

Chapter 4041: Participant Number One, Duan Ling Tian

Although there were many who still could believe the way that Duan Ling Tian and Han Di's fight was conducted, this round to determine the ranking ended.

It was already late in the evening, and the sun was setting.

"Tomorrow, a new round will start to determine the rankings of the Seven Mansions Feast," Lin Dong Lai said.

Subsequently, everyone left one after another. All of them were still discussing Duan Ling Tian and were looking at him until he disappeared from their sight along with the people from the Pure Yang Sect.

"I really didn't expect that Duan Ling Tian from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Pure Yang Sect to be so strong..."

"He's much more terrifying than I imagined. Our old ancestor praised him earlier, saying that very few of his peers are a match for him with his current strength, not even advanced Lords of Gods..."

"I still can't believe that he's not even 3,000 years old..."

"He's a real monster."

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At this time, similar to the others, the people from the Wanqi clan were also leaving. All of them wore gloomy expressions on their faces at this time. Many of them knew Wanqi Hong, the most outstanding young disciple in their clan, was eager to fight Duan Ling Tian at the Seven Mansions Feast. If he defeated Duan Ling Tian, not only would he redeem his pride, but the pride of the clan as well. However, based on the strength that Duan Ling Tian displayed earlier, their confidence in Wanqi Hong had been dealt a heavy blow. Their hearts grew even heavier when they saw the sour expression on Wanqi Hong's face. Clearly, he was also not as confident as he was before.

At this time, Wanqi Yu Ning said to Wanqi Hong through Voice Transmission, "Don't think about Duan Ling Tian. It doesn't matter if you're no match for him now. Continue to get stronger, and you'll be able to seek revenge in the future. Just because you're weaker than him now, it might not be so in the future. Ye Chen Feng is a good example of this. He didn't even rank in the top 20 during the Seven Mansions Feast 10,000 years ago. Now, he's stronger than all the participants from 10,000 years ago. Moreover, there were many of them who were younger than him back then."

Wanqi Yu Ning continued to say, "With your current strength, the gap between both of you isn't that wide. You've not fought so we can't say for sure that you'll lose. In any case, don't forget that the main purpose this time is not to fight with Duan Ling Tian. He's just a side mission at most. What is important is that you win the chance for your elders to enter the Secret Holy Realm. Previously, I was optimistic about you ranking in the top three, but now, it's enough as long as you rank in the top ten. If you don't think you can rank in the top three, don't push it. It's fine."

Despite Wanqi Yu Ning's kind words, he still felt frustrated in the depths of his heart. After all, the Wanqi clan had given Wanqi Hong many resources to cultivate him. All of them hoped he would be able to rank in the top three. No one expected that there would be so many outstanding participants this time. Such fierce competition greatly lowered the chances of Wanqi Hong ranking in the top three.

"Do... Do you think Duan Ling Tian has a chance of ranking in the top three?"

Wanqi Yu Ning was slightly taken aback. He did not expect Wanqi Hong to ask him this question. After a moment, he answered truthfully, "With the strength he showed today, he has a high chance of ranking in the top three. However, we don't know if the other contenders for the top three places are still hiding their strength..."

Wanqi Hong fell silent upon hearing Wanqi Yu Ning's words. However, his mood improved when he thought about Wanqi Yu Ning's earlier comforting words.

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Similarly, the expressions of the people from the United Heavens Sect, both the high-ranking officials and the young disciples, were not very good. Only Han Di's expression remained neutral. No one knew what he was thinking.

The high-ranking officials' expressions were not good because they all had high expectations for Han Di. They even felt that he had a high chance of ranking first. Their feelings grew stronger when Han Di obtained the token with the number one. Contrary to their expectations, he was quickly knocked off the first place by the prodigy from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Pure Yang Sect who had risen to fame recently.

'Forget it. Even if he doesn't rank first, he still has a chance of ranking second or third...'

Slowly, the expressions of the high-ranking officials of the United Heavens Sect eased, and their mood improved.

At this time, a young disciple who was familiar with Han Di approached him and asked, "Senior brother, is Duan Ling Tian really so strong?"

Although he did not speak loudly, everyone around him heard him clearly. They looked at Han Di immediately, waiting for his answer.

Upon hearing the question, Han Di said calmly, "He's really strong. If we fight with all our might, I'm not even sure if I can survive ten moves from him."

Everyone's eyes widened in shock upon hearing Han Di's reply. These words were shocking since they came from the strongest young disciple in the United Heavens Sect. It was a testament to Duan Ling Tian's strength.

At this time, an old man leading the entourage from the United Heavens Sect said, "It's not surprising. In a battle between powerhouses, the outcome usually can be decided within ten moves. It can even be decided within three moves. However, this doesn't mean that Han Di is a lot weaker than Duan Ling Tian." Then, he looked at Han Di and said, "You made the right choice today. It's important to conserve your energy. You'd definitely suffer some injuries if you fought Duan Ling Tian with all your might today."

At that time, your performance would definitely be affected. It would also affect your chances of ranking in the top three. I naturally wish you'll be able to rank first, but it's fine as long as you rank second or third. Second would be best, of course."

Han Di quickly nodded in agreement.

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In fact, Duan Ling Tian did not attack with all his might earlier. He did not even use his doppelganger from the law of space. If he had used his doppelganger, he was certain he could defeat Han Di with just two or three moves. If Han Di had fought without intending to conserve his strength, he would have used his doppelgangers as well to end the fight quickly so he could conserve his strength.

"I wonder if Luo Yuan, the third participant, will challenge me or Han Di tomorrow. