

### Chapter 4031: The Seven Mansions Feast Is Coming to an End

“Very good,” Ye Chen Feng said as a hint of admiration flashed in his eyes. At the same time, he thought that it was not by chance that Duan Ling Tian was so outstanding at such a young age.

Usually, young prodigies were arrogant, and they were dismissive of anyone they deemed weaker than them. However, Duan Ling Tian was different; he did not look down on those who were weaker and even thought that he might learn from them. This was very smart. After all, even if one was strong, it did not mean that one was without flaws. Conversely, it did not mean that the weak were without strengths of their own. One could certainly learn a thing or two.

When the people from the Pure Yang arrived at their temporary accommodation, instead of returning to his wooden house, Zhen Ping Fan looked for Duan Ling Tian.

“Elder Zhen, what’s the matter?” Duan Ling Tian asked with a smile. However, he knew that Zhen Ping Fan had likely come to remind him like Ye Chen Feng did.

As expected, Zhen Ping Fang was very solemn as he told Duan Ling Tian not to feel pressured about ranking in the top three and that it was good enough to rank in the top ten.

“Elder Zhen, don’t worry. I’m aware of my limits,” Duan Ling Tian said with a smile, “I won’t act rashly, and I’ll definitely rank in the top ten at the very least for the Pure Yang Sect.”

Zhen Ping Fan nodded slightly. Earlier, he had been worried that Duan Ling Tian would put pressure on himself to rank in the top three. Moreover, if Duan Ling Tian overexerted himself and got injured due to the overwhelming pressure, he was also worried it would affect Duan Ling Tian’s chances of ranking in the top ten. However, he felt at ease after listening to Duan Ling Tian. He did not doubt Duan Ling Tian’s words since he was familiar with Duan Ling Tian’s personality.

During the previous Seven Mansions Feast, there was a participant stronger than Zhen Ping Fan whom many thought had a high chance of ranking in the top ten. However, due to his determination to rank in the top three, he was severely injured, causing him to be unable to rank in the top ten. In the end, due to his injuries, he was defeated by Zhen Ping Fan even though he would have been able to defeat Zhen Ping Fan within ten moves if he were uninjured.

It was also for this reason that Zhen Ping Fan spoke to Duan Ling Tian. He had been worried Duan Ling Tian would mess up his chance of ranking in the top 10 if Duan Ling Tian was too obsessed with ranking in the top three.

Despite feeling at ease, Zhen Ping Fan told Duan Ling Tian about what happened in the past and reminded Duan Ling Tian to not make the same mistakes as that person did.

Duan Ling Tian felt rather speechless. ‘Did I reassure you for nothing earlier?’

After Zhen Ping Fan left, Duan Ling Tian sat on his bed and thought about the five participants who caught his eyes so far.

'They're already very strong with the strength they have displayed so far, but it shouldn't be difficult for me to defeat them with my current strength. However, I don't know if they're still holding back. For example, although Wanqi Hong had attacked his opponents aggressively, he's still hiding his strength.'

Duan Ling Tian had a certain understanding of Wanqi Hong's strength since he had defeated Wanqi Hong before Wanqi Hong stabilized his cultivation base in the realm of an advanced Lord of Gods. For that reason, he had a feeling Wanqi Hong had yet to show his full strength.

'Oh, that's right. Prominent divine artifacts with incomplete and complete artifact souls are prohibited during the Seven Mansions Feast... What a pity...'

Previously, the rules of the Seven Mansions Feast explicitly prohibited the use of prominent divine artifacts with incomplete souls. Due to the rarity of prominent divine artifacts with complete artifact souls, nothing was said about it. However, that changed after news of Ye Chen Feng's prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul spread to the Seven Mansions. Although there were always rumors about certain forces possessing prominent divine artifacts with complete souls in the past, nothing was confirmed. On the contrary, it had been confirmed that Ye Chen Feng possessed a prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul; there were even witnesses. As such, a rule explicitly prohibiting the use of prominent divine artifacts with complete souls was quickly created. This was to prevent Ye Chen Feng from lending his prominent divine artifact with a complete artifact soul to the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect during the Seven Mansions Feast.

Duan Ling Tian was one of the top contenders for the top ten places in the Seven Mansions Feast. One could only imagine how strong he would be if Ye Chen Feng were to lend him the prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul. Moreover, since Duan Ling Tian had comprehended the Sword Dao, his strength would increase two folds at least if he wielded the prominent divine sword with a complete artifact soul.

'They're quite meticulous...' Duan Ling Tian shook his head. Then, he began to think of strategies if he were matched with a strong opponent. Although it was not impossible, it would not be easy for him to defeat the top participants. After all, not only were they advanced Lords of Gods, but their comprehension of the laws was not inferior to his and might even be superior to his. Moreover, if they were natives of the Realms of Gods, he also had to take their bloodline powers into consideration.

'I can't afford to be careless. I shouldn't let the fight drag on, and I should strive to end the fight as soon as I can before they go all out...'

...

A few days passed in just a blink of an eye, and the second stage of the battle of rankings began again.

The 30 seeded participants were just spectators during this stage.

After listening to the conversation of a few young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect, Duan Ling Tian learned that 3 out of 6 seeded participants who caught his eyes were absent during the second stage. They were Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect, Lin Yuan from the

Profound Jade Heaven's Howling Flames Sect, and Wanqi Hong from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Wanqi clan. They were likely cultivating, hoping to increase their strength before they had to fight again.

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The second stage to determine the ranking was roughly estimated to take up to half a month, and it could also take longer since there were 72 participants at the second stage.

In the end, the second stage to determine the rankings took up 19 days. It took four days longer than expected to determine the 31st to the 100th place.

At the end of the second stage, Ye Ying Cai and Yun Ye Wei from the Pure Yang Sect secured their rank respectively at the 36th and the 42nd places.

Lan Xi Lin was ranked 98th. Not only was he happy about the result, but even Lan Zheng Ming, his great grandfather, was proud of him. After all, Lan Zhen Ming did not expect him to enter the Ambitious Group at all, let alone rank in the top 100. He also knew that Lan Xi Lin was lucky as well. Some participants who were stronger than Lan Xi Lin were severely injured.

Apart from Lan Xi Lin, there were also a few weaker participants who managed to rank in the top 100 due to luck.

Although the rewards were not a lot, those who ranked at the bottom of the top 100 would still be rewarded.

Although many people were surprised by this, there was no objection. After all, luck was also part of one's strength. Perhaps, if this concerned the top 30 rankings, people would protest or feel suspicious.

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After the end of the second stage, Lin Dong Lai said solemnly, "Everyone, the final stage to determine the ranking will commence after 11 days. Please stay safe in the coming 11 days. Let me remind everyone that if anyone is suspected of unlawful behavior, the Profound Jade Mansion has the authority to disqualify them."

Duan Ling Tian and the other young disciples were slightly puzzled by Lin Dong Lai's abrupt warning until an elder from the Pure Yang Sect explained the matter to them.

In the past, before the finals of the Seven Mansions Feast, there were powerhouses who attacked the participants from other forces. Although they did not attack physically, they injured the participants' souls with their Divine Consciousnesses, affecting the opposing participants' strength and gaining the upper hand for their own participants.

Zhen Ping Fan looked at Duan Ling Tian and the others and said warningly, "That's why all of you shouldn't leave your wooden houses or the range of our accommodation in the coming days."

### **Chapter 4032: The Final Round to Determine the Rankings**

'How vicious...'

Duan Ling Tian shook his head when he learned about the participants who were attacked during the previous Seven Mansions Feasts. There were many powerhouses present during the Seven Mansions Feast, and it was a bold and risky move to attack the participants. However, based on how important the Secret Holy Realm was, it was inevitable that there were some people who were desperate enough to take such risks. After all, an intermediate Emperor of Gods could likely become an advanced Emperor of Gods in the Secret Holy Realm.

