-year-old?"

Zhong Si trembled. His face was ashen as he turned to Zhong Er and pleaded desperately, "Second brother, save me!"

Naturally, Zhong Si knew it was unlikely that Zhong Er would be able to save him. Based on the beautiful woman and teenage girl at the Zhou clan's auction house, he was certain Duan Ling Tian was from a lord-rank force. This meant that the old man in front of him was an advanced King of Gods from a lord-rank force!

As Zhong Si drowned in despair, certain of his death, he instinctively reached for help from Zhong Si like a drowning man grasping around for a float.

At the same time, Zhong Ke Qi, who was still standing behind Zhong Er, paled in fright as well. His body swayed and trembled as the enormity of the situation dawned on him. Then, he fell limply to the ground. Soon enough, the stench of urine wafted out in the air. He stared ahead blankly. He wanted to hit himself for mocking and threatening an advanced King of Gods earlier. He had heard his father saying Tang Chun was an advanced King of Gods in a low voice earlier.

Similarly, colors drained from Zhong Er's face. At this time, a thought suddenly appeared in his mind. Then, he cupped his fists together at Tang Chun and asked respectfully, "Senior, are you Elder Tang Chun of the Hidden Fog Sect?"

Zhong Er finally remembered that one of the clan elders had mentioned Tang Chun after returning from the Hidden Fog Sect. That clan elder was also an inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect; apart from that, they also belonged to the Skywind City Progeny. Hence, although they disliked each other, they still had to tolerate each other.

At the same time, Zhong Er hurriedly sent a message to his eldest brother, Zhong Da, through a Soul Pearl in his spatial ring, informing Zhong Da of what was happening.

Zhong Er had already removed the first Formation and ordered Zhong Si to remove the second Formation earlier. Since the Formations had been removed, one could naturally communicate with the outside world again.

Zhong Er said urgently to Zhong Da through Voice Transmission, "Eldest brother, hurry and contact the Grand Elder. Tell him to ask Elder Tang Chun to spare my, Zhong Si, and Qi'er's lives! Only the Grand Elder can save us now!"

The Grand Elder of the Zhong clan was Zhong Da's ancestor. He held high status in the Zhong clan and held the highest position in the Hidden Fog Sect among the members of the Zhong clan.

...

Zhong Da was shocked when he received Zhong Er's message as well. He did not expect that Zhong Er, Zhong Si, and Zhong Ke Qi would end up provoking someone like Tang Chun.

He did not waste time and hurriedly contacted the Grand Elder of the Zhong clan. He was the only one in the clan who possessed the Grand Elder's Soul Pearl. This meant that he was the only one in the clan who could contact the Grand Elder.

...

In a private room in the Zhong clan's restaurant.

Following Zhong Er's lead, Zhong Si, Zhong Ke Qi, and everyone else kneeled on the ground. Their bodies were trembling.

"Elder Tang Chun, it's our fault for not recognizing you and offending you. We hope you can forgive our ignorance and spare our lives for the sake of our Grand Elder," Zhong Er said earnestly.

Tang Chun ignored Zhong Er. Instead, he asked Zhong Si, "What's the matter? Didn't you want to kill me?"

"E-elder Tang Chun, please, please forgive," Zhong Si pleaded in a trembling voice. Panic and fear assaulted his heart.

"Didn't you say that you'll kill me?" Tang Chun asked again with a sneer. His gaze was cold as he swept his eyes across the people in the room. At the same time, his Divine Energy surged violently in the small room.

Tang Chun, an advanced King of Gods, was ridiculed and threatened by ordinary gods. How could he bear this humiliation? Moreover, if his cultivation base was truly lower than theirs, he would have long died.

"Elder Tang Chun, please spare us!" Zhong Si cried out when he sensed Tang Chun's killing intent. He hurriedly kowtowed with all his might as he begged for mercy. He did not seem to care about the blood that gushed from the cut on his forehead.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who was still seated at the table watched the scene before him with an indifferent gaze. It was the Zhong clan's own doing that resulted in this outcome. How could they threaten him in front of Tang Chun, an inner elder of the Hidden Fog Sect? Moreover, they even dared to threaten Tang Chun. They were truly seeking death with their actions today.

