

SOVEREIGN 3981

Chapter 3981: Fighting Wanqi Hong

At the venue of the Trading Conference in Seven Kills Valley.

Above the huge stone platform in the middle of the valley.

Two young men, Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong, stood across from each other.

Wanqi Hong sneered. "Duan Ling Tian, you probably didn't think you'd have to fight me, right? Although you look rather calm, I'm sure you're feeling regretful inside. Even if you're able to bring out 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills, I'm sure it must have taken you a lot of time to refine them. It's a pity that your hard work would go to waste since the 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills will belong to me soon."

Wanqi Hong was very confident when faced with Duan Ling Tian. It was as though he was facing an already-defeated opponent.

Duan Ling Tian only chuckled and said, "It won't be so easy for you to get your hands on the 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. You better think about it carefully. If you lose your great-great-grandfather's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, how are you going to explain yourself to him?"

At this time, Duan Ling Tian no longer looked uneasy or nervous. His expression was very calm as he hovered in the air. His purple robe fluttered in the air as he stood with his hands on his back. His posture seemed like that of a victor. His confidence was no less than that of Wanqi Hong.

This did not go unnoticed by the crowd.

"Why is the Pure Yang Sect's Duan Ling Tian suddenly so confident?"

"Is he really confident?"

"If he really wins, the Wanqi clan is going to vomit blood out of anger!"

"It's not just vomiting blood. The Wanqi clan will be devastated as well."

Most of the people who were whispering among themselves were from the Seven Kills Valley, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect.

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As the forces involved, those from the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan were staring intently at the two figures in the sky.

The Pure Yang Sect members had already calmed down at this moment. After all, even if Duan Ling Tian lost, he would only lose 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. There were also a few who were concerned about Duan Ling Tian's safety.

As for Lan Xi Lin, from the Pure Yang Sect's Zheng Ming faction, he was naturally not one of those who were concerned about Duan Ling Tian. On the contrary, he wished that Duan Ling Tian would be defeated. He thought to himself spitefully, 'That idiot really thinks he can defeat someone with a higher

cultivation base just because he killed two intermediate Lords of Gods when he was a rudimentary Lord of Gods. Can those two pieces of trash he defeated be compared to Wanqi Hong? Wanqi Hong was also capable of such a feat when he was a rudimentary Lord of Gods! He's still trying so hard to put on an act! How ridiculous! I can't wait to see him humiliated later!

Lan Xi Lin was rather certain that Duan Ling Tian was going to be defeated even if Duan Ling Tian was a prodigy of the Pure Yang Sect. He felt that no one in the younger generation under 10,000 years old in the Eastern Ridge Mansion was a match for the Wanqi clan's Wanqi Hong. His mood soured slightly when he remembered that Duan Ling Tian was not even 3,000 years ago. It was likely that Duan Ling Tian would be much stronger than Wanqi Hong now when Duan Ling Tian was Wanqi Hong's age.

Meanwhile, Wanqi Jue, who was standing in front of the group of people from the Wanqi clan, looked at Duan Ling Tian solemnly. Since earlier, he had been paying close attention to Duan Ling Tian's expressions and movements. For this reason, he dared to bet with his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. However, at this moment, an ominous feeling rose in his heart when he saw Duan Ling Tian's calm expression that was unlike the ones before.

'No, it's impossible. He has just become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago. How can he defeat Hong'er?' Wanqi Jue thought to himself, reassuring himself. Outwardly, he still looked calm. No emotions could be seen on his face at all.

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Back in the sky.

"Duan Ling Tian, don't talk so much nonsense. Let's see who'll get the last laugh," Wanqi Hong said, taking the initiative to strike first.

As Wanqi Hong charged toward Duan Ling Tian, lightning bolts flashed around him. When he was halfway there, a seven-foot-long spear appeared in his hand. Following that, the lightning bolts surged into the spear. With that, lightning bolts like dragons flashed on the spear. This was not surprising since he comprehended the law of thunder. Moreover, his comprehension was rather profound.

As soon as Wanqi Hong made a move, Duan Ling Tian already felt pressured. Nonetheless, although Wanqi Hong's Divine Energy was powerful, there was still a gap between Wanqi Hong's Divine Energy and that of an advanced Lord of Gods who had stabilized his or her cultivation base. Just as Zhen Ping Fan told him, the gap was not small at all.

Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian was also surprised by Wanqi Hong's comprehension of the law of thunder. Wanqi Hong's comprehension was likely more profound than that of all of the Black Dragon Elders in the Flying Dragon Sect.

In the past, before Duan Ling Tian left the Flying Dragon Sect, his comprehension of the law of space was only better than that of the White Dragon Elders and only on par with a few Black Dragon Elders. However, many years had passed since then, and his comprehension of the law of space had also improved. When he cultivated, he did not forget to comprehend the law of space as well. Currently, his comprehension of the law of space was about the same as Wanqi Hong's comprehension of the law of thunder.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian teleported away, promptly dodging the lightning bolt that shot out of Wanqi Hong's spear. His afterimages were instantly dispelled by the attack.

When the attack exploded, the shockwaves rippled out swiftly. However, Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of Seven Kills Valley, easily dealt with them. Hence, the shockwaves did not affect the spectators at all.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Wanqi Hong was not upset that Duan Ling Tian managed to dodge his attack, and he did not seem surprised as well. He only continued to charge toward Duan Ling Tian at lightning speed.

"Duan Ling Tian, let's see how many times you can teleport away from my attacks!"

Lightning flashed around Wanqi Hong, and the spear in his hand looked like a lightning bolt. The long spear was a prominent divine artifact that was forged using precious materials. In the future, after becoming an intermediate Emperor of Gods, it would be easier for his spear to give birth to an artifact soul. Although the material used to forge a prominent divine artifact would affect the speed of it giving birth to an artifact soul, its strength was on par with that of ordinary prominent divine artifacts. Moreover, in the hands of those below the realm of an intermediate Emperor of Gods, it was not much different from an ordinary prominent divine artifact.

"Is this all you got?" Duan Ling Tian did not teleport away this time. Instead, he faced Wanqi Hong, who was rushing toward him. In just a blink of an eye, his doppelganger from the law of space shot out. The two of them wielded a prominent divine sword. Needless to say, it was not the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. With his current strength, it was not yet the time for him to reveal the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger charged out at the same time, clashing with Wanqi Hong. The sword and the spear clashed as bursts of terrifying shockwaves rippled out. The sparks from the collisions looked dazzling from afar.

Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger were on par with Wanqi Hong even though his cultivation base was a realm lower than that of Wanqi Hong. After all, Wanqi Hong had just become an advanced Lord of Gods not too long ago, and his cultivation base had yet to stabilize. It was much less stable than Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base even though Duan Ling Tian had just broken through two years ago. For this reason, the gap between their strengths was not as big as it normally would be between an intermediate and advanced Lords of Gods.

Needless to say, the Emperors of Gods and advanced Lords of Gods present noticed this as well.

"Did Duan Ling Tian really only become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago?"

"Based on how stable his cultivation base is, it's as though he had spent a few decades or a century to stabilize it, right?"

“If he really stabilized his cultivation base to this extent in just two years, then he truly deserves the title ‘prodigy’! Wanqi Hong isn’t a match for him in this aspect at all!”

The members of the Seven Kills Valley, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect discussed among themselves.

As for the members of the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan, they were mostly communicating through Voice Transmission.

Not only did Duan Ling Tian’s performance surprise those from the Wanqi clan, but it also surprised those from the Pure Yang Sect. After all, unlike the others, they knew for sure that Duan Ling Tian had only broken through and become an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago.

As for the Wanqi clan, they doubted Duan Ling Tian had only broken through two years ago.

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“D*mn it! Was the news we received fake?”

“Could it be that the Pure Yang Sect deliberately leaked fake news to trick our elder into betting with his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul?”

“I don’t think so... Moreover, even if Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base is much more stable than expected, there’s still a gap between his cultivation base and Wanqi Hong’s cultivation base. Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian has already used his doppelganger from the law of space while Wanqi Hong has yet to use his bloodline power.”

“If this is the extent of Duan Ling Tian’s strength, he’ll definitely lose.”

“What if he still has hidden abilities?”

“There are rumors that he has comprehended the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao...”

As though the fight was following the general trend of the Voice Transmissions between those few people from the Wanqi clan, the fight that seemed evenly matched gradually began to tilt in Duan Ling Tian’s favor.

The sword in Duan Ling Tian’s hand released terrifying sword rays that were further boosted by the spatial storm raging around him. In just a moment, Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger gained the upper hand.

“He really comprehended the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao!”

Meanwhile, Wanqi Jue sighed in relief upon seeing this. ‘This is likely the extent of Duan Ling Tian’s strength.’

Chapter 3982: Blood War Spirit

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Duan Ling Tian’s comprehension of the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao was not a secret in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Many people had seen him using it through Floating Image Pearls when he killed

the two intermediate Lords of Gods in the Flying Dragon Sect. This included Wanqi Hong and Wanqi Jue, the Wanqi clan's Golden Seat Elder.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian did not dare to use the Mastery Dao like before when he killed the two intermediate Lords of Gods due to the Emperors of Gods present on the scene. Now that his law of space had improved tremendously, the power from the law of space now was on par with the power from the combination of the law of space and the Mastery Dao in the past.

Wanqi Jue was not surprised by the level of Duan Ling Tian's comprehension of the law of space. He attributed it to Duan Ling Tian preparing for the Seven Mansions Feast after becoming an intermediate Lord of Gods. It did not even cross his mind that Duan Ling Tian had also comprehended another one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, the Mastery Dao.

There was naturally a difference between witnessing a fight and watching through the Floating Image Pearl. For this reason, even Emperors of Gods could not tell that Duan Ling Tian had used his Mastery Dao previously when killing the two intermediate Lords of Gods. However, if Duan Ling Tian were to use it now, they would discover it immediately. For this reason, he did not use the Mastery Dao against Wanqi Hong. He intended to keep it as his hidden trump card. Moreover, his performance in the Eastern Ridge was already almost unrivaled among the younger generation, hence, it would not be good if he stood out even more. After all, no one in the Eastern Ridge Mansion and the Profound Energy Land knew he had comprehended the rudimentary stage of the Mastery Dao.