'I should stay in my wooden house in the coming days...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Initially, he had planned to walk around since there was no point in cultivating now. However, after hearing about the past, he quickly dismissed that idea. Moreover, he knew he was a thorn in the side of some forces. If he was gone, it would mean there was one fewer competitor in the top 10.

Yang Qian Ye, who had been warned by his master as well, replied, "Master, I understand."

Yang Qian Ye did not intend to leave his wooden house in the first place.

When only Zhen Ping Fan and Duan Ling Tian were left, Zhen Ping Fan said again, "Duan Ling Tian, you should make some final preparations. Don't forget that it's good enough to rank in the top ten. Don't stress yourself out about ranking in the top three."

"I understand," Duan Ling Tian said. He was not impatient at all by Zhen Ping Fan's repeated reminders. On the contrary, he felt grateful. Clearly, Zhen Ping Fan treated him sincerely. Hence, he was determined to remember and repay Zhen Ping Fan's kindness.

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Ten days passed by peacefully.

The elders from the various forces warned their young disciples not to wander around as well due to past incidents.

On the 11th day, everyone made their way to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast again. Since the seeded participants were all accompanied by their respective elders, their safety was guaranteed.

'Many people came early...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He noticed that most of the forces had already arrived. Previously, there were not many people who arrived early.

'Some forces have more than one seeded participant. This means that there are a few forces whose young disciples failed to rank in the top 30... In any case, it's useless to rank in the top 30 if they can't rank in the top ten. After all, the entire point is to rank in the top ten to gain entry into the Secret Holy Realm. However, many care about ranking in the top 30 since it would bring them glory and prestige,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

It was human nature to chase after fame, after all. The Seven Mansions Feast was a great platform for young prodigies to showcase their strength, and their rankings would earn them respect from their elders and forces respectively. In turn, it would benefit them.

'Just like Elder Ye... According to Elder Zhen, the Pure Yang Sect only began to pay attention to Elder Ye and gave him more resources after his performance during the Seven Mansions Feast.'

Duan Ling Tian understood why some prodigies were determined to rank as high as they could even if they could not rank in the top ten. For them, it was a way to change their fate and escape mediocrity.

15 minutes later, everyone finally arrived. The small floating islands were all occupied.

“Elder Lin is going to show up soon...”

Lin Dong Lai from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Howling Flames Sect would usually show up as soon as everyone arrived.

As expected, a dignified figure flew over from the distance in just a blink of an eye.

Usually, Lin Dong Lai maintained a solemn expression on his face, but today, a faint smile could be seen on his face. Who knew if he was in a good mood or if he was just happy that the Seven Mansions Feast was about to end? After all, although it was not difficult, it was exhausting having to host and oversee all the fights.

“Everyone, we’re finally at the main event of the Seven Mansions Feast. Today, we’ll determine the top ten rankings. The 30 seeded participants we’ve chosen have all exceeded our expectations. All of them won their challenges and were not replaced. This is rare in the history of the Seven Mansions Feast,” Lin Dong Lai said.

Duan Ling Tian had also heard from Zhen Ping Fan that it was rare that all 30 seeded participants were not replaced at all during the Seven Mansions Feast. It had only happened a few times in the past. The last time something like this happened was more than 100,000 years ago. This also proved that the Profound Jade Mansion had a discerning eye for talents.

“Everyone should know the rules for the finals so I won’t explain them. We’ll start in 15 minutes after you obtain your tokens.”

The participants’ eyes glinted anticipatorily after they listened to Lin Dong Lai’s words.

The 30 seeded participants would be given tokens. The numbers on the tokens represented the participants’ temporary ranks. They could only challenge those with higher ranks than them. The participant with the lowest rank, which was the 30th place, would be the first to issue a challenge. The 30th participant could challenge anyone from the 1st place to the 29th place. However, the 21st participant could only challenge the 20th participant. As for the 20th participant, he or she could challenge anyone from the 11th to the 19th place. As for the 10th participant, he or she could only challenge those ranked 4th to 9th. In order to challenge the person who was ranked third, one had to be ranked 4th. Only after ranking third could one challenge those who ranked second and first.

Luck played a huge part in this draw. Getting a higher and lower number each had its own pros and cons, but most participants preferred a higher ranking. After all, they were all proud and domineering.

“Duan Ling Tian, what number are you hoping to get?” Zhen Ping Fan asked with a smile.

Upon hearing this, the others from the Pure Yang Sect looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously in unison.

“It doesn’t matter to me,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a faint smile on his face.

Needless to say, the temporary rankings did not affect those who were truly strong. After all, they could easily climb up the ranks with their strength.

“There’s a huge advantage if you draw the number one. You’ll be able to rest in the beginning since very few people would be able to challenge you,” Zhen Ping Fan said to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian nodded; he naturally knew this. “We’ll see. After all, I can decide what number I’ll draw. If the token with the number one isn’t near me, there’s nothing I can do about it.”

### **Chapter 4033: It’s Important to Think Outside the Box**

“You’re right,” Zhen Ping Fan said with a nod, “It all depends on luck. 10, 000 years ago, I was confident I’d be able to grab the token with the number one if it had appeared near me. Alas, I only managed to obtain the token with the number two.”

Duan Ling Tian felt rather speechless when he heard Zhen Ping Fan’s words. In the end, he smiled and said teasingly, “Drawing the number 2 is useless if one isn’t strong enough...”

Zhen Ping Pan looked at Duan Ling Tian unhappily when Duan Ling Tian brought up the past.

In the past, Zhen Ping Fan managed to draw the number two, but he lost his challenges and was knocked out of the top ten. Perhaps, if he had managed to rank in the top ten and obtained two slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm, the Pure Yang Sect would have given him more resources, and he might have become an intermediate Emperor of Gods by now.

While Duan Ling Tian and Zhen Ping Fan were conversing through Voice Transmission, the other participants were looking at Lin Dong Lai. After all, this time it would matter if Lin Dong Lai cheated and tossed favorable tokens to the participants from his own force.

When 15 minutes were almost up, Lin Dong Lai said, “I’ll be tossing the tokens in the breaths...”

Unlike the others who were staring intently at Lin Dong Lai, Duan Ling Tian was staring at the two seeded participants from the Howling Flames Sect before the time was up. Those two were furtively looking in specific directions at this moment; one was looking at Lin Dong Lai’s left while the other was looking at Lin Dong Lai’s back.

‘To avoid being accused of cheating, I don’t think Elder Lin would allow both the numbers one and two to fall into the hands of the two participants from the Howling Flames Sect. This means only one of the two numbers will show up at one of the two places... If only one of them obtains one of the first two numbers, no one will protest... I’m quite sure Elder Lin only told one of them the location of a favorable number...’

Duan Ling Tian was rather certain that Lin Dong Lai would not allow both of the seeded participants from the Howling Flames Sect to obtain the number one and two respectively. After all, Lin Dong Lai would definitely be accused of cheating; even if Lin Dong Lai cheated, he had to do so within reason.

In fact, Lin Yuan and Mo Luo Do were very cautious. They only glanced at the spots quickly before they averted their gazes. If Duan Ling Tian were not looking at the duo, he would not have discovered it either.

'I should give up on the token that Elder Lin had designated for his force's young disciple, and let the others fight over it. It's better for me to look for the other favorable token. The rest will have to depend on my luck...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at a spot where he felt a favorable token might appear.

Almost ten breaths passed in just a blink of an eye.

Duan Ling Tian and the others mobilized their Divine Energies, prepared to grab a token. Apart from luck, speed was crucial in order to obtain a favorable number, after all.