'Elder Tang Chun will likely only kill those who offended him and leave the Zhong clan alone. The Zhong clan will likely be fine. After all, even if Elder Tang Chun testifies against them for their attempt to murder me, the Hidden Fog Sect likely won't act against the Zhong clan for an inner disciple like me. Even if I'm a core disciple, the sect still won't take action as long as there's no concrete evidence. After all, the sect can't recklessly annihilate the clan. There are several inner elders and no fewer than twenty outer elders from the Zhong clan.'

Duan Ling Tian had learned about this from Ding Yan and Hou Qing Ning while he was still in the Hidden Fog Sect. Through the duo, he learned about the Zhong clan's connections with the Hidden Fog Sect.

Hence, Duan Ling Tian knew it would not be easy to deal with the Zhong clan by relying on the Hidden Fog Sect. If he wanted to annihilate the Zhong clan, he could only depend on himself.

Nonetheless, when Duan Ling Tian thought about how he would be able to see the three people from the Zhong clan die today, his good mood returned. He did not feel a shred of pity for them.. After all, they had planned to kill him.

Chapter 3660: Make Peace

Duan Ling Tian would never show mercy to those who tried to kill him so he was rather indifferent toward everything that was happening in front of him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Tang Chun's Divine Energy fused with his profundities swiftly, looking as though it was going to tear the void open. The energy was aimed at Zhong Si's body.

Tang Chun's eyes flashed with killing intent.

Duan Ling Tian, who was sitting at the side, could clearly feel Tang Chun's killing intent as well. Hence, he had no doubt that the trio from the Zhong clan was going to die today.

However, just as Tang Chun was about to deal the killing blow, he suddenly restrained his Divine Energy and removed the profundities.

Thump!

The Divine Energy only sent Zhong Si crashing against the wall on the side of the room. After he landed, despite the blood trickling out of the corner of his mouth, a relieved smile could be seen on his face as he said, "Thank you, Elder Tang Chun, for showing mercy!"

Zhong Er's eyes brightened immediately.

Following that, Tang Chun's Divine Energy struck again. This time, its target was Zhong Ke Qi.

Zhong Ke Qi was thrown against the wall as well. Since his cultivation base was much lower, although Tang Chun had restrained his strength, Zhong Ke Qi was still severely injured. He spat out a mouthful of blood when he landed.

Upon seeing this, Zhong Er hurriedly rebuked his son, "Idiot, aren't you going to thank Elder Tang Chun for sparing your life?"

Zhong Ke Qi was pulled back to his senses and hastily thanked Tang Chun. "Elder Tang Chun, thank you for sparing my life."

Zhong Er, whose eyes shone with the joy of surviving a huge disaster, looked at Duan Ling Tian from the corner of his eyes. When Tang Chun suddenly restrained his strength, he knew the Zhong clan's Grand Elder must have asked Tang Chun to spare them. Otherwise, based on Tang Chun's earlier killing intent, Tang Chun would not have spared them.

Nevertheless, the joy of surviving quickly vanished when they remembered Duan Ling Tian. Even if they survived today, Duan Ling Tian would not let them off the hook. Chills ran up their spines when they thought about this.

Thump!

Zhong Er was also thrown against the wall. He ignored his injury and hurriedly thanked Tang Chun for sparing his life as well. At the same time, he hurriedly sent a message to his eldest brother, Zhong Da. "Brother, although we're okay now, Duan Ling Tian definitely won't let us go..."

Following that, Zhong Er informed Zhong Da about the things Zhong Si had told him earlier.

...

"What?!"

When Zhong Da learned that Duan Ling Tian was the young man whom everyone suspected was from a lord-rank, or possibly an emperor-rank, force, his expression changed drastically.

"How can this be?"

How did Duan Ling Tian, a student from the Hidden Fog Academy, become the young man from the auction?

"Are you mistaken? If he has such a powerful background, why would he join the Hidden Fog Academy or the Hidden Fog Sect?"

Zhong Er's reply came swiftly. "I don't know. Brother, what should I do now? I've already removed the Formations so he might have already told the force he belongs to about this matter. Why don't we take the risk and ask the Grand Elder to speak to Elder Tang Chun so that Elder Tang Chun will turn a blind eye while we kill Duan Ling Tian? If he has yet to inform anyone from his force, we might be able to survive this!"

"No. It's likely he has already informed his people about this matter," Zhong Da refused Zhong Er without any hesitation. "You should beg for his forgiveness. It's best we don't make an enemy out of a

person like him. As long as he forgives us, we'll pay whatever price he demands of us. Let him know that no matter how ridiculous his demands are, we'll do everything within our abilities to fulfill them."