'His innate talent is really high considering he's not even 3,000 years old,' Wanqi Jue thought to himself. Although he was still certain of his great-great-grandson's victory, he was still shocked by Duan Ling Tian's strength considering his young age.

In the past, the Wanqi clan had also sent people to the Flying Dragon Sect to recruit Duan Ling Tian more than once. The first time, Duan Ling Tian declined, saying that he did not intend to leave the Flying Dragon Sect for the time being. The last time they tried to recruit him, they were driven away from the Flying Dragon Sect by the domineering Zhen Ping Fan from the Pure Yang Sect.

'He's going to catch up to and surpass Hong'er sooner or later,' Wanqi Jue thought to himself. His eyes shone with cold killing intent when he thought about Duan Ling Tian being a member of the Pure Yang Sect. 'I must get rid of him when there's a chance. Although the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan's relationship is quite good, he'll become a threat to us in the future. Since I can't use him, and he's someone from the Devata Realm with no background, it's best to kill him.'

Similarly, the eyes of the few elders from the Seven Kills Valley, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect flashed with killing intent as well. However, their killing intent was not only directed at Duan Ling Tian, but at Wanqi Hong as well. It was naturally not a good thing for them that the two forces had such outstanding prodigies who were clearly superior to the prodigies in their respective forces. As they glanced at their respective forces' prodigies, they saw the shock on the faces of the prodigies after witnessing Duan Ling Tian and Wanqi Hong's strength.

'He's so strong?!' Lan Xi Lin was in shock and disbelief when he saw Duan Ling Tian gaining the upper hand. Although he knew Duan Ling Tian was strong, he had no clue about the extent of Duan Ling Tian's strength even after he watched the recording of Duan Ling Tian killing the two intermediate Lords of Gods.

Lan Xi Lin found it hard to believe that someone who was not even 3,000 years old possessed such strength. Although Wanqi Hong had used his bloodline power, Wanqi Hong was about twice Duan Ling Tian's age, after all. Moreover, Wanqi Hong was an advanced Lord of Gods.

'How strong would he be when he's Wanqi Hong's age?' Lan Xi Lin felt a sense of despair at this moment and was slightly shaken. His great-grandfather's advice that he had brushed previously surfaced in his mind at this moment, and he finally realized his great-grandfather's good intentions.

'Let's just forget it and mind my own business from now on...' Lan Xi Lin thought to himself. It was at this moment that he gave up on trying to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian.

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Back in the sky.

"Wanqi Hong, if this is the extent of your strength, I'm afraid you'll lose your great-great-grandfather's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to me!" Duan Ling Tian said after gaining the upper hand with his doppelganger from the law of space.

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Wanqi Hong scoffed. "Duan Ling Tian, I'm just testing your strength. I have to say, I'm quite surprised. Apart from me, no one in the Eastern Ridge Mansion below the age of 10,000 is a match for you. It's truly a pity that you ran into me. Duan Ling Tian, prepare to suffer defeat today!"

Wanqi Hong shot out like a bolt of lightning as soon as his voice fell. He arrived near Duan Ling Tian in just a blink of an eye. At this time, his eyes flashed, and a bloody mist rose from his body. The blood mist, which flashed with lightning, swiftly formed a figure wielding a spear.

"Duan Ling Tian, my Blood War Spirit is comparable to your doppelganger," Wanqi Hong said in a low voice. As he flew toward Duan Ling Tian, the Blood War Spirit above him flew along with him with a spear in its hand.

If Duan Ling Tian had relied on the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao alone, he would not have been a match for Wanqi Hong. It was due to his strong connection with his doppelganger, coupled with the Sword Dao, that he was able to close the gap between his and Wanqi Hong's cultivation bases and suppress Wanqi Hong earlier. However, now that Wanqi Hong had used his bloodline power, it seemed like he was going to lose his advantage. As expected, he slowly fell into a disadvantageous position.

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"Wanqi Hong finally used his bloodline power!"

"His bloodline power is called the Blood War Spirit. It's only inherited by direct descendants of the Wanqi clan."

"He imbued his blood with his Divine Energy and the law he comprehended to form the Blood War Spirit. It's comparable to the doppelgangers of those from the Devata Realms!"

Many of the spectators recognized the Blood War Spirit immediately. It was, after all, unique to the Wanqi clan.

“Duan Ling Tian might have the upper hand earlier, but it won’t be so now that Wanqi Hong formed his Blood War Spirit.”

“Nonetheless, even if Duan Ling Tian loses, he’s still really amazing! Don’t forget that he’s not even 3,000 years old!”

“Indeed! If we consider his age, Duan Ling Tian is far superior to Wanqi Hong. Alas, it seems like he’ll lose his 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills today.”

“Oh, right! I almost forgot about the 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills! I don’t understand why Duan Ling Tian would study alchemy. Based on his innate talent and comprehension skills, if he didn’t waste time on alchemy and spent that time cultivating, perhaps he would be a match for Wanqi Hong today.”

“What can’t you understand? Perhaps, it’s nothing more than him making the wrong choice. Regardless, his achievement at this age is unprecedented in the history of the Eastern Ridge Mansion.”

Although the majority of the people present still thought that Duan Ling Tian would lose, they were shocked and impressed by his strength. Moreover, he was an alchemist who could refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills. Only the top alchemists in the Eastern Ridge Mansion could refine king-grade Limit Divine Pills. This meant that he was comparable to the top alchemists in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

“What a heaven-defying prodigy!”

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“I should have personally gone to the Flying Dragon Sect to recruit him into our Dragon Martial Divine Sect if he knew he’s so monstrously talented. Zhen Ping Fan really hit the jackpot this time!”

The elders from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect sighed regretfully as they watched Duan Ling Tian.

At this time, Ye Tong, the Nirvanic Elder from the Pure Yang Sect’s Hidden Sword faction, glanced at Zhen Ping Fan before he said through Voice Transmission, “Junior Brother Zhen, aren’t you worried about Duan Ling Tian losing to Wanqi Hong? You’re the one who provoked the Wanqi clan first. If he loses, you should at least give up 50 king-grade Limit Divine Pills to help him.”

Ye Tong was already thinking about helping Duan Ling Tian to settle the bet since he knew his master valued Duan Ling Tian.

Zhen Ping Fan replied with a smile, “Senior Brother Ye, are you so eager for Duan Ling Tian to lose?”

Ye Tong was slightly stunned by Zhen Ping Fan’s words. At the same time, a bold thought appeared in his mind.

Swoosh!

At this moment, the ear-piercing sound of a sword whistling in the air reverberated through the entire place.

Even Ye Tong, a rudimentary Emperor of Gods, could feel the sound reverberating in his ears.

Chapter 3983: Defeating Wanqi Hong

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Everyone fell silent when they heard the sound of a sword whistling in the air.

Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger from the law of space charged toward Wanqi Hong's Blood War Spirit with the prominent divine sword in hand before it unleashed a sword ray that was formed from his Divine Energy and imbued with his law of space. In just a moment, the Blood War Spirit that seemed to be suppressing the doppelganger just a moment ago was destroyed by this attack.

The Blood War Spirit was Wanqi Hong's bloodline power, meaning it would consume his bloodline energy. Even in his peak condition, he could only cast his bloodline power thrice consecutively. However, at this moment, he had exhausted much more of his bloodline energy than he had expected.

"What's happened?" Wanqi Hong was shocked by the sudden destruction of his Blood War Spirit. Despite having the upper hand, he quickly flew away to maintain a distance between him and Duan Ling Tian so he could form another Blood War Spirit.

The second Blood War Spirit that Wanqi Hong manifested looked no different from the first one. However, if one tried to probe it with one's Divine Consciousness, one would find that the second one was weaker than the first one.

Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger flew out with numerous sword rays formed from his Divine Energy that had been imbued with the law of space. In just a blink of an eye, they arrived in front of Wanqi Hong, seizing the opportunity to counterattack.

Wanqi Hong did not have time to figure out what happened earlier and had to focus on dealing with Duan Ling Tian.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of thunderous explosions rang in the air as Wanqi Hong and his Blood War Spirit held their spears and collided with Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger.

"It seems like this is the extent of your strength," Duan Ling Tian said lazily.

Before Wanqi Hong could react, Duan Ling Tian and his doppelganger brandished their prominent divine swords, unleashing a sword ray each. The sword rays emitted a freezing aura that spread to the surroundings.

The crowd all felt a bone-chilling cold sweeping through them.

Even Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of the Seven Kills Valley, felt a slight chill.

Before everyone could figure out what was going on, Duan Ling Tian's doppelganger charged toward Wanqi Hong's Blood War Spirit again with the sword in his hand.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian destroyed the dragon-like lightning bolts that Wanqi Hong launched using his spear. Then, with just a flick of his hand, he knocked the spear out of Wanqi Hong's hand before he thrust his sword at Wanqi Hong.

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“Stop!” Wanqi Hong roared as his eyes widened in shock. It was so fast that it was impossible for him to dodge.

Just as Wei Chun Dao was about to make a move to stop Duan Ling Tian, he saw Duan Ling Tian turning his sword at the critical moment. The back of his sword hit Wanqi Hong’s chest with a loud thump before Wanqi Hong was sent flying in the sky.

Wanqi Hong spat out blood as he tried to regain his footing. When he finally stabilized himself, his face was pale as he looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously.

“T-this is impossible! What method did you use? How did your strength rise so suddenly?”

After using his bloodline power, Wanqi Hong managed to wrestle the upper hand back from Duan Ling Tian. It was out of his expectations that Duan Ling Tian’s sword rays were so powerful. Not only was his Blood War Spirit destroyed twice, but he was also badly injured. He could barely stand straight at this moment, and his internal organs were damaged. It would take him some time to recover from his injuries.

‘Great-great-grandfather’s prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul...’ Wanqi Hong’s face paled further when he recalled what was at stake. He gritted his teeth before he charged toward Duan Ling Tian again. Alas, he lost consciousness and plummeted to the ground not long after he flew out.

Swoosh!

A gust of wind blew past as Wanqi Jue flew up and caught his great-great-grandson. His expression was extremely unsightly at this moment. After all, he truly did not expect his great-great-grandson to be defeated by Duan Ling Tian. He looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly and said, “Duan Ling Tian, you hid your attainment in the Sword Dao because you coveted my prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, right? I won’t forget this.”