"Are you ready?"

The participants were on their toes, ready to move.

At the same time a translucent barrier appeared, Lin Dong Lai tossed out 30 tokens.

The tokens scattered in the air like flower petals as Divine Energies passed through the barrier.

'Number 2!'

Duan Ling Tian quickly saw a token with the number two appearing at the spot he was staring at. His Divine Energy shot out swiftly and grabbed that token.

Duan Ling Tian was able to successfully grab that token because the other top participants were distracted.

Wanqi Hong from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Wanqi clan and Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect directed their Divine Energies toward the direction where the Howling Flames Sect's Mo Luo Do had directed his Divine Energy.

At the same time, Han Di from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect, Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect, and Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan directed their Divine Energies where the Howling Sect Flames's Lin Yuan had directed his Divine Energy.

It did not take long for a few other participants, including Yang Qian Ye, to follow the directions of the two participants from the Howling Flames Sect.

Under such circumstances, not many paid attention to the spot Duan Ling Tian was staring at. Everyone only thought to follow the two seeded participants from the Howling Flames Sect, convinced that Lin Dong Lai would cheat. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian successfully obtained the token with the number 2. In fact, he was one of the fastest to obtain a token, leaving no chance for the few who were staring at the same spot.

'That brat...' Zhen Ping Fan's eyes lit up when he saw the number that Duan Ling Tian obtained. Although he had told Duan Ling Tian that it was best to obtain the number one or two, he also knew it was beyond Duan Ling Tian's control. Hence, he was surprised when Duan Ling Tian obtained the number two. He also did not expect that Duan Ling Tian, unlike the others, would choose to neglect Lin Yuan and Mo Luo Duo.

At the same time, as expected, the token with the number one appeared in the direction where Lin Yuan was aiming. Needless to say, a fierce competition broke out immediately. They were so caught up in fighting for the token that they were unaware that Duan Ling Tian had already obtained the token with the number two and was watching them fight over the token with the number one.

Duan Ling Tian grinned, revealing his white teeth, when he sensed Zhen Ping Fan's gaze on him. He looked over and said, "My luck is quite good..."

"Luck?"

Zhen Ping Fan and the others who heard Duan Ling Tian looked at Duan Ling Tian skeptically.

"Duan Ling Tian managed to think outside the box and was not led by the others," one of the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect.

At this time, many participants also realized that they had been too caught up with obtaining the number one token because they were following conventions from the past. It was a given that the host would favor the participant from his or her own force. However, this time, there were two participants from the host's force. Needless to say, if both of the best numbers fell into the hands of two participants from the host's force, the other forces would definitely protest and stir up a commotion. As such, Lin Dong Lai would not let the first two numbers fall into Lin Yuan and Mo Luo Duo's hands.

"I'm impressed. No wonder Duan Ling Tian achieved so much at such a young age. He's very quick-witted..."

"I agree!"

"Look at the other participants. All of them only paid attention to Mo Luo Duo and Lin Yuan without thinking about the situation clearly."

"If they've yet to realize it, they'll realize it soon enough after they see Duan Ling Tian has obtained the number two token."

"Those who are fighting for the number one token will regret this the most!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled and shook his head when heard the conversations of the young disciples in the Pure Yang Sect. At the same time, he was also rather surprised that he had easily obtained the number two token.

#### **Chapter 4034: First Fight**



Many people were shocked that Duan Ling Tian obtained the token with the number two. When they recovered, they all marveled at his quick thinking. To be able to make such excellent judgment under such circumstances was commendable.

Meanwhile, a few outstanding participants were still struggling with Lin Yuan for the token with the number one.

“The fight is quite fierce.”

Duan Ling Tian, who had already obtained his token, no longer had anything to do so he enjoyed the show.

‘If they continue fighting over that one token, the other good tokens will be gone...’

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian saw two participants withdrawing from the fight for the number one token. Those two were the Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion’s Autumn Leaves Sect and Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion’s Yuwen clan.

Luo Yuan quickly snatched the token with the number four from a few participants who were fighting over it.

Tuo Ba Xiu was a step behind, failing to obtain the token with the number three. She changed her target and looked for the next best token.

Meanwhile, Luo Yuan and Tuo Ba Xiu’s absence did not make the fight for the number one token any less fierce. On the contrary, it grew even fiercer.

At this moment, Han Di from the Consonance Mansion’s United Heavens Sect, Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion’s Howling Heaven Sect, and Wanqi Hong from the Eastern Ridge Mansion’s Wanqi clan were still fighting Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Howling Flames Sect for the number one token.

Everyone assumed that Lin Yuan would use all his strength to obtain the token so they were shocked when Lin Yuan suddenly withdrew and obtained one of the first ten tokens.

With that, only Han Di, Yuan Mo Yu, and Wanqi Hong were left fighting over token number one. None of them wanted to yield.

At this time, except for the first, 29th, and 30th tokens, all the other tokens had been claimed.

“How intense. It’s fine if you succeed. Otherwise, you’ll only be left with one of two final tokens.”

Many people watched the skirmish excitedly even though it was not a real fight.

The trio fought for another few minutes before Han Di successfully obtained the number one token. His success was not because he was stronger than the other two, but it was because he had been a step ahead of the other two. Since the beginning, the token was in his hand, and he only had to hold onto the token and bring it to safety.

After the number one token was taken, Yuan Mo Yu only sighed softly and shook his head before casually grabbing one of the two remaining tokens. He did not even bother to look at the number on the token.

On the contrary, Wanqi Hong's expression was extremely unsightly as he spat, "Damn it!"

In the end, Wanqi Hong had no choice but to take the last token. His expression worsened when he saw the number 29 on the token.

With this, all 30 tokens had been claimed by the participants.

"I didn't expect Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong to end up with the last two tokens. I guess the fight will start with Yuan Mo Yu who obtained the lowest number..."

"I heard that Yuan Mo Yu is the descendant of the powerhouse from the Howling Heaven Sect who became an advanced Emperor of Gods 10,000 years ago! Not much is known about Yuan Mo Yu. He only became famous shortly before the Seven Mansions Feast started."

"With his strength, I supposed he'll challenge the participant with the number 21 immediately."

"Of course."

"I'm more curious about what Wanqi Hong plans to do. Once Yuan Mo Yu takes over the 21st place, will Wanqi Hong challenge Yuan Mo Yu? After all, he can't challenge those in the top 20 if he's not in the 21st place."

"I didn't think about this! It seems like there'll be an interesting show to watch soon!"

"I didn't think there'd be such an exciting show so early in the game!"

While the young disciples whispered among themselves, Lin Dong Lai said, "Now, I'd like the participants to step forward and display their tokens."

Han Di from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect was first.

Duan Ling Tian was second.

One of the two participants from the Feudal Lord Mansion obtained the number three. His strength seemed to be a little weaker compared to Han Di and the others.

Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect obtained the number four.

A prodigy from the Green Province Mansion's Marionette Villa obtained the number five.

Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan was sixth.

The seventh place was Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion's Howling Flames Sect.

The other participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion obtained the number eight.

Yang Qian Ye had easily obtained the number ten, which Duan Ling Tian had seen earlier.

A participant from the Consonance Mansion who was second to Han Di obtained the number ten.

Most of the participants who obtained the first ten tokens were all powerful. Among the powerful participants, only Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong did not obtain any of the first ten tokens. Apart from the duo, there were a few rather strong participants who obtained not very favorable tokens due to their luck as well.

“Alright. You have 15 minutes to remember the numbers corresponding with the participants and think about who to challenge,” Lin Dong Lai said, “However, things might not go according to your plan. Who knows if the participant you intend to challenge would be challenged before you could do so?”