Then, Zhong Da said helplessly, "From now on, the Zhong clan can't act against him at all!"

Although Zhong Da did not know which lord-rank or emperor-rank force Duan Ling Tian belonged to, there was no doubt Duan Ling Tian had a very close relationship with that teenage girl. Zhong Si's confidant had been with the clan for a long time so there was no way he would have lied about that.

Most importantly, the beautiful woman, the Lord of Gods, had addressed the teenage girl as 'Young Miss'. To have a Lord of God as a guardian, the teenage girl was likely the child of someone with a very high rank in a top lord-rank or emperor-rank force. Just a word from someone like that was enough to get the Zhong clan annihilated or banished from the Profound Energy Land.

Duan Ling Tian's expression remained indifferent as he thought to himself, 'I expected Elder Tang Chun to kill them, or at the very least, Zhong Si. I didn't expect him to spare all of them.'

Duan Ling Tian could tell Tang Chun had forcefully restrained his strength at the very last moment. With that, it was not difficult to figure out that Tang Chun must have received a message from someone and decided to spare the trio from the Zhong clan.

After injuring the trio from the Zhong clan, Tang Chun sat down and looked at the trio as he said coldly, "For Zhong Tian Qing's sake, I won't kill you today. However, if you dare act like this again, I'll kill you even if Zhong Tian Qing pleads for your lives."

The trio hurriedly nodded and promised there would be no next time.

After that, Tang Chun looked at the trio and asked, "Apart from that, the three of you said you want to kill Duan Ling Tian on behalf of the Zhong clan, right?"

Zhong Si and Zhong Ke Qi were still in a daze, but Zhong Er hurriedly replied, "No, no, Elder Tang Chun, you must've misheard us. We... We have no intention of killing Duan Ling Tian. After all, the Zhong clan sees Young Master Duan as an honored guest."

"Since that's the case, why don't you apologize to him?" Tang Chun asked.

With these words, Duan Ling Tian knew the Zhong clan would receive no further punishment for their actions today. He could only rely on himself if he wanted to seek revenge for today's matter.

Duan Ling Tian did not resent Tang Chun for the choices Tang Chun made. After all, he had just met Tang Chun. Tang Chun was not obligated to help him. In fact, he felt that Tang Chun had already done his best by demanding the trio from the Zhong clan apologize to him.

Before Zhong Si and Zhong Ke Qi could apologize, Zhong Er cupped his fists together at Duan Ling Tian and said respectfully, "Young Master Duan, my eldest brother, the Clan Leader of the Zhong clan, asked me to convey a message to you. We'd like to compensate you for the misunderstandings between you and our clan. We're willing to pay whatever price you demand as long as it's within our ability."

Zhong Ke Qi frowned. He did not understand why his father was being so respectful to Duan Ling Tian.

Even Tang Chun was stunned by Zhong Er's words. He only asked them to apologize to Duan Ling Tian; he did not expect them to take the initiative to compensate Duan Ling Tian. Was the Zhong clan very wealthy?

In fact, Duan Ling Tian did not expect this as well. He thought it was strange that Zhong Si and the old man next to Zhong Si did not look surprised, but Zhong Ke Qi, on the contrary, looked surprised and confused.

At this moment, realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian. He finally remembered where he had seen the old man before. When he was in room nine in the Zhou clan's auction house with Duan Qiao Yu, he remembered the old man had come with the staff from the Zhou clan to hand him the three divine pills.

He remembered the old man because, at that time, he thought it was strange that two people were sent to hand over the three divine pills. Usually, only one person would be sent. At that time, he did not think too deeply about it.

'Zhong Si must have sent him to room nine at that time to investigate me since I outbid Zhong Si and embarrassed him.'

Duan Ling Tian knew Zhong Si was furious after he successfully bid for the three divine pills. At that time, many people had speculated he would pay the price for daring to bid against Zhong Si. However, after witnessing the beautiful woman's strength and finding out the woman was in room nine with him, he knew Zhong Si had abandoned all thoughts of revenge.

Duan Ling Tian finally realized why the old man was staring at him intently earlier. The old man must have recognized him.

With this, he finally knew why the Zhong clan was behaving so humbly. Clearly, they were afraid of Duan Qiao Yu and were afraid to provoke him because of that.. After all, the old man had seen Duan Qiao Yu holding onto his arm and calling him 'brother' when he was in room nine.