At this moment, Zhen Ping Fan flew up. He said with a dazzling smile, “Senior Uncle Wanqi, this is my idea. It has nothing to do with Duan Ling Tian. Now that Duan Ling Tian won, the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul will be given to me. Thank you for your generosity, Senior Uncle Wanqi.”

At this moment, Wanqi Jue suddenly recalled that Zhen Ping Fan took the initiative to provoke him earlier. Then, he took a deep breath as he looked at Zhen Ping Fan before he turned around and left without another word. There was nothing he could say since Duan Ling Tian had won the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul fair and square. However, it did not mean that he was going to let this matter slide. After all, it was obvious that Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian had conspired to obtain his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul regardless if Zhen Ping Fan washed Duan Ling Tian of all culpability. If he still did not know what was going on, he would have lived for more than tens of thousands of years in vain.

‘Zhen Ping Fan, Duan Ling Tian...’

Although Wanqi Jue knew that Zhen Ping Fan was the instigator, he did not intend to let Duan Ling Tian go at all. If he had the chance, he was determined to kill Duan Ling Tian to vent his anger. After all, he did not think he would be able to kill Zhen Ping Fan; at most, he would be able to injure Zhen Ping Fan. Apart from that, Zhen Ping Fan possessed an emperor-grade flying ship. It would be difficult for him to chase after Zhen Ping Fan. He was just an intermediate Emperor of Gods, and the top speed of the emperor-grade flying ship was comparable to an advanced Emperor of Gods. Although he also had an emperor-grade flying ship, under such circumstances, he would only be able to keep up with Zhen Ping Fan at most, not overtake him.

'He's still staring at me... Does he really think I'm a pushover?' Duan Ling Tian smiled disdainfully when he saw Wanqi Que staring at him murderously.

It was clear to Duan Ling Tian that Wanqi Jue was picking on him because Wanqi Jue thought he was weaker. It did not matter to Wanqi Jue that Zhen Ping Fang had said he alone was responsible for this matter. It would be a lie to say he did not feel pressured being targeted by an intermediate Emperor of Gods, but the pressure was negligible. As long as he remained cautious, it would not be easy for Wanqi Jue to find a chance to act. He did not need to worry about his safety as long as he was in the Pure Yang Sect's estate. Even when traveling to the Seven Mansions Feast, he would be accompanied by the Pure Yang Sect's intermediate Emperors of Gods. Wanqi Jue would have to have a death wish if he chose to attack at that time.

'I'll have to lessen the times I go out on my own from now on...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. After leaving the Seven Kills Valley and returning to the Pure Yang Sect, he would not leave the Pure Yang Sect's estate unless it was absolutely necessary. Even then, he would make sure he was accompanied by a rudimentary Emperor of Gods like Zhen Ping Fan at least.

Although Zhen Ping Fan's cultivation base was lower than that of Wanqi Jue, his strength would rise significantly after he refined and nurtured the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. With this, Wanqi Jue, who had lost his weapon, might not even be a threat to Zhen Ping Fan anymore. Moreover, Zhen Ping Fan was the strongest rudimentary Emperor of Gods in the Pure Yang Sect. Duan Ling Tian also heard the members of the Cloud Peak faction saying that no one below the realm of an intermediate Emperor of Gods in the Eastern Ridge Mansion dared to say that they were able to defeat Zhen Ping Fan for sure.

Before leaving, Zhen Ping Fan saw Duan Ling Tian looking at Wanqi Jue. He naturally knew what Duan Ling Tian was thinking. He said reassuringly, "Duan Ling Tian, just ignore him. From today onward, don't leave the sect alone. If you must leave the sect, let me know. You've helped me a lot this time. The prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul will help me tremendously. I'll also save a lot of time since I don't have to spend time trying to get my prominent divine weapon to give birth to an artifact soul."

Zhen Ping Fan was clearly in high spirits at this moment.

Meanwhile, the members of the Wanqi clan left with varying dark expressions on their faces. The Trade Conference had just begun and would last for days, but most of them had already lost their mood to trade or socialize. Even the few members who did not care about this matter could only follow the

others and leave. At the same time, they also communicated with each other through Voice Transmission.

“Duan Ling Tian didn’t only comprehend the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao! His attainment in the Sword Dao is much higher than that!”

“His Sword Dao is really terrifying!”

Chapter 3984: Shocking News

Duan Ling Tian won the match!

The crowd returned to their senses one after another as the members of the Wanqi clan left one after another. Their eyes moved to Duan Ling Tian immediately.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian was taking back his 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills and what was formerly Wanqi Jue’s prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul from Wei Chun Dao, the Valley Master of the Seven Kills Valley. After receiving the two items, he tossed the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to Zhen Ping Fan immediately. He did not plan to keep the weapon by his side a moment longer since it would only attract trouble. There was no doubt that there would be people who covet the weapon and try to snatch it away from him.

“Duan Ling Tian, I won’t forget this favor,” Zhen Ping Fan said as he put away the prominent divine spear with an incomplete artifact soul. As soon as he did that, a restless black energy surged out from his body. Fortunately, he easily suppressed it with his Divine Energy. Since that prominent divine spear was owned by an intermediate Emperor of Gods, he had to make it submit before he could claim full ownership of it.

“Elder Zhen, I owed you a favor, to begin with. That prominent divine artifact is a form of repayment,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile through Voice Transmission.

“No, how can it be like that?” Zhen Ping Fan said, “I don’t think you owe me any favor. Moreover, even if you consider those small matters I helped you with as a favor, it still doesn’t compare to the value of this prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Just think about it this way. All those things I helped you with were to get you to join the Pure Yang Sect and the Cloud Peak faction. You’ve already returned the favor by doing so. Hence, I will never forget this favor today.”

Duan Ling Tian felt rather helpless because he knew he would not be able to persuade Zhen Ping Fan otherwise. He could see that Zhen Ping Fan was very adamant about this matter.

At this time, Wei Chun Dao said with a sigh, “Duan Ling Tian, I didn’t expect you to have comprehended the real Sword Dao. You’re the second person known to have comprehended the Sword Dao in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Apart from that, there’s no one in the Eastern Ridge Mansion who has comprehended any of the other three Daos of Heaven and Earth. This means that the only two people in the Eastern Ridge Mansion who comprehended any of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth, which in this case is the Sword Dao, are from the Pure Yang Sect.”

The other person in the Eastern Ridge Mansion who had comprehended the Sword Dao was Ye Chen Feng from the Pure Yang Sect’s Hidden Sword faction.

“Valley Master Wei, you’re overpraising me. I was just lucky,” Duan Ling Tian said modestly with a faint smile.

Wei Chun Dao shook his head. “Perhaps, you can attribute it to luck if you’ve only comprehended the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao. However, only heaven-defying geniuses can comprehend the real Sword Dao. In this regard, Duan Ling Tian, you’re too modest. If it’s really due to luck, then what do all of us count for?”

A hint of gloominess could be seen in Wei Chun Dao’s eyes at the end of his words.

Meanwhile, Ye Tong, the Nirvanic Elder from the Pure Yang Sect’s Hidden Sword faction, had already discovered that something was different when he heard the sound of the sword whistling earlier. Not too long after that, he realized that Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the real Sword Dao. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian’s attainment in the Sword Dao seemed comparable to that of his master, Ye Chen Feng.

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‘Sword Dao... Duan Ling Tian has comprehended the real Sword Dao... Although his technique is different, it’s comparable to master’s Sword Dao...’

As Ye Chen Feng’s favorite direct disciple, Ye Tong had begun to slowly comprehend the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao after receiving guidance from his master. He was confident he would be able to fully comprehend the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao within 10,000 years. However, he was not confident he could even master the real Sword Dao in his entire life. He had spent much of his time and effort comprehending the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao. If it weren’t for that, with his innate talent, his strength might be on par with that of Zhen Ping Fan if he had focused all his time on cultivating and comprehending the law. Saying that, if he managed to successfully comprehend the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao, he was confident he would be comparable to Zhen Ping Fan even if he could not defeat Zhen Ping Fan.

‘Duan Ling Tian has comprehended the Sword Dao?’ Lan Xi Lin was still shocked that Duan Ling Tian defeated Wanqi Hong, who was widely acknowledged as one of the strongest people below the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Many people even speculated that Wanqi Hong would rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast. Since Duan Ling Tian defeated Wanqi Hong, did this not mean that Duan Ling Tian would rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast?

At this time, Liu Hui, the Spirit Void Elder from the Pure Yang Sect’s Zheng Ming faction, said through Voice Transmission, “Xi Lin. If you haven’t already done so, you must dismiss all your thoughts about seeking revenge from Duan Ling Tian or causing trouble for him now. In fact, it’ll be even better if you can maintain a good relationship with him. There’s no doubt that he’ll definitely rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast. This means he has a right to recommend an Ascension Elder to be given a chance to become an advanced Emperor of Gods. If he doesn’t pick Ascension Elder Zhen Yun Feng or Ascension Elder Ye Chen Feng and pick another Ascension Elder. It’d mean that he has the support of three Ascension Elders.”

A hint of fear could be heard in Liu Hui’s voice when he spoke.

Although Lan Xi Lin had already decided to abandon all thought of seeking revenge from Duan Ling Tian earlier, he still felt fear when he heard Liu Hui’s words. If Duan Ling Tian only had the support of Zhen

Yun Feng, perhaps, the consequences would not be so great even if he killed Duan Ling Tian. After all, his great-grandfather was Zhen Yun Feng's junior nephew, and they had a good relationship. There was a chance Zhen Yun Feng would spare his life on account of his great-grandfather. However, like Liu Hui had said, in addition to Ye Chen Feng, if Duan Ling Tian gained the support of another Ascension Elder, Duan Ling Tian would have the support of three Ascension Elders. With that, if he made a move against Duan Ling Tian, even if Zhen Yun Feng intervened, he would not be able to escape with his life intact.

Unsurprisingly, the others from the Pure Yang Sect were shocked as well. None of them expected Duan Ling Tian to have comprehended the true Sword Dao, becoming the third person in the history of the Pure Yang Sect to have comprehended one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. The first being Lu Dong Bin, the founder of the Pure Yang Sect, who comprehended the Mastery Dao.

Lu Dong Bing was a powerful advanced Emperor of Gods who killed many advanced Emperors of Gods. After leaving the Pure Yang Sect, there was no news of him. There were both rumors about him perishing due to the Heavenly Tribulation and about him becoming a Supreme God who wandered the world. None of the rumors were confirmed. However, the majority thought that it was likely that he had passed away.

As for the members of the Seven Kills Valley, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect, their shock was soon replaced by solemnity when they realized the Pure Yang Sect had another monstrous prodigy. Not only did he comprehend the real Sword Dao, but he was also an intermediate Lord of Gods, who was not even 3,000 years old, capable of defeating ordinary advanced Lords of Gods. He was even more monstrously talented than Ye Chen Feng.

"Why is the Pure Yang Sect so lucky? Not only do they have Ye Chen Feng, but now, they also have Duan Ling Tian!"

"Why are all the monstrous talents in the Pure Yang Sect?"

"We must report this matter immediately. Duan Ling Tian will likely rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast. If that happens, it means that three intermediate Emperors of Gods from the Pure Yang Sect will be able to enter that place... This increases the chance of an advanced Emperor of Gods appearing in the Pure Yang Sect!"

The venue was rather silent as those present sent messages back to their respective forces.

As for the people from the Wanqi clan who had left, not only did they send messages about this matter back to the clan, but they also sent messages back about the loss of Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. The prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul had been won by Duan Ling Tian and now belonged to Zhen Ping Fan, a Nirvanic Elder of the Pure Yang Sect.

At this moment, Wei Chun Dao broke the silence and took the lead to say, "Everyone, let the Trading Conference begin!"

It seemed like the crowd finally remembered they were here for the Trading Conference after Wei Chun Dao had spoken.

After a while, a few members of the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect approached Zhen Ping Fan and congratulated him.

“Elder Zhen, congratulations on obtaining a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete soul!”

“The Pure Yang Sect’s performance during the Seven Mansions Feast will definitely outshine everyone with Duan Ling Tian on their side!”

“Congratulations, Elder Zhen!”

“Duan Ling Tian is really amazing! He comprehended the real Sword Dao at such a young age. If I’m not mistaken Elder Ye Cheng Feng only comprehended the real Sword Dao when he was over 10,000 years old, right?”

Chapter 3985: Something Is Up

After news of Duan Ling Tian mastering the real Sword Dao spread, a commotion broke out in the top five forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, the Pure Yang Sect; the Seven Kills Valley; the Wanqi clan; the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice; and the Dragon Martial Divine Sect.

Before the incident at the Seven Kills Valley, no one from the Pure Yang Sect was aware that Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the real Sword Dao.

“Duan Ling Tian mastered the real Sword Dao? I didn’t expect our Pure Yang Sect would have another person who has comprehended the Sword Dao!”

“Junior Uncle Ye from the Hidden Sword faction is widely acknowledged as our sect’s strongest powerhouse due to his Sword Dao and extraordinary comprehension of the law. Now, we have Duan Ling Tian who also mastered the Sword Dao. He even defeated the Wanqi clan’s Wanqi Hong, who was known as one of the strongest among the younger generation in the Eastern Ridge Mansion!”

“This is too shocking. Duan Ling Tian only became an intermediate Lord of Gods two years ago, but he’s already capable of defeating Wanqi Hong who became an advanced Lord of Gods 100 years ago!”

“Duan Ling Tian obtained a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul for the Cloud Peak faction’s Nirvanic Elder Zhen? I heard that the prominent divine artifact used to belong to Wanqi Jue. Wanqi Jue must be furious, right?”

“Duan Ling Tian is truly remarkable!”

Previously, Duan Ling Tian was only somewhat famous in the Pure Yang Sect due to the recordings of him killing two intermediate Lords of Gods. Since the incident took place in the Flying Dragon Sect, an emperor-rank sect past its prime, many speculated that the two intermediate Lords of Gods were not that strong to begin with. For this reason, although many people thought Duan Ling Tian was talented, they did not think it was too big of a deal.

Previously, when the Pure Yang Sect decided to allocate resources for Duan Ling Tian to help him break through and become an intermediate Lord of Gods, the Zheng Ming faction and many other factions were rather dissatisfied with the sect’s decision. However, the tide turned after news of Duan Ling Tian defeating Wanqi Hong was sent back to the Pure Yang Sect. There was almost no one who questioned his ability at this time; all of them thought that the rumors about him being a monstrous talent were

true. No one knew those two intermediate Lords of Gods he killed in the past, but everyone knew Wanqi Hong and that he was widely acknowledged as one of the strongest people below the age of 10,000 in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian defeating such a person spoke volumes about his strength and talent.

“The sect really has a discerning eye. I’m embarrassed that I doubted Duan Ling Tian in the past. What a joke.”

“There’s no doubt that Duan Ling Tian will shine during the Seven Mansions Feast and bring glory to our Pure Yang Sect!”

“That’s right! He has a high chance of ranking in the top three!”

“He might even rank first! If I’m not mistaken, those who rank first will be given four slots to enter that place...”

After recovering from the shock, those from the Pure Yang Sect were in high spirits after receiving news that Duan Ling Tian defeated Wanqi Hong and that Zhen Ping Fan now owned Wanqi Jue’s prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

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Conversely, a cloud of gloom seemed to loom over the Wanqi clan’s estate when they received news that the pride of their clan, Wanqi Hong, was defeated by Duan Ling Tian. It would not be a big deal if Wanqi Hong was defeated by someone older than him, but Duan Ling Tian was not even 3,000 years old, not even half of Wanqi Hong’s age. Then, they were dealt another heavy blow when they found out that their Golden Seat Ancestor, Wanqi Jue, had lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

“A prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was used as a stake when the opponent only used 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills as a stake? Was Wanqi Hong out of his mind?”

“Shhhh! Lower your voice! Perhaps, Wanqi Hong was certain of his victory so he didn’t care what his opponent used as a stake...”

“Hmph! No matter what the reason was, it’s irrefutable that he lost the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. If he doesn’t rank in the top three during the Seven Mansions Feast, our clan will suffer a great loss!”

“It still shouldn’t be a problem for him to rank in the top three...”

“Not a problem? He’s already defeated by Duan Ling Tian in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Who knows what kind of prodigies the other six mansions have?”

There were many in the Wanqi clan who blamed Wanqi Hong for the loss of the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Naturally, there were also those who blamed Wanqi Jue, but they kept their opinions to themselves. After all, without Wanqi Jue’s consent, Wanqi Hong would not have been able to use the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as a stake. It was just that nobody had the courage to speak ill of Wanqi Jue, who was a Golden Seat Elder and an

intermediate Emperor of Gods. Moreover, Wanqi Jue suffered the biggest loss this time. Not only was his great-great-grandson, who was his pride and joy, severely injured, but he also lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

There were also a few descendants of the Wanqi clan, who had a bad relationship with Wanqi Jue, gloating over Wanqi Jue's misfortune.

In a remote area in the Wanqi clan's estate.

An old man said to a middle-aged man, "Clan Leader, I'll go to the Seven Kills Valley to see if there's any hope in getting back Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul."

The middle-aged thought about it for a moment before he said, "Alright. Try your best, but don't use force. Zhen Yun Feng is no pushover, after all."

"I understand," the old man responded. Then, he left the Wanqi clan's estate and traveled at top speed on an emperor-grade flying ship toward the Seven Kills Valley.

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As for the remaining three top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, they were still getting over the shock from the news they received.

"The Eastern Ridge Mansion finally has a second person who comprehended one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. Similar to the other person, he also comprehended the Sword Dao and is from Pure Yang Sect!"

Before Duan Ling Tian's big reveal, the Pure Yang Sect's Ye Chen Feng was the only known person in the Eastern Ridge Mansion to have comprehended one of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth. Those who mastered the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao were not considered to have mastered the real Sword Dao after all.

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Due to this incident, Duan Ling Tian finally made a mark in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. No one would underestimate him anymore because of his low cultivation base or young age.

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At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the commotion he had caused. He was browsing through items at the Trading Conference. Since he had won a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul for Zhen Ping Fan, Zhen Ping Fan had offered to pay for whatever he wanted at the conference. He naturally refused, but Zhen Ping Fan was so adamant that it seemed as though Zhen Ping Fan was going to take offense if he continued to refuse. Even then, he did not take advantage of Zhen Ping Fan and only bought what he really needed. He also bought things he deemed useful to his family, but this time, he was adamant about not letting Zhen Ping Fan pay for them.

Duan Ling Tian asked Zhen Ping Fan, "Elder Zhen, is the Wanqi really not going to participate in the Trading Conference? I don't know if they have anything I need. I might be able to console them by giving them some business..."

Zhen Ping Fan rolled his eyes upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. "Do you have a death wish? You better not say such things in front of Wanqi Jue! His anger hasn't abated, and it won't for a long time. Although he won't have the guts to openly kill you, he can still get away with injuring you."

Duan Ling Tian sobered up when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. He seemed to have momentarily forgotten that he was able to defeat Wanqi Hong, but he was not yet able to deal with Wanqi Jue. Moreover, Wanqi Jue could kill him easily with just a flick of his hand.

Zhen Ping Fan continued to say, "They'll show up tomorrow. Most of them are in a terrible mood now. They'll mood will improve by tomorrow. The Trade Conference is also held because of the Seven Mansions Feast. The Wanqi clan will suffer a loss if they refuse to participate. Even if Wanqi Jue is angry and feels humiliated, he has no choice but to show up. No one in the entourage will be able to stop him if he refuses to attend, but there are still other Golden Seat Elders in the Wanqi clan to contend with if he messes up. Moreover, he would lose many people's support as well if he affects the Wanqi clan. He can't afford that since he's been preparing for a long time now for Wanqi Hong to be the next Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan. For all these reasons, he'll definitely show up."

...

Zhen Ping Fan was right. The Wanqi clan did return to participate in the Trading Conference on the second day and most of them seemed to be in a better mood. It was as though they had forgotten about what happened as they traded with the Pure Yang Sect and the other forces. Even when Duan Ling Tian traded with them, they were not hostile.

As such, Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel that something was up.

'Why do I feel like this is the calm before the storm?'