The fight would start with the 30th participant. If the participant won, he or she would exchange rank with the person he or she defeated. For example, if the 30th participant challenged the 21st participant and won, they would switch places. After that, the loser would be given a period of time to rest so no one could challenge him or her.

“The participant with the number 30, please step forward.”

Everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, turned to look at Yuan Mo Yu.

Yuan Mo Yu was a young man dressed in light gray robes. There was a smile on his face, and he had a very elegant bearing. All in all, he made people feel refreshed when they looked at him.

Yuan Mo Yu flew to the battlefield after Lin Dong Lai’s voice fell.

“Choose your opponent,” Lin Dong Lai said to Yuan Mo Yu, “You can challenge anyone from the 21st to the 29th place.”

At this moment, everyone shifted their eyes to the person holding the 21st token. He was a young disciple from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Fortune Sect. When he felt the gazes on him, he instinctively looked at Yuan Mo Yu. His gaze was slightly wary, but he was clearly fearless. He would not cower even if he was not a match for Yuan Mo Yu. No matter what, he was also the most outstanding among the younger generation of the Fortune Sect; he had his pride. Moreover, if he showed fear now, who knew if he would develop a knot in his heart in the future that would affect his cultivation?

As expected, Yuan Mo Yu said, “I challenge the 21st participant.”

Swoosh!

The participant from the Fortune Sect flew to the battlefield immediately and landed a small distance away from Yuan Mo Yu. He was a tall young man with a sturdy body. He looked rather majestic as he stood still.

Yuan Mo Yu nodded slightly and said, “I’m Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion’s Howling Heaven Sect.”

“Wang Zhu Bai from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Fortune Sect.”

In fact, Wang Zhu Bai was quite famous in the Profound Jade Mansion. His fame in the Profound Jade Mansion was only second to the Howling Flames Sect’s Mo Luo Duo and comparable to another two

outstanding young prodigies. They were all the strongest among the younger generation in the Profound Jade Mansion

### **Chapter 4035: Wanqi Hong's Turn**

As soon as Lin Dong Lai's voice fell, Wang Zhu Bai from the Profound Jade Mansion's Fortune Sect made a move. His Divine Energy burst forth as he charged toward Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect. He cast the profundities from the law he comprehended and attacked with all his might with his prominent divine artifact.

The crowd was surprised to see Wang Zhu Bai going all out as soon as the fight began. However, it did not take long for them to understand Wang Zhu Bai's decision.

There was no doubt that Wang Zhu Bai was no match for Yuan Mo Yu. As such, it was best for him to attack with all his might as soon as the fight started. If he could catch Yuan Mo Yu off guard with his first attack, he might have a chance of injuring Yuan Mo Yu, increasing his chances of ending the fight in a tie.

However, there were people, including Duan Ling Tian, who thought it was a futile move even if it was the best move. It was unlikely that someone like Yuan Mo Yu would be caught off guard by the attack.

Similarly, the high-ranking officials from the various forces did not think Wang Zhu Bai's attempt would be successful even if they understood that this was his best choice given the circumstances. With this move, at the very least, he had a sliver of hope of ending the fight in a tie.

"Although this is the best move, it comes with risks as well. If Wang Zhu Bai fails, he'll be in an even more disadvantageous position. He might not even be able to hold on as long as he originally could if he fails..."

Everyone watched closely as Wang Zhu Bai's terrifying attack swept toward Yuan Mo Yu.

In just a moment, a streak of energy swept out, easily destroying Wang Zhu Bai's fierce attack.

Yuan Mo Yuan was unscathed, looking majestic and overbearing. Before Wang Zhu Bai could mobilize his Divine Energy again, he made a move.

Bang!

A loud explosion rang in the air as a mushroom cloud appeared under Yuan Mo Yu. He flew toward Wang Zhu Bai with a fan in hand. This was the first time he had used his prominent divine artifact during the Seven Mansions Feast.

"Yuan Mo Yu is using his prominent divine artifact!"

"Wang Zhu Bai is amazing even if he loses this battle. He managed to force Yuan Mo Yu into using his prominent divine artifact!"

Yuan Mo Yu was not very famous in the past. His only claim to fame was that his great-grandfather was an advanced Emperor of Gods. Nobody knew about his strength until recently when he displayed his

ability in the Howling Heaven Sect. From then on, he was known as the strongest young disciple in the Howling Heaven Sect.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A violent gust of wind swept toward Wang Zhu Bai when Yuan Mo Yu waved his fan. He hastily retreated, but unfortunately, Yuan Mo Yu's attack breached his defenses thunderously and struck him. The injury he suffered from this attack was minor, but his expression changed when he saw Yuan Mo Yu waving his fan again. This time, the wind sweeping toward him was even stronger than before. He quickly cast his bloodline power before a blood-red barrier appeared around him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The wind struck the barrier violently, and it did not take long for the barrier to shatter. With that, Wang Zhu Bai was struck again. This time, he spat out mouthful after mouthful of blood, severely injured.

'Wang Zhu Bai's barrier from his bloodline power is much stronger than the ones conjured by prominent divine artifacts,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, surprised by Wang Zhu Bai's bloodline power.

'Yuan Mo Yu's going to attack again...' Duan Ling Tian could sense that Yuan Mo Yu had only used roughly 50% of his strength so far. Moreover, Yuan Mo Yu's Divine Energy was regenerating very quickly as well. Previously, he had heard from Zhen Ping Fan that Yuan Mo Yu's great-grandfather, an advanced Emperor of Gods, had created a technique that was stronger than any rudimentary forms of the Four Daos of Heaven and Earth.

"It's the Triple Storm Technique!"

"Yuan Mo Yu is using the Triple Storm Technique!"

"His great-grandfather had taught him this technique because he's the most outstanding out of all his descendants."

"There's another wave left! If Wang Zhu Bai doesn't surrender, he's going to be severely injured to the point where he won't be able to continue fighting later..."

Before Yuan Mo Yu launched the final wave of attack of the Triple Storm Technique, Wang Zhu Bai called out weakly, "I... I surrender..."

Following that, Wang Zhu Bai hurriedly took a few divine pills to heal his injuries. Following that, colors returned to his ashen face.

Needless to say, one was prohibited from consuming divine pills during a fight.

"The Triple Storm Technique is indeed as powerful as rumored," Wang Zhu Bai said after he recovered slightly. He cupped his fists together at Yuan Mo Yu and exchanged tokens before he flew away. Although he was defeated, he was not discouraged. On the contrary, he grew even more motivated. He did not think it was embarrassing to be defeated, but it would have been embarrassing if he had surrendered without a fight.

“Wang Zhu Bai will be outstanding in the future if he doesn’t die prematurely,” Ye Chen Feng said. This was a rare compliment coming from him. Apart from Duan Ling Tian and the other six strongest participants, he had not praised any of the other participants.

Liu Feng Gu nodded. “He accepted his defeat very well. Moreover, he seems even more motivated and determined than before. He has the potential...”

“We’ll have to see if the Fortune Sect has a discerning eye and nurture him,” Zhen Ping Fan added.

The young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect were quite surprised and skeptical that three elders from the Pure Yang Sect praised Wang Zhu Bai. Only those who were outstanding like Duan Ling Tian, Ye Ying Cai, Yun Ye Wei, Yang Qian Ye, and a few others understood the three elders.

Soon after, everyone’s attention shifted to Wanqi Hong who held the 29th token.

“It’s Wanqi Hong’s turn!”

“He was defeated by Duan Ling Tian previously.”

“He was really foolish. He wasted so much time fighting for the first token. If he knew he was going to end up with the 20th token, I’m sure he would’ve withdrawn from the fight sooner.”

“Alas, he couldn’t predict the future.”

At the same time, Lin Dong Lai said, “Will the 29th participant please step into the battlefield?” When Wanqi Hong flew over, he continued to say, “You can challenge anyone from the 21st to the 28th place. However, since the 21st participant has just finished his fight, he has the right to refuse your challenge.”

Wanqi Hong nodded. “I understand, Elder Lin. There’s no need for you to remind me as I’m familiar with the basic rules of the Seven Mansions Feast. I’d like to challenge the 22nd participant.”

The 22nd participant was from the Divine Morning Mansion. Unsurprisingly, he was quickly defeated and severely injured by Wanqi Hong with just two moves.

Wanqi Hong did not hold back when he attacked. He was furious that he failed to obtain the first token and was mocked by some disciples from the Pure Yang Sect. As such, he vented his anger on his opponent. With his victory, he rose to 22nd place.

Not long after Wanqi Hong left the battlefield, the 28th participant flew into the battlefield. He was from the Feudal Lord Mansion. He knew very well he was no match for Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong so he did not hesitate at all as he challenged the 23rd participant.

### **Chapter 4036: The Fight for Tenth Place**

Everyone knew that the top ten rankings would eventually be occupied by the outstanding participants. There would be no change unless there were participants who had hidden their strength up until now.

The fight between the 28th and 23rd participants ended in a tie.

Following that, the 27th participant stepped forward and challenged the 23rd participant, but the 23rd participant rightly refused the challenge. As such, the 27th participant challenged the 24th participant. In the end, he won the challenge and moved up to the 24th place. Similar to the 28th participant, he did not bother challenging Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong who were likely to rank in the top ten in the end. He would only put himself in a disadvantageous position if he challenged the duo. If he was injured, he would not be able to fight anymore.

The fights continued.

When it was the 23rd participant's turn, he surrendered immediately since he could only challenge Yuan Mo Yu or Wanqi Hong.

After that, Lin Dong Lai said loudly, "It's the 20th participant's turn."

The 20th participant was a young disciple from the Consonance Mansion. He challenged the 13th participant but was defeated. With this, he was the first challenger to be defeated.

Following that, the 19th participant stepped forward. He was none other than Hu Chai Yi from the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice who defeated Ye Ying Cai previously due to a conflict with the Pure Yang Sect.

Upon seeing Hu Chai Yi, Duan Ling Tian instinctively glanced at Ye Ying Cai, whose expression was dark at this moment. He thought to himself, 'It seems like Ye Ying Cai has a hard time accepting that Hu Chai Yi defeated him...'

Hu Chai Yi said, "I want to challenge the 12th participant."

The two opponents fought for a while before the fight ended in a tie.

The fights were not very exciting at this point. The initial excitement from Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong's fights had already dissipated by now.

"Those who obtained smaller numbers are all quite powerful. Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong are the only two who obtained unfavorable tokens since they were too focused on obtaining the first token."

"You're right. That aside, I don't think there'll be any excitement during the fights of those in the 12th to the 20th places."

"Be patient. The fights will become more exciting as the numbers go into the top ten..."

As the young disciples discussed among themselves, the 18th participant entered the battlefield. He took the risk and challenged participant 13th. Alas, he was defeated by the 13th participant.

However, the 13th participant was quite injured due to two fights.

"The 13th participant might not be able to defend his rank after this..."

"That's right. He can refuse the next challenge, but he can't refuse the one after that."

The crowd felt rather sorry for the 13th participants. He was stronger than his two challengers, but he was not that strong that he could easily defeat them. As such, he suffered from injuries as well despite his victory. Soon enough, the crowd's attention shifted again.

“The 17th participant might challenge the 12th participant. Although his fight with Hu Chai Yi ended in a tie, he was injured.”

As expected, the 17th participant, who was from the Divine Morning Mansion, challenged the 12th participant and won easily due to his opponent surrendering without a fight.

“The 12th participant is smart enough to surrender quickly due to his injuries. With this, he has more time to recover.”

“That’s right. Even if he lost this match, he has time to recover and prepare for his next match.”

“If he’s strong enough, he can still climb up the ranks.”

At the same time, many participants also contemplated using the same strategy if they were in the same situation.

The fights continued.

During the fight between the 16th and the 11th participants, the 16th participant lost his challenge, becoming the second challenger to lose. He was defeated with just three moves.

‘He’s been holding back previously...’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes narrowed as he looked at the 11th participant.

The 11th participant was a middle-aged man who was dressed rather sloppily. Despite his unkempt appearance, his performance had been outstanding so far. No one expected him to have held back previously. He was none other than Wang Xiong from the Feudal Lord Mansion’s Frozen Mountain Manor. Previously, he had defeated Ye Ying Cai when he was one of the seeded participants.

“That prodigy from the Frozen Mountain Manor was hiding his true strength?!”

“It’s not just that. I suspect that he’s still holding back now.”

“I wonder if Wang Xiong can defeat the tenth participant? If he fails, he’ll have to wait until someone new takes the tenth place...”

“The tenth participant is a famous prodigy from the Consonance Mansion. If he can defeat Wang Xiong, then he’ll have no problem defeating Yang Qian Ye from the Pure Yang Sect.”

“That’s right. Among the first ten participants, Yang Qian Ye seems to be the weakest. It must be due to luck that he obtained the ninth token.”

“Even if Wang Xiong fails to defeat the tenth participant now, he can challenge Yang Qian Ye when Yang Qie drops to tenth place. Not only that, he’ll be able to defeat Yang Qian Ye as well and rise to the tenth place.”

When the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect heard the hushed conversations in the surroundings, they instinctively looked at the aloof young man standing next to Duan Ling Tian. He looked completely unaffected by the conversations.



After the 15th, 14th, 13th, and 12th participants ended the fight, Lin Dong Lai looked at Wang Xiong and asked, "Participant number 11, do you want to challenge the tenth participant or do you want to surrender?"

According to the rules of the Seven Mansions Feast, Wang Xiong could only challenge the tenth participant now.

"I want to challenge the tenth participant," Wang Xiong said with a lazy grin. He took a few sips from his wine gourd before he continued to say, "I've heard about He Yu Xi from the Consonance Mansion's Frost Divine Sect for a while now. I'd like to see his strength."

The Frost Divine Sect's He Yu Xi, the tenth participant, was the strongest among the younger generation in the Consonance Mansion before he was replaced by the United Heavens Sect's Han Di. There were rumors that He Yu Xi surrendered after exchanging only a few moves. No one knew what happened, but it was indisputable that He Yu Xi lost to Han Di. From that day onward, Han Di replaced He Yu Xi as the strongest among the younger generation in the Consonance Mansion.

As soon as Wang Xiong's voice fell, a figure flew out. It was a young man with an average appearance who was dressed in a long green robe. His gaze was sharp, and his voice was cold as he said, "I'd also like to see the strength of the Frozen Mountain Manor's secret prodigy. If you defeat me, you can challenge the other participant from your force and be known as the strongest young disciple in your force."

"That title doesn't mean anything to me. I'm only here to complete the task that my elder has entrusted me with, which is to rank in the top ten," Wang Xiong said with a faint smile. After he put away his wine gourd, his entire person seemed to change immediately. His expression was no longer lackadaisical, but it was solemn. Clearly, he did not make the mistake of underestimating his opponent who was once the strongest among the younger generation in the Consonance Mansion.

'He Yu Xi isn't simple...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Although Wang Xiong had yet to use his full strength, He Yu Xi was not to be underestimated as well. It was all luck that he managed to snatch the tenth token from seven or eight participants.

#### **Chapter 4037: Ximen From the Marionette Villa**

Up until now, there were only a few fierce fights during the round to determine the rankings for the Seven Mansions Feast, but they were hardly shocking.

However, many people were shocked by the strength of Wang Xiong from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor, who was unheard of in the past. He was clearly holding back his strength so everyone, including Duan Ling Tian, was eager to see his true strength. He Yu Xi, his opponent, was famous in the Consonance Mansion, and with the strength he displayed so far, he would not be able to fight He Yu Xi to a draw, let alone defeat him.

"They've made their moves!"

Everyone's eyes were glued to the battlefield at this time. It was as though they were afraid of missing any actions.

The two opponents did not use their full strength during their first attacks; they only tested the water. After 30 moves, the fight intensified, and the duo was evenly matched.

After another dozen moves, He Yu Xi seemed to realize that he would be wasting his energy if the fight dragged out any longer. His goal was to challenge Yang Qian Ye, who was the ninth participant, and he had to hold on to his rank if he wanted to do that. He said bluntly, "Wang Xiong, let's go all out. If you're capable, then go all out and defeat me. Otherwise, let's end it with a draw. There's no point in dragging this out and exhausting our energy."

Wang Xiong smiled upon hearing this. Following that, his strength skyrocketed as he cast his bloodline power. "I'll comply with your request."

A burst of energy raged around Wang Xiong, making him look like a mighty god descending from the heavens.

Boom!

Wang Xiong's attack came swiftly and sent He Yu Xi flying back. On the contrary, his body only shook slightly and briefly as he stood in the air.

When He Yu Xi stabilized his footing, he spat out a mouthful of blood. After that, he said, "I surrender."

He Yu Xi knew it was futile to continue the fight. With this attack, it was clear that Wang Xiong was stronger than him. If he continued the fight, he risked being so severely injured that he could no longer compete for the top ten places. If he failed, he would not be able to face the sect.

A commotion broke out as soon as He Yu Xi surrendered.

"Wang Xiong is strong!"

"To think we're unaware of such a person in the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor!"

"I think Wang Xiong's comparable to the two strongest people among the younger generation in the Feudal Lord Mansion!"

The strongest duo among the younger generation in the Feudal Lord Mansion was famous. After Wang Xiong's performance, many people thought he was comparable to the duo, if not stronger.

Many high-ranking officials and young disciples from the Feudal Lord Mansion were also shocked by Wang Xiong's strength.

On the contrary, the people from the Frozen Mountain Manor were clearly not surprised; they knew from the beginning that Wang Xiong would defeat He Yu Xi. They only looked delighted that Wang Xiong had made it into the top ten.

After Wang Xiong and He Yu Xi exchanged their tokens and returned to their respective places, Lin Dong Lai said, "Contestant number nine, you can enter the battlefield."

Everyone turned and looked at the aloof Yang Qian Ye, who was standing near Duan Ling Tian, immediately.

Although the young disciples of the Pure Yang Sect did not have a close relationship with Yang Qian Ye, they still hoped he would bring glory to the sect even if they were not too optimistic about his chances. A few of them even tried to comfort him.

“Yang Qian Ye, do your best! Don’t feel pressured. Leave it to Duan Ling Tian to rank in the top ten!”

“That’s right! Don’t stress yourself out!”

Yang Qian Ye was expressionless as usual as he flew into the battlefield. When he landed, he said tonelessly without even looking at his opponent, “Participant number 5.”

Everyone turned to look at a figure standing among the people from the Green Province Mansion’s Marionette Villa. Many of them knew this person even if he was only known by his surname.

“It’s Ximen from the Marionette Villa.”

Ximen flew into the battlefield. Similar to Yang Qian Ye, he was aloof and unapproachable.

The crowd naturally noticed the two opponents’ similarities as they stood across from each other.

The duo stared at each other silently until Lin Dong Lai announced the start of the fight. They made a move simultaneously.

Everyone was surprised when they saw that the two opponents had been holding back their strength previously.

The fight started fiercely.

Divine Energies and profundities from the laws clashed, and in just a moment, they had already exchanged more than 30 moves but were still evenly matched. After 100 moves, they decided to end the fight in a tie.

With this, the expressions of an elder from the Marionette Villa and the Pure Yang Sect’s Transcendence Elder, Yuan Han Jin, darkened immediately.

Previously, when the two opponents exchanged more than 50 moves, Yuan Han Jin had sent a Voice Transmission to Yang Qian Ye telling him to convince his opponent to end the fight in a tie so Yang Qian Ye could conserve his energy. However, Yang Qian Ye had disregarded his advice. In the end, he had no choice but to send a Voice Transmission to the elder from the Marionette Villa, hoping the other party would convince Ximen to end the fight in a tie.

The elder from the Marionette Villa was of the same mind as Yuan Han Jin and felt it was unnecessary to waste their energy by continuing the fight. This was especially important for Ximen since he might be challenged again soon by the seventh participant.

The seventh participant was Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Howling Flames Sect who was speculated to be the external help that the Howling Flames Sect recruited.

The next person to issue a challenge was the eighth participant. He was one of the two strongest people among the younger generation in the Feudal Lord Mansion.

However, at this moment, the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect did not pay attention to the eighth participant. Instead, their attention was focused on Yang Qian Ye. They looked at him in shock and disbelief. After all, the strength he displayed was not inferior to that of Wang Xiong.

“Yang Qian Ye, you’re amazing!”

“I didn’t expect you to be so strong, Yang Qian Ye! I didn’t think you had a chance of ranking in the top ten previously!”

“It seems like our Pure Yang Sect might have two participants ranking in the top ten this time!”

The people from the Pure Yang Sect were in high spirits.

At the same time, He Yu Xi, who had fallen to the 11th place after he was defeated by Wang Xiong, looked at Yang Qian Ye with a grim expression as he thought to himself, ‘I’ve underestimated him. I’m no match for him at all.’

Initially, He Yu Xi planned to challenge Yang Qian Ye to rise to the ninth place since he did not think Yang Qian Ye was that strong.

At this time, on the battlefield...

“I surrender.”

Everyone was shocked when the eighth participant surrendered. However, after a moment, they thought it was only natural. After all, at this time, the eighth participant could only challenge Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion’s Autumn Leaves Sect, Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion’s Howling Flames Sect, or Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion’s Yuwen clan. The trio was among the strongest participants at the Seven Mansions Feast this time.

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At this time, on the battlefield..

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#### **Chapter 4039: Han Di**

“Participant number one, please enter the battlefield,” Duan Ling Tian said calmly.

Silence descended immediately.

Everyone was surprised that Duan Ling Tian issued a challenge instead of forfeiting the fight. His decision was beyond everyone’s expectations. Even those from the Pure Yang Sect were stunned.

“Duan Ling Tian is challenging the first participant?”

“Isn’t he worried about exhausting his energy and affecting his later fights?”

“He’s not very sensible, is he?”

The young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect could understand Duan Ling Tian’s decision.

Meanwhile, the two elders of the Pure Yang Sect, Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu, silently exchanged a look.

As for Zhen Ping Fang, he smiled bitterly and said, "That brat actually challenged the first participant..."

"Didn't you dissuade him?" Ye Chen Feng asked.

"I did," Zhen Ping Fan said with a nod, "I told him you felt the same way as well. As you can see, he didn't listen to me at all. However, he's not someone who does things arbitrarily. I'm sure he has his reasons."

"I tried to dissuade him as well," Liu Feng Gu said as he looked at the purple figure in the distance, "Perhaps, as junior nephew said, he has his reasons."

In any case, Duan Ling Tian had already issued the challenge, and nothing could be done about it now. There was no point in saying anything else to Duan Ling Tian now.

"I hope he'll give us a pleasant surprise," Zhen Ping Fan murmured as he looked at Duan Ling Tian, "His opponent isn't a weakling. Han Di is the trump card of the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect, after all."

Han Di, the young disciple from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect, was not famous in the past. However, his performance during the Seven Mansions Feast far eclipsed those who were famous in the Consonance Mansion.

...

At the same time, Wanqi Hong, who was standing with the people from the Wanqi clan, smirked. "Duan Ling Tian is really stubborn. He's not going to forfeit the fight under such circumstances?"

Wanqi Hong meant that Duan Ling Tian was foolish when he used the word 'stubborn'. Clearly, the past few participants had forfeited to conserve their strength so they would be in peak condition for the later fights. However, Duan Ling Tian was doing the opposite. He wondered if Duan Ling Tian was trying to show off.

Wanqi Hong said icily to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, I hope you don't lose too miserably. Otherwise, I won't feel any sense of accomplishment when I defeat you if you're severely injured."

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised by Wanqi Hong's message. He glanced at Wanqi Hong and saw Wanqi Hong looking at him contemptuously. In the end, he only said, "I hope you'll still have the courage to challenge me after this fight."

Duan Ling Tian no longer paid attention to Wanqi Hong. How could a little songbird understand the ambitions of a swan?

At this moment...

Swoosh!



Han Di, the first participant, flew into the battlefield at this moment. He was a young man dressed in a snow-white robe. Although his appearance was ordinary, his bearing was extraordinary. He wore a perpetual smile on his face as though he was unaffected by everything around him. After he landed, he cupped his fists together at Duan Ling Tian and said politely, "Brother Duan, I've long heard about you and have always wanted to spar with you. I didn't expect to be able to do so during the Seven Mansions Feast."

Duan Ling Tian replied with a slight smile, "Brother Han, I can't compare to you. You've been keeping a low profile for thousands of years. However, once you make a move, you soar to the sky like a dragon from the nine heavens. Everyone can help but look up to you."

"Brother Duan, you're overpraising me," Han Di said with a smile as he shook his head, "I lived in seclusion and very few know about my existence. Everything is just a rumor. Don't take it seriously."

While Duan Ling Tian and Han Di chatted happily, the others were watching them intently. To them, the fight that was about to start was undoubtedly the most exciting one since the Seven Mansions Feast began. They did not expect to be able to witness such an exciting fight so soon thanks to Duan Ling Tian. All of them looked at Duan Ling Tian and Han Di anticipatorily, wondering which one of the two was stronger.

One was an outstanding prodigy who recently rose to fame in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. He was young but powerful, and he even defeated Wanqi Hong, formerly the strongest among the younger generation in the Eastern Ridge Mansion.

The other person was the hidden trump card of the United Heavens Sect in the Consonance Mansion. He was relatively unknown in the past, but as soon as he made his appearance in the Seven Mansions Feast, he surpassed all the famous young prodigies in the Consonance Mansion.

There was no doubt that the duo was among the top participants of the Seven Mansions Feast this time. Both had chances to rank in the top three.

"I don't know why Duan Ling Tian didn't forfeit the fight, but this is good for us. We'll get to watch an exciting fight!"

"That's right! We can finally watch the fight between the top participants. We might even learn something from it."

"Duan Ling Tian comprehends the law of space, and Han Di comprehends the law of destruction, which is a famous offensive law. Their fight will definitely be fierce!"

While everyone was discussing among themselves, Han Di suggested something to Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission. After that, he asked, "What do you think? It'll be good for both of us. That way, we won't have to use so much energy, and our later performance won't be affected."

Duan Ling Tian replied, "As long as you can convince Elder Lin, I don't have any objections."

"I don't think he'll refuse," Han Di said. Following that, he looked at Lin Dong Lai and sent a Voice Transmission.

Upon hearing Han Di's Voice Transmission, Lin Dong Lai seemed stunned. Then, he looked at Han Di before shifting his gaze to Duan Ling Tian and asked loudly, "Duan Ling Tian, Han Di said you agreed to his suggestion. Is that true?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled slightly and asked, "What suggestion was it, Elder Lin?"

Duan Ling Tian did not think Han Di would resort to tricking him, but he would not blindly say yes without being sure. He always had his guard up.

"He suggested that I set up an isolation formation to hide your fight so no one can see both of you. At that time, the weaker one will admit defeat," Lin Dong Lai said.

As soon as Lin Dong Lai's voice fell, the crowd broke into an uproar.

"How can this be?!"

"No! If they do that, then what's the point of the Seven Mansions Feast?"

"Reject them!"

"I agree! Reject this absurd suggestion!"

Many people began to protest. Most of them felt that doing so was against the purpose of the Seven Mansions Feast. Moreover, if the fight was hidden, who knew what would happen behind the scenes? Even if it was unlikely, what if the participants made a deal and one of them admitted defeat

Duan Ling Tian did not say anything, but the crowd was already putting pressure on Lin Dong Lai.

Lin Dong Lai looked at Han Di and said, "Participant number one, as you can see, it's not that I disagree, but everyone disagrees. Moreover, they have a point. The fights won't be transparent if you do that. Your idea has nothing to do with conserving energy. If you want to conserve energy, you can admit defeat now or admit defeat later if you feel it's not worth continuing the fight."

Lin Dong Lai decisively rejected Han Di's suggestion due to the pressure.

In fact, as soon as Duan Ling Tian heard Han Di's suggestion, he already knew it was highly impossible. However, since Han Di was very polite, he did not have the heart to refuse him directly. As such, he pushed the matter to Lin Dong Lai. Moreover, even if he agreed, they still needed Lin Dong Lai's approval.

Duan Ling Tian could not help but think that Han Di was rather naive. Perhaps, Han Di had been living in seclusion and did not interact much with people so he was more simple in his thinking. This was just his speculation and opinion. After all, nothing was known about Han Di. Who knew if Han Di was really living in seclusion? Just because no one had heard of Han Di before did not necessarily mean he was living in seclusion.

In the end, Han Di could only give up on his idea. He also realized at this moment that he had been too naive. He smiled sheepishly and said, "I apologize, Brother Duan. It seems like I was too hasty."

"It's nothing," Duan Ling Tian said with a slight smile. Then, he continued to say through Voice Transmission, "Brother Han, if you want to determine which of us is stronger without expending too much energy, it's not difficult. We can just display our strength quickly and determine the level of our strength. Whoever feels inferior can just surrender."

"I guess this is the only way now," Han Di said with a nod. His expression gradually turned solemn as well.

At this time, Lin Dong Lai said, "Alright, two of you, you can begin when you're ready."

At their level, Duan Ling Tian and Han Di had long been prepared to move. However, they did not move needlessly. After all, no matter who took the initiative to strike first, the other person would definitely not be caught off guard.

The smile on Duan Ling Tian's face faded as well as his face turned expressionless. He had already mobilized his Divine Energy through his 99 Heavenly Veins and was ready to attack.

At this moment, Han Di said through Voice Transmission, "Brother Duan, I'm going to make a move now and use all my strength to attack. Naturally, I'll pull back at the last moment. You should get ready to attack as well."

#### **Chapter 4040: A Magnificent Jade Palace Hidden In the Clouds**

Duan Ling Tian felt slightly helpless and amused when he heard Han Di's reminder. Han Di was rather young, but he was like a long-winded old man at this moment. In any case, he felt that this arrangement was beneficial to him as well. He was not worried Han Di would trick him and deal a killing blow. He would be capable of handling it, and he did not think Han Di would be so foolish to do such a thing that would be disadvantageous to him. After all, if Han Di tricked him, the fight would only intensify, and they would risk getting injured.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Duan Ling Tian moved as soon as Han Di moved. A spatial storm raged around his body immediately as a prominent divine sword appeared in his hand. He imbued the sword with his Divine Energy and the profundities from the law. When he drew close to Han Di, he displayed his Sword Dao as well.