Chapter 3986: The End of the Trading Conference; Returning to the Pure Yang Sect

To confirm his speculation, Duan Ling Tian even looked for Wanqi Jue, the Golden Seat Elder from the Wanqi clan. As he had suspected, Wanqi Jue, who clearly could not wait to kill him yesterday, was very calm today. Although there was no smile on Wanqi Jue's face, he was not hostile either.

After that, Duan Ling Tian found Zhen Ping Fan and said, "Elder Zhen, I feel that something is up. Those from the Wanqi clan, Wanqi Jue in particular, are behaving strangely."

Perhaps, if it were just the members of the Wanqi clan, Duan Ling Tian would not have been so suspicious. After all, they were only humiliated at best and did not suffer a great loss. However, it was highly suspicious for Wanqi Jue, who was directly involved in the matter, to act like nothing happened.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Zhen Ping Fan said with a smile, "There's nothing wrong. They've likely vented their anger yesterday. Let alone Wanqi Jue, even Wanqi Hong has lived for almost 10,000 years. They're aware of the saying, 'There's no use crying over spilled milk'. Even if they shout, curse, and feel unwilling, they know it won't do them any good nor would it change anything. Moreover, if they're too hostile toward you, if something happens to you in the future, they'll definitely be the first

suspect. At that time, they'd have to deal with the wrath of the Pure Yang Sect. All in all, it's better for them to pretend like nothing's wrong. They won't act unless they're 100% sure they can kill you. Even if the Pure Yang Sect suspects them, it'd be hard to convince the masses, which also limits what the sect can do to the clan, if they've been cordial toward you on the surface."

Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened slightly. He had considered this briefly as well. However, he had subconsciously thought that since he and Zhen Ping Fan had taken Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact with an artifact soul away, which was likely more important to Wanqi Jue than his wife, Wanqi Jue would lose his reason and act reasonably for all to see. He did not think Wanqi Jue would be able to stay calm while he bided his time patiently, pretending to be unaffected while he waited for the right moment to plunge a dagger into his back.

"I need to be more careful..." Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. It was not like he had never met people like Wanqi Jue during his time in the mundane realm until now. However, it had been quite a while so he had become a little lax.

Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian was also so focused on increasing his strength before the Seven Mansions Feast that when he saw how unaffected Wanqi Jue was, he did not bother to analyze the situation first.

Saying that, Duan Ling Tian's guard was not down at all. After all, he had met many sinister figures and plots in the lower realms. Otherwise, he would not have been alerted when Wanqi Jue acted as though nothing happened. No matter how Wanqi Jue behaved, he would still be on guard against Wanqi Jue.

Duan Ling Tian understood that the human heart was unpredictable. He also understood that when one did not have the strength, it was best to lay low and bide one's time before finishing one's opponent in one fell swoop. He had done this many times as well in the past. The time when he had just arrived in the Profound Energy Land was the most recent example. At that time, he felt as though he was treading on thin ice. When he was in the Linghu clan he had to sneak out to refine Limit Divine Pills and be mindful of the Hidden Fog Sect members and Kuang Tian Zheng from the Flying Dragon Sect discovering his whereabouts. Otherwise, he would die for sure.

...

A few days passed in just a blink of an eye, marking the end of the Trading Conference.

Duan Ling Tian gained a lot of things this time. Since most of the things he bought, which were of considerable value, were paid for by Zhen Ping Fan, he did not spend much.

On the final day of the Trading Conference, while the Pure Yang Sect members were returning to their residence in the Seven Kills Valley, Duan Ling Tian asked Zhen Ping Fan through Voice Transmission, "Elder Zhen, when are we leaving?"

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Duan Ling Tian could sense the apprehensive gaze of the others from the Pure Yang Sect when they looked at Wanqi Jue, who was leading the entourage from the Wanqi clan. It was not surprising that they were worried and wary. After all, the Pure Yang Sect did fool the Wanqi clan into giving them the

prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Although they did win fairly and acted in an upright and just manner, they knew in their hearts they indeed tricked the Wanqi clan.

Everything from Zhen Ping Fan's initial provocation to Duan Ling Tian feigning weakness was premeditated and was intended to dig a pit for Wanqi Jue to jump into. Most importantly, they succeeded in tricking the Golden Seat Elder and intermediate Emperor of Gods from the Wanqi clan.

In fact, if they were in Wanqi Jue's shoes, they also would not have let the matter slide just like that.

For this reason, over the past two days, many members of the Pure Yang Sect had sent Voice Transmissions to Zhen Ping Fang, asking him if they should wait for the entourage from the Wanqi clan to leave first before leaving themselves.

Zhen Ping Fan agreed to their suggestion mostly to make them feel relieved. In truth, he did not think there was much of a chance of the Wanqi clan making a move during their journey back to the Pure Yang Sect. Moreover, the Wanqi clan would not be able to catch up to their flying ship as well. However, there was also no harm in exercising caution.

"I've already discussed this with Senior Brother Ye. We'll leave after the Wanqi clan leaves."

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. He thought this was the best choice as well. It was not impossible for the Wanqi clan to attack them like a cornered beast after they left the Seven Kills Valley. Even if they did not go in for the kill, they would surely at least try to snatch the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul back. After all, a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was rare.

Duan Ling Tian did not feel guilty about deceiving Wanqi Jue and the Wanqi clan into giving up the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Before executing the plan, Zhen Ping Fan had told him about the time Wanqi Jue killed a prodigy from the Pure Yang Sect's Cloud Peak faction in a sparring session. Wanqi Jue could have easily spared his opponent's life, but he did not. The prodigy who died was Zhen Ping Fan's senior brother. If he were still alive, he would be a rudimentary Emperor of Gods at least.

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Naturally, Duan Ling Tian also knew that Zhen Ping Fan told him about the matter to relieve him of any mental burden regarding tricking Wanqi Jue.

After a few moments, Duan Ling Tian sent another message to Zhen Ping Fan.

"Elder Zhen, why don't we inform the sect so they can send an Ascension Elders to escort us back to the sect? Perhaps, Ascension Elder Zhen can come if it's convenient?"

Although Duan Ling Tian thought that they should be fine, it was better to be safe than sorry. Moreover, he thought his suggestion was not very troublesome as well.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's Voice Transmission, Zhen Ping Fan said with a smile, "You're really very cautious. Well, my father is already here. He's waiting for us outside of the Seven Kills Valley's estate. He'll join us as soon as we leave."

Duan Ling Tian did not expect this at all. He was both surprised and relieved. "Elder Zhen Yun Feng is here? Why didn't he come into the Seven Kills Valley instead of waiting outside?"

"He doesn't want to exchange small talks with the Seven Kills Valley," Zhen Ping Fan said somewhat helplessly.

Duan Ling Tian asked, "Since he's here, we don't need to wait for the Wanqi clan to leave before leaving, right? There's no need to fear an ambush from the Wanqi clan, after all."

"Don't worry. We won't have to wait for long anyway," Zhen Ping Fan said, "This is the suggestion of Ye Tong and the others. My father arrived late last night, and I've yet to inform them about it. I think I'll keep it that way. They'll be pleasantly surprised when they see my father later."

Zhen Ping Fan's words completely alleviated Duan Ling Tian's worries. With Zhen Yun Feng around, there was no need to worry about anything. After all, Zhen Yun Feng was much stronger than Wanqi Jue even when Wanqi Jue was in possession of his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, let alone now that Wanqi Jue had lost his weapon.

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The Wanqi clan left the next morning in a hurry.

Two hours after the Wanqi clan left, Duan Ling Tian received a message from Zhen Ping Fan.

"It's been two hours since the Wanqi clan left. We should leave now."

Duan Ling Tian left the courtyard as soon as he received the message. He saw that many members of the Pure Yang Sect had already begun to gather as well.

At this time, Ye Tong, the Hidden Sword faction's Nirvanic Elder, suggested, "Junior brother, why don't we ask an intermediate Emperor of Gods from the Seven Kills Valley to accompany us to the entrance? I'm worried the Wanqi clan might be waiting to ambush us near the entrance. Moreover, we'd still be in the range of the Seven Kills Valley's Guarding Formation so we can't use our flying ship yet."

Zhen Ping Fan shook his head. Seeing how worried Ye Tong was, he said with a smile, "There's no need for that. My father is already here. He'll be meeting us at the entrance, and he'll be escorting us back to the Pure Yang Sect."

Everyone was pleasantly surprised and visibly relieved upon hearing Zhen Ping Fan's words.

Ye Tong smiled brightly. "Since junior uncle is here, there's naturally no need for us to seek protection from the Seven Kills Valley." Then, he looked at Zhen Ping Fan with a helpless expression as he said, "Junior brother, you should've told me about this earlier. I've been worrying about this matter."

The elders from the other factions in the Pure Yang Sect also smiled with helpless expressions on their faces. Indeed, if they had known the Ascension Elder from the Cloud Peak faction was here, they would not have worried at all.

"Alright, let's go."

Zhen Ping Fan flew at the lead as Duan Ling Tian and the others followed from behind, leaving the Seven Kills Valley's estate. As soon as they left the estate, they saw Zhen Yun Feng. Everyone quickly greeted him.

Following that, those that came on different flying ships all boarded Zhen Ping Fan's flying ship as well. Although it was a little crowded, no one complained. After all, this concerned their safety. Who knew if their return trip would be a smooth and peaceful one?

Chapter 3987: Wanqi Wu Ming

Zhen Ping Fan's emperor-grade flying ship was enough to accommodate everyone from the Pure Yang Sect who attended the Trading Conference comfortably.

Zhen Yun Feng nodded and smiled at Duan Ling Tian before he placed his hands on his back and looked at the mirror images in the flying ship. The mirror images showed the surroundings of the flying ship.

Although they were traveling at a high speed now, Duan Ling Tian could still see their surroundings clearly. It was only when the speed increased again that the surroundings turned blurry.

Due to Zhen Yu Feng's presence, the members of the Pure Yang Sect felt at ease. They gathered in small groups and began to chat among themselves.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan, who was standing next to Zhen Yun Feng, said with a smile, "Father, my flying ship is now traveling at the speed of an advanced Emperor of Gods. It'll be impossible for Wanqi Jue to catch up to us even if he wants to."

"You should never let down your guard," Zhen Yun Feng said as he shook his head, "Don't forget that the Wanqi clan has a Formation compass that can interfere with the speed of flying ships. If they use the Speed Limiting Formation, your flying ship won't be going anywhere."