Meanwhile, blood energy swirled around Han Di's body. He had also mobilized his Divine Energy, cast his law, and wield his prominent divine artifact.

The duo brushed past each other, and at the same time, their attacks swept out before quickly disappearing.

The duo stood across from each other and looked at each other.

Duan Ling Tian's expression was still calm, but a faint bitter smile could be seen on Han Di's face. He said, "I admit defeat!"

The words 'I admit defeat' were like a stone that stirred up a thousand waves at this time.

Everyone fell silent in shock.

At the same time, the high-ranking officials from the various forces looked at Duan Ling Tian with thoughtful expressions on their faces. The duo's attacks only appeared briefly so they had to watch carefully as well to see what was going on. If they did not, perhaps, they also would not understand why Han Di admitted defeat. Many of them shook their heads.

"I had no idea. I really didn't expect this..."

"When did Duan Ling Tian..." Zhen Ping Fan was shocked.

Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu were somewhat surprised as well.

The trio looked at Duan Ling Tian in the distance and felt like he was completely different from the person whom they knew. They had no idea he possessed such strength.

The Emperors of Gods from various forces sighed.

"Han Di is actually very strong. It's a pity he met someone even stronger..."

Meanwhile, the young disciples and the elders who had yet to become Emperors of Gods still did not understand what had happened.

"What happened?"

"Why did Han Di suddenly admit defeat?"

"Their attacks didn't even collide, right?"

However, the doubts of these people were soon resolved by the Emperors of Gods in their respective forces. Only then did they understand that Han Di and Duan Ling Tian quickly withdrew their attacks after unleashing them. Upon sensing the force of Duan Ling Tian's attack, Han Di knew he was no match for Duan Ling Tian so Han Di admitted defeat. With this, they only expended a little energy that would be recovered when it was their turn again later.

"Han Di thinks he's weaker than Duan Ling Tian?"

"Elder, if they really fought, would Han Di lose for sure?"

"Of course not, but his chances of losing are slightly higher. Fights are unpredictable, after all. Han Di might be able to turn the tide since he's not a weakling and the gap between their strength isn't that wide."

"Then, why did Han Di admit defeat so easily?"

"Han Di did not want to waste too much energy. He's worried that his performance later would be affected."

"I feel like Han Di lacks confidence!"

"I agree. He likely felt that he had a lower chance of defeating Duan Ling Tian so he decided to conserve his strength and admit defeat."

Everyone had different opinions after learning about what happened. Some thought that Han Di was smart, and some thought Han Di lacked the confidence to fight Duan Ling Tian. Some thought that if Han Di was courageous enough, he might not necessarily lose to Duan Ling Tian and would be able to maintain his rank at the top.

No matter what everyone's opinion was, the result of the fight had been determined; Han Di admitted defeat, and Duan Ling Tian won.

The duo exchanged tokens, and Duan Ling Tian rose to the first place.

Han Di said emotionally, "Brother Duan, you really live up to your reputation. You're not even 3,000 years old, but you possess such strength. I really can't wait to see how strong you'll be after a few thousand years."

Han Di was certain Duan Ling Tian would be terrifyingly strong after a few thousand years. At such a young age, Duan Ling Tian was already an intermediate Lord of Gods. Not only that, but Duan Ling Tian's strength even surpassed his even though he was an advanced Lord of Gods.

"Brother Han, you're overpraising me," Duan Ling Tian said modestly with a smile. Then, he nodded and bade farewell to Han Di before he left the battlefield.

When Duan Ling Tian and Han Di left the battlefield, everyone was looking at Duan Ling Tian. Now that they understood what had happened, they looked at him in shock, filled with complicated feelings.

"Duan Ling Tian is unreasonably strong!"

"He truly lives up to his reputation as the strongest person among the younger generation in the Eastern Ridge Mansion!"

"Previously, I only thought he obtained that title because there weren't many outstanding talents among the younger generation in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. However, that's clearly not the case. I truly underestimated him."

"He only became an intermediate Lord of Gods not long ago, right? Did he completely stabilize his cultivation base in such a short time? How did he do it?"

"Unbelievable! He's amazing!"

"He must have had a fortuitous encounter! Otherwise, it's impossible to completely stabilize his cultivation base in the realm of an intermediate Lord of Gods in such a short time even if he's highly talented and was given a lot of resources."

"I agree! He must have had a fortuitous encounter. He's not even 3,000 years old."

Once again, Duan Ling Tian was thrust into the limelight. Previously, many people paid attention to him because of what they had heard about him. However, now that they witnessed his strength, they were convinced of his strength, especially after listening to their elders' explanations.

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While most people wore varying degrees of shocked expressions on their faces, Wanqi Hong's expression was very sour after he listened to the explanation of Wanqi Yu Ning, the Golden Seat Elder of the Wanqi clan.

'Damn it! He completely stabilized his cultivation base in the realm of an intermediate Lord of Gods?!'

Wanqi Hong was confident about defeating Duan Ling Tian this time because he had completely stabilized his cultivation base with the help of the Wanqi clan. Previously, he was already an advanced Lord of Gods for 100 years, hence, it was not a surprise that he was able to stabilize his cultivation base with the resources given to him by the Wanqi clan.

However, Duan Ling Tian had only broken through and become an intermediate Lord of Gods relatively recently, but he had already completely stabilized his cultivation base.

Back when Duan Ling Tian defeated him, neither of them had yet to completely stabilize their cultivation bases. He felt that he had the advantage during the Seven Mansions Feast because he had completely stabilized his cultivation base and he assumed Duan Ling Tian had yet to do so. As such, after finding out that Duan Ling Tian had completely stabilized his cultivation base, his confidence crumbled.

Back then, he was defeated when both of their cultivation bases were not stable. Now that both of their cultivation bases were stable, he was not sure if he could defeat Duan Ling Tian.

Wanqi Hong began to doubt himself, and his face gradually turned pale.

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian did not pay attention to changes in Wanqi Hong's expression at all. He was now answering Zhen Ping Fan's countless questions.

"Duan Ling Tian, when did you completely stabilize your cultivation base? How did you do it so quickly? How's this possible? How long has it been since you broke through? Did you have any secret fortuitous encounters that I don't know about? Don't worry, you can tell me. I won't tell the others! Moreover, it's not like I can rob you of your fortuitous encounters."

Zhen Ping Fan had many questions after seeing Duan Ling Tian's performance. He was shocked, amazed, and puzzled. He even felt embarrassed when he recalled how he had tried to comfort Duan Ling Tian and alleviate the pressure on Duan Ling Tian's shoulders by telling Duan Ling Tian not to worry about ranking in the top three. With such strength, it would be a waste if Duan Ling Tian did not aim to rank in the top three!

Zhen Ping Fan said confidently, "I really think you're going to rank in the top three! You might even rank first!"

Duan Ling Tian smiled and shook his head as he said, "Elder Zhen, didn't you tell me not to feel pressured? You told me that it was fine as long as I rank in the top ten, right?"

Zhen Ping Fan's expression froze before he decisively pushed the blame to Ye Chen Feng. "Hey, hey, I only followed Junior Uncle Ye's words!"

...

At this time, high up in the sky where no one could see.

A magnificent jade palace hovered in the air with mist swirling around it.

“Brother... He’s already so strong?”

A beautiful girl looked down. With her exceptional eyesight, she saw the purple figure below. She could barely contain her joy and excitement.

An old woman sitting at a wooden table nearby looked at the girl and said with a smile, “Girl, with the speed of his progress, you’ll be able to meet him soon.”

A young woman and a middle-aged man stood behind the old woman. They were respectful and maintained the posture of a servant.