"I know," Zhen Ping Fan said carelessly, "However, from what I know, Wanqi Jue doesn't have that Formation compass with him. It's with the clan leader. Wanqi Jue couldn't have predicted this so it's impossible for him to carry that Formation compass with him."

Zhen Yun Feng scoffed. "If I thought about coming here, do you think the Wanqi clan won't send anyone over as well? How do you know they didn't send someone to pass the Formation compass to Wanqi Jue?"

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Zhen Ping Fan's expression froze for a moment when he heard Zhen Yun Feng's words. Then, he forced a smile on his face and said, "So what if they send someone to pass the Formation compass with the Speed Limiting Formation to Wanqi Jue? You're here. Moreover, Wanqi Jue had lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Even if he still possesses it, he still won't have the guts to come looking for trouble."

Zhen Ping Fan was very confident about his father's ability.

'A Speed Limiting Formation compass?'

Driven by his curiosity, Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask Zhen Ping Fan about it.

Since his father was ignoring him, Zhen Ping Fan explained to Duan Ling Tian, “The Speed Limiting Formation, like its name suggests, can slow down the speed of everything in its range. This includes cultivators. This kind of Formation compass is very valuable. Only the top five forces have such a Formation compass in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. The Wanqi clan has one, and our Pure Yang Sect has two.”

Duan Ling Tian had heard about the Speed Limiting Formation, but he did not know that the Formation could be carved into a Formation compass as well. Usually, people would set up the Speed Limiting Formation in advance. When the Formation was activated, it would prevent one’s target from escaping, and the person who set up the Formation would not be affected at all.

Zhen Ping Fan continued to say, “The Speed Limiting Formation isn’t an extraordinary Formation by any means. However, it’s unique because it’s impossible to carve the Formation on ordinary Formation compasses. Rare and precious materials were used to forge Formation compasses that can hold the Speed Limiting Formation. These materials can’t be found in the Eastern Ridge Mansion so they’re all outsourced. Hence, that two Formation compasses we own that hold a Speed Limiting Formation cost a fortune.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“Even if the Wanqi clan sends someone to deliver the Speed Limiting Formation compass to Wanqi Jue, he won’t gain anything if he stops us. Perhaps, he might even run away after he sees my father,” Zhen Ping Fan said disdainfully.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Zhen Yun Feng before he said to Zhen Ping Fan, “Elder Zhen... I think your father has a point when he said the Wanqi clan might send people over. It’s possible that they might send another intermediate Emperor of Gods, right?”

Zhen Ping Fan’s expression changed slightly upon hearing these words. Then, he looked at his father who wore a solemn expression on his face. He wondered inwardly, ‘Is this what father is worried about? It’s true that Wanqi Jue won’t be the only one that feels upset about the loss of the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. The Wanqi clan is going to be unhappy as well. In order to regain the prominent divine artifact, it’s really not impossible for the clan to send another intermediate Emperor of Gods after us...’

Suddenly...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions rang from outside the flying ship.

Duan Ling Tian and the others could feel a force pulling the flying ship.

Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned to look at the father-and-son duo and saw the dark expressions on their faces.

At the same time, the younger generation from the Pure Yang Sect looked around in confusion, trying to figure out what happened.

As for the elders, they were frowning and discussing among themselves.

“Speed Limiting Formation?”

“Wanqi Jue used the Speed Limiting Formation to stop us?”

“It’s impossible for him to set up a Speed Limiting Formation here in just a few days, right?”

“Perhaps, he used the Speed Limiting Formation compass?”

“Isn’t that with the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan?”

At this moment, Zhen Yun Feng said expressionlessly, “Apart from Ping Fan, everyone will return to the Pure Yang Sect using Ye Tong’s flying ship first. This is an order.”

Following that, Zhen Ping Fan said, “Everyone, be careful. I’m going to put away the flying ship now.”

As soon as Zhen Ping Fan’s voice fell, everyone felt the ground disappear under their feet. They quickly mobilized their Divine Energies to hover in the air.

Everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, saw that they were hovering above the sky of a desert. Apart from them, there was no one else except two figures hovering in the distance.

Zhen Yun Feng, who was standing in front of the Pure Yang Sect, looked at the two old men in the distance and asked solemnly, “Wanqi Wu Ming, Wanqi Jue, what’s the meaning of this?”

One of the two old men was Wanqi Jue, the Golden Seat Elder from the Wanqi clan.

Duan Ling Tian had never seen the other old men before, but it was not difficult to guess that the other old man was also an intermediate Emperor of Gods or a Golden Seat Elder like Wanqi Jue.

Wanqi Wu Ming said, “Zhen Yun Feng, don’t pretend to be a fool. You know very well why we stopped you.”

As expected, Wanqi Wu Ming was an intermediate Emperor of Gods, but he was stronger than Wanqi Jue. His strength was comparable to Zhen Yun Feng.

For this reason, a trace of worry could be seen in Zhen Yun Feng’s face when he saw Wanqi Wu Ming.

Zhen Yun Feng said icily, “Wanqi Wu Ming, Wanqi Jue lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul in a fair fight. Are you going to rob it from us?”

At the end of his words, Zhen Yun Feng’s eyes glinted coldly as well.

Wanqi Wu Ming shook his head and said, “Elder Zhen Yun Feng, those are some heavy accusations. Since Wei Chun Dao served as a witness, there’s no question about the legitimacy of the fight or bet. However, I just want to make a point that 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills can’t compare to a prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul at all. The stakes are grossly skewed. You won’t deny this, right?”

Zhen Yun Feng scoffed. “What a joke? So what if that’s the case? Everything was decided before the fight. Now that Wanqi Jue lost, you’re going to say that the stakes aren’t equal in value?”

Wanqi Wu Ming frowned slightly as he said in a low voice, "Elder Zhen, you should know how difficult it is for a prominent divine artifact to give birth to an incomplete artifact soul. Moreover, without it, Wanqi Jue definitely won't survive either one of his next five Heavenly Tribulations. The Wanqi clan has no intention of making an enemy out of the Pure Yang Sect. If you return the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul to us, we'll compensate you with 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills over the next 100 years! If the Pure Yang Sect is willing to accept divine crystals as payment, we can clear the debt even sooner."

"Impossible!" Zhen Yun Feng said decisively.

At this moment, Wanqi Jue finally spoke. He said through gritted teeth, "Zhen Yun Feng! Since we can't come to an agreement, I'm afraid we'll have to offend you."

Chapter 3988: Lend It to Them for a Few Days

As soon as Wanqi Jue's voice fell, a group of familiar figures appeared in the distance. They were all the elders from the Wanqi clan who attended the Trading Conference at Seven Kills Valley. As for the younger generation, including Wanqi Hong, and another elder, they were not present on the scene. It seemed like they had left while this group of elders stayed to support Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue.

At this moment, the group from the Wanqi clan had surrounded Duan Ling Tian and the others from the Pure Yang Sect.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian could feel the slight pressure in the surroundings disappearing. He knew this meant that the Speed Limiting Formation was no longer in effect. After all, its energy consumption was huge. Hence, it would not last long after being activated.

Normally, one would have to etch the Speed Limiting Formation all over again once it lost its effect. This was not the case for the Formation compass, but it would take a while before one could use it again.

Meanwhile, the expressions of those from the Pure Yang Sect changed immediately upon hearing Wanqi Jue's words and seeing the group of people from the Wanqi clan. The expressions of the younger generation were particularly grim, except for Duan Ling Tian who was still calm. This was because even if a fight broke out, Duan Ling Tian knew the Wanqi clan would not dare to kill anyone. Although the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was very important, if they killed someone from the Pure Yang Sect today, the matter would escalate and not in a good way for the Wanqi clan. On the contrary, the consequences would not be big if they only injured the members of the Pure Yang Sect. The Wanqi clan could apologize and compensate the Pure Yang Sect later. With this, it would be difficult for the Pure Yang Sect to take harsh actions against the Wanqi clan due to various factors.

Although the Wanqi clan was weaker than the Pure Yang Sect, if war broke out, the Pure Yang Sect would suffer losses even if they managed to annihilate the Wanqi clan. It would only be a Pyrrhic victory at best.

Zhen Yun Feng sneered. "Wanqi Wu Ming, so you really want to do this?"

Wanqi Wu Ming shook his head and said with a sigh, "Zhen Yun Feng, I'm trying to negotiate with you amicably. The prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul doesn't make much of a difference to your son. He's still young, and he has all the time to make his prominent divine artifact give

birth to an incomplete artifact soul after he becomes an intermediate Emperor of Gods. Conversely, without the prominent divine artifact, Wanqi Jue might die within 5,000 years due to his inability to withstand the Heavenly Tribulation without his weapon. Moreover, I'm rather generous with my estimation. I'm not even sure if he'll be able to survive his upcoming third Heavenly Tribulation..."

Wanqi Wu Ming stood by his earlier excuse.

Zhen Yun Feng stood his ground with no intention of giving in. "That has nothing to do with me. Did we force him to accept the bet? Did we force him to use his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul as a stake? If he was unwilling, no one would be able to force him to do so. Do you think it's acceptable if he had won the bet, and I asked you to return the 100 king-grade Limit Divine Pills to me? How ridiculous!"

At this time, Wanqi Jue said coldly, "Senior Brother Wu Ming. I've already said that Zhen Yun Feng won't agree to it. Let's carry out the plan as we discussed. No one will get hurt if they hand over my weapon! Otherwise, I'm afraid all of you won't be able to escape being injured." Then, he looked at the other elders from the Pure Yang Sect meaningfully as he added, "If you're seriously injured, your cultivation will be affected, and you might not be able to survive your upcoming Heavenly Tribulation."

Among the elders from the Pure Yang Sect who attended the Trading Conference, there were a few leaders of the factions. For some of them, it was not easy to overcome the Heavenly Tribulations, to begin with. Their chances of survival would become lower if they were seriously injured. All of them looked at the members of the Wanqi clan in anger and dissatisfaction. Not only did the Wanqi clan refuse to honor their words, but they even used such despicable methods.

At this moment, Zhen Ping Fan said to Zhen Yun Feng, "Father, all means of communication have been interrupted. It seems like they came prepared."

Zhen Yun Feng nodded slightly with a calm expression on his face. "I expected as much."

On the contrary, the others from the Pure Yang Sect were shocked when they heard Zhen Ping Fan's words. This meant that they could not call for reinforcements from the Pure Yang Sect or even the Seven Kills Valley since all means of communications had been cut off for now. Although the Pure Yang Sect and the Seven Kills Valley did not have a particularly close relationship, the Seven Kills Valley would not refuse to help the Pure Yang Sect under such circumstances.

Zhen Yun Feng looked at Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue and asked in a low voice, "Wanqi Wu Ming, Wanqi Jue, are you declaring war on the Pure Yang Sect on behalf of the Wanqi clan?"

Wanqi Jue said nonchalantly, "Elder Zhen Yun Feng, stop twisting my words. I've said, there'll be no killings involved. However, injuries are inevitable in a conflict. I admit that not everyone from our clan here is a match for your people here. However, don't forget that you have the younger generation with you. If a fight breaks out, the elders will have to split their attention between the fight and protecting the younger generation. If you're distracted, who do you think will have the upper hand in the fight?"

Wanqi Jue was clearly fearless only due to Wanqi Wu Ming's presence.

Duan Ling Tian frowned.

The Wanqi clan was too shameless. They seemed determined to regain the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Based on the current situation, it seemed best for the Pure Yang Sect to compromise. Although the elders of the Pure Yang Sect present at this moment were more than a match for the elders of the Wanqi clan present on the scene, the situation was disadvantageous for the Pure Yang Sect since the elders had to protect the younger generation as well.

At this moment, Wanqi Wu Ming said again, "Zhen Yun Feng, things will be much easier if you compromise. As long as you return Wanqi Jue's prominent divine artifact, both parties can leave this place safe and sound. What I said earlier is also in effect. Our Wanqi clan will compensate you with either 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills or divine crystals. I'll leave it up to you to choose. If you choose the Limit Divine Pills, it'll take some time before we'll be able to completely fulfill our payment. If you choose the divine crystals, we'll be able to fulfill the payment before the Seven Mansions Feast begins."

In other words, Wanqi Wu Ming was determined to fight the members of the Pure Yang Sect if the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was not returned to Wanqi Jue.

Wanqi Jue looked at Zhen Yun Feng and said in a low voice, "Zhen Yun Feng. Although you're stronger than me, it's not the case with Senior Brother Wu Ming. If we fight, he'll keep you occupied while I keep your son occupied. The elders from both sides will also fight. However, during the fight, no one can guarantee the younger generation from your sect won't be affected."

At the end of his word, Wanqi Jue looked at Duan Ling Tian and the other young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect.

Zhen Yun Feng's expression darkened even more.

Wanqi Wu Ming said, "Zhen Yun Feng, there's nothing personal about this. It's not like it's an embarrassment for you to hand the prominent divine artifact over. In fact, if you return the weapon, the Wanqi clan will issue a public apology to the Pure Yang Sect. On top of the compensation I promised you, we'll also compensate you with additional cultivation resources."

Zhen Yun Feng took a deep breath before he asked, "Wanqi Wu Ming, is this Wanqi Jue and your idea or the Wanqi clan's idea?"

Wanqi Wu Ming was slightly caught off guard by this question. Then, he replied nonchalantly, "The Speed Limiting Formation compass is usually with the clan leader. What do you think?"

Zhen Yun Feng nodded. An angry smile appeared on his face as he said, "Very well. This is the first time that I, Zhen Yun Feng, suffered such a huge loss. No, I should say this is the first time our Pure Yang Sect has suffered such a huge loss in the Eastern Ridge Mansion." Then, after a brief pause, he said, "Ping Fan, lend that prominent divine artifact to the Wanqi clan for a few days."

Zhen Ping Fan, Wan Qi Wuming, and Wan Qi Jue were shocked by Zhen Yun Feng's words.

As for the others from the Wanqi clan, when they recovered from their shock, they chuckled inwardly. They thought that Zhen Yun Feng had used the word 'lend' to save himself from the embarrassment of having to give in. Although they knew the Pure Yang Sect would not let the matter slide just like that, they were prepared to apologize and compensate the Pure Yang Sect. It was fine even if their reputation

was slightly tarnished as long as they regained the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Compared to the death of an intermediate Emperor of Gods due to loss of that prominent divine artifact, the consequence of tarnishing their reputation was nothing. Moreover, since no lives were lost, the Pure Yang Sect could not act too excessively as well.

Chapter 3989: Testing the Divine Sword

The Wanqi clan had no choice but to oppose and offend the Pure Yang Sect openly in order to preserve the life of their clan's intermediate Emperor of Gods. Today's incident would definitely cause a rift between the Pure Yang Sect and the Wanqi clan, but they were not afraid. Although the Wanqi clan was slightly weaker than the Pure Yang Sect, the Wanqi clan was still one of the top five forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

The Wanqi clan was also certain that it was impossible for the Pure Yang Sect to snatch the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul back once it returned to Wanqi Jue's hands. They had already had a plan to mitigate the situation. They would issue a public apology to the Pure Yang Sect and compensate them with 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills to show their sincerity. At that time, the Pure Yang Sect would be forced to accept it since there was nothing to be done. Both forces would not benefit from going to war, after all. To them, the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul and preserving Wanqi Jue's life were worth much more than a public apology and 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. They were also confident in their choice because they were certain the Pure Yang Sect would choose to settle this matter peacefully.

'Lend it for a few days?'

Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue did not care about Zhen Yun Feng's choice of words at this moment. Unless the Pure Yang Sect intended on waging war on the Wanqi clan, which the Wanqi clan was certain they would not, it would be impossible for the Pure Yang Sect to regain the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul.

"Father..." Zhen Ping Fan felt reluctant despite knowing it was necessary. When he saw his father's resolute gaze, he had no choice but to bring out the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul. Then, he tossed it over as he gritted his teeth.

Wanqi Jue used his Divine Energy to bring the prominent divine artifact back into his hand. He looked at the seven-foot-long obsessively as though he had just been reunited with his lover.

"Elder Zhen Yun Feng, I apologize for offending you," Wanqi Wu Ming said with a smile before he led the others from the Wanqi clan away.

The expressions of the members of the Pure Yang Sect, including Lan Xi Lin, were very dark at this moment. They felt insulted and humiliated.

After Zhen Ping Fan brought his flying ship out again, the members of the Pure Yang Sect boarded the ship silently.

Zhen Ping Fan said to his father through Voice Transmission, "Father, Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue have gone too far!"

Zhen Ping Fan was obviously unresigned.

The others wanted to console Zhen Yun Feng as well, but knowing that Zhen Yun Feng was in a bad mood, no one dared to say anything.

However, as Zhen Yun Feng's son, Zhen Ping Fan, who had lost his prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul, did not worry about his father's mood and complained directly to his father.

Duan Ling Tian, who was sitting in a corner, wore an unsightly expression on his face as well. Although the loss of the prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul did not affect him, he was disgusted by how shameless the Wanqi class had acted. The Wanqi clan had used the younger generation from the Pure Yang Sect to threaten Zhen Yun Feng and the other elders from the Pure Yang Sect. At the same time, he felt bad as well because he felt that he was the cause of the entire ordeal. His eyes glinted coldly as he thought to himself, 'Wanqi clan...'

Zhen Yun Feng replied to Zhen Ping Fan, "Do we have a choice? There's nothing we could do earlier. Perhaps, the Heavenly Tribulations won't be able to threaten our lives even if we're injured, but what about the younger generation? The Wanqi clan didn't bring the younger generation along because they knew the younger generation would be a burden to them. I hate to admit it, but they were smart."

"Father..." Zhen Ping Fan was displeased upon hearing his father saying the Wanqi clan was smart.

Before Zhen Ping Fan could complain again, Zhen Yun Feng's eyes glinted coldly as he said, "Don't worry. The Wanqi clan will regret this."

Zhen Ping Fan did not think much of his father's words. He said with a bitter smile, "Father, I'm afraid there's nothing we can do to them. They will publicly apologize and compensate us with 200 king-grade Limit Divine Pills. The Limit Divine Pills they offer is double that of the number of Limit Divine Pills Duan Ling Tian used as a stake. With all things considered, our sect can't act too harshly."

What the Wanqi clan thought of, Zhen Ping Fan naturally thought of as well. This was the reason why he felt so unwilling.

"Perhaps, if it were in the past, that would be how things would end," Zhen Yun Feng said coldly, "However, things are different now."

Zhen Ping Fan looked at his father in confusion. "What do you mean by things are different now, father?"

Zhen Yun Feng glanced at his son and said, "The Wanqi clan has considered the things you said, and they're certain our sect won't confront them about this matter. Although our sect is stronger than their clan, both sides will suffer greatly if we go to war. However, what if our sect has a powerhouse who's stronger than the Wanqi clan's strongest powerhouse? Do you think the Wanqi clan will dare to continue being shameless?"

Zhen Yun Feng sneered as he continued to say, "What? Do you think I was trying to save myself from the embarrassment when I told you to lend the weapon to them? I meant what I said."

Zhen Ping Fan mulled over his father's words for a moment before his eyes lit up. He asked excitedly, "Father, are you saying Junior Uncle Ye is close to succeeding?"

Zhen Ping Fan was smart, after all. It was not difficult for him to interpret the meaning behind his father's words.

Ye Chen Feng, the Ascension Elder and the founder of the Hidden Sword faction of the Pure Yang Sect, was the only one in the Pure Yang Sect with such capability and potential. Once he successfully turned his artifact soul into a complete artifact soul, he could kill ordinary advanced Emperors of Gods even if he was an intermediate Emperor of Gods.

The Wanqi clan dared to act shamelessly because their strongest powerhouse was on par with the Pure Yang Sect's top powerhouse. The general strength of the Pure Yang Sect was already stronger than that of the Wanqi clan, to begin with. It would be completely different once the Pure Yang Sect's strongest powerhouse surpassed the strongest powerhouse from the Wanqi clan.

Zhen Yun Feng nodded. "You're quite quick-witted, but you're not completely right. Before leaving the sect, I received wonderful news from him. He's not close to obtaining a complete artifact soul; he has already obtained a complete artifact soul for his prominent divine artifact. He's been spending his time familiarizing himself with his prominent divine sword. Before I left, he told me he's looking for a way to test the sword's strength. What a coincidence that an opportunity presented itself so quickly."

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes lit up with excitement as soon as he heard these words. He said, "I want to go to the Wanqi clan's estate with Junior Uncle Ye! I want to see Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue's expressions at that time."

...

After the confrontation with the Wanqi clan, the trip home for the entourage from the Pure Yang Sect was safe and uneventful.

Since Zhen Yun Feng did not issue a gag order, news of what happened spread quickly, and everyone condemned the Wanqi clan for their shamelessness and lack of honor.

"The Wanqi clan is really shameless!"

"Damn it! It's so unfair!"

"I have a friend in Seven Kills Valley. He just confirmed that Elder Zhen Ping Fan's prominent divine artifact with an incomplete artifact soul was won by Duan Ling Tian fair and square from Wanqi Jue."

"Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue are a disgrace. They're not worthy of their titles as the Golden Seat Elders of the Wanqi clan! I hope the Heavenly Tribulation kills both of them!"

It was unprecedented for everyone in the Pure Yang Sect to be so united.

When Duan Ling Tian wandered around Cloud Peak Island, he could hear many people criticizing the Wanqi clan for being shameless.

...

On the second day after returning to the Pure Yang Sect from the Seven Kills Valley, Duan Ling Tian received a message from Zhen Ping Fan.

“Duan Ling Tian, are you free?”

“Elder Zhen? What’s the matter?” Duan Ling Tian was curious as to why Zhen Ping Fan had messaged him.

“Junior Uncle Ye wants to know if you’re interested in following us to the Wanqi clan’s estate,” Zhen Ping Fan said.

“Elder Ye? Isn’t he in closed-door cultivation to nurture his artifact soul?” Duan Ling Tian asked, surprised.

“He’s already come out of closed-door cultivation quite a few days ago,” Zhen Ping Fan replied, “He’s been familiarizing himself with his prominent divine sword, and he’s looking for a chance to test the strength of his sword. If you’re free, come with us to the Wanqi clan. You’ll be able to witness how powerful a prominent divine artifact with a complete soul is.”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up upon hearing Zhen Ping Fan’s words.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not discuss the matter with Zhen Yun Feng and Zhen Ping Fan during their journey back to the Pure Yang Sect, he could guess the Wanqi clan’s thoughts and the Pure Yang Sect’s subsequent actions. He knew why the Wanqi clan dared to act so shamelessly, and he also knew there was nothing the Pure Yang Sect could do unless they were willing to suffer losses as well. However, after learning that Ye Chen Feng’s prominent divine sword now had a complete artifact soul, the situation was completely different. It seemed like there would be an exciting show to watch in the Wanqi clan’s estate.

‘Elder Ye is widely acknowledged as the strongest powerhouse in the Pure Yang Sect. His strength is going to be much more terrifying now that his prominent divine sword has a complete artifact soul. His strength is likely comparable to an ordinary advanced Emperor of Gods now.’

Chapter 3990: The Wanqi Clan’s Strongest Powerhouse

As one of the top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, the Wan Qi clan’s estate was naturally located in a good location. The estate was built on the eastern outskirts of a huge city, surrounded by rivers and mountains. The city was also specifically built by the clan to fulfill their needs. Unsurprisingly, the city was named Wanqi City. Most of the businesses in the city were also owned by the Wanqi clan.

Many forces in the city and near the city came to the Wanqi clan to look for rare items. For this reason, Wanqi City grew more and more prosperous.

Wanqi City was quite similar to Linghu City in that they were surrounded by mountains and rivers, just that it was much bigger and more prosperous.

At this moment.

In a remote valley in the Wanqi clan’s estate.

A young man was kneeling in a spacious courtyard.

An old servant sighed and said to the young man, “Young Master Hong, there’s no need for this. The master has said that it wasn’t your fault. Master is now in closed-door cultivation, refining the incomplete artifact soul of his prominent divine artifact. He won’t be out so soon. If he knows you’re kneeling here, he’ll definitely tell you to get up.”

“I lost the bet,” Wanqi Hong said to the old man, “I’ll kneel until great-great-grandfather comes out from his closed-door cultivation. I’ll wait for his punishment.”

The old man sighed and no longer dissuaded Wanqi Hong. He knew Wanqi Hong was determined. He glanced at one of the rooms before he said, “Master should come out of closed-door cultivation in a few days. Since Zhen Ping Fan didn’t claim ownership of the weapon, it won’t take long for him to refine it. If I may say it again. It’s not necessary to do this, Young Master Hong. If you ask me, master will be much happier if you use this time to cultivate so you’ll perform well during the Seven Mansions Feast.”

Wanqi Hong said, “I won’t be able to break through so soon. Moreover, I reached a bottleneck in my cultivation.”

With that, Wanqi Hong knelt in Wanqi Jue’s courtyard for seven days and seven nights.

...

After seven days and seven nights.

The sound of wind whistling rang out as a spear shot out from an open door.

Following that, an old man stepped out of the room. He glanced at Wanqi Hong before he flew into the air. He raised his hand and grabbed the spear before tendrils of dark energy suddenly appeared, looking like black snakes. The black snakes quickly twined around him, completely covering him like a barrier. After a few moments, the black tendrils of energy disappeared into his body.

“Congratulations, master,” the old servant said.

Wanqi Jue nodded slightly before he looked at Wanqi Hong and asked sternly, “Why are you kneeling here instead of cultivating? I’m looking forward to watching you defeat Duan Ling Tian during the Seven Mansions Feast.”

A hint of disappointment could be heard at the end of Wanqi Jue’s words.

“Great-great-grandfather,” Wanqi Hong said with a bitter expression on his face, “There’s only a decade left before the start of the Seven Mansions Feast. I’m afraid it’ll be impossible for me to defeat Duan Ling Tian during the Seven Mansions Feast.”

Although Duan Ling Tian was only slightly stronger than Wanqi Hong, Wanqi Hong was aware that it was impossible for him to surpass Duan Ling Tian even if Duan Ling Tian did not make any progress in the coming decade.

“Why do you say so? Do you think you’re inferior to him and that it’s impossible to surpass him after losing to him once?” Wanqi Jue said with a scoff, “Return to your cultivation ground and cultivate immediately! The men the clan leader sent out should be returning within three years. With the lord-grade Limit Divine Pills, you can stabilize your cultivation base and defeat him.”

Wanqi Hong's eyes widened upon hearing these words. Clearly, he was unaware of this matter. If he had the help of lord-grade Limit Divine Pills to stabilize his cultivation base at the realm of an advanced Lord of Gods within ten years, not only would he be on par with Duan Ling Tian, but he could likely defeat Duan Ling Tian as well.

Wanqi Hong's expression was no longer gloomy like before. He rose to his feet hastily. Before flying back to his cultivation ground, he said respectfully, "I understand, great-great-grandfather."

Suddenly...

A thunderous voice resounded through the Wanqi clan's estate.

"Wanqi clan, how dare you act shamelessly!"

Following that, a dazzling white beam of light shot down from the sky and landed on the Wanqi clan's Guarding Formation.

Boom!

The Wanqi clan's defensive barrier only deflected part of the force from the white beam of light while the remaining force swept through the clan's estate.

It was easy for those with high cultivation bases to deflect the aftershock, but those below the realm of a Lord of Gods, who were alone at this time, were instantly killed.

Harrowing cries rang out in the Wanqi clan's estate in just an instance as rivers of blood formed.

Wanqi Jue's expression changed drastically. "This voice... Ye Chen Feng?! What's he doing? Is he trying to provoke our clan or is he putting on a show to save the Pure Yang Sect's reputation? And... it seems like he's grown stronger again."

Soon enough, an angry voice echoed through the Wanqi clan. "Did you come on your own accord or is it under the order of the Pure Yang Sect? By attacking our clan's Guarding Formation, are you trying to wage war on the Wanqi clan?"

"Wanqi Liu Su, tell Wanqi Wu Ming and Wanqi Jue to show themselves."

Wanqi Liu Su was the name of the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan.

Upon hearing these words, Wanqi Jue scoffed and flew up, leaving Wanqi Hong who had yet to leave behind.

Wanqi Hong recovered his senses and quickly followed Wanqi Jue.

...

Three figures hovered in the sky above the Wanqi clan's estate. The person standing in the lead was a young man dressed in a long golden robe with silver trimmings. He had a jade-like complexion and an extraordinary bearing. He was expressionless as he looked down at the Wanqi clan's estate.

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan said with a smile to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Pay attention. Junior Uncle Ye is going to make them pay for what they've done."

The corners of Duan Ling Tian's twitched when he looked at Zhen Ping Fan who could barely contain his excitement. At the same time, he was also shocked by how confident Ye Chen Feng was. Ye Chen Feng did not seem to think much about the Wanqi clan, one of the top five forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion, at all. However, after thinking about it for a moment, he thought it was not surprising since Ye Chen Feng now possessed a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul.

While Duan Ling Tian was conversing with Zhen Ping Fan through Voice Transmission, many figures shot up from the Wanqi clan's estate. They hovered in front of the trio.

A middle-aged man dressed in a long dark green robe stood in the lead while about a dozen old men and a few middle-aged men stood behind him.

At this moment, a figure stepped forward. "Clan leader."

It was none other than Wanqi Jue, one of the Golden Seats Elders of the Wanqi clan.

With this, it was easy for Duan Ling Tian to figure out that the middle-aged man in dark green robes was Wanqi Liu Su, the Clan Leader of the Wanqi clan.

Soon enough, another familiar figure appeared. It was none other than Wanqi Wu Ming, also a Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan. He sounded angry as he said, "Ye Chen Feng, do you think no one in our clan is a match for you just because you made a little progress?"

Following that, another old man stepped forward. He was very inconspicuous and had an unassuming appearance.

Zhen Ping Fan told Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission that the old man was the leader among the three Golden Seat Elders of the Wanqi clan, Wanqi Yu Ning. He was also the Wanqi clan's strongest powerhouse.

The members of the Wanqi clan bowed and greeted Wanqi Yu Ning as soon as he appeared. Even Wanqi Jue and Wanqi Wu Ming addressed him as 'junior uncle'. Clearly, the strongest powerhouse in the Wanqi clan also had the highest seniority in the clan.

Zhen Ping Fan said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "He's the most senior and strongest member of the Wanqi clan, but he won't live for long. It's said that he was severely injured during his last Heavenly Tribulation. It's unlikely that he'll survive the upcoming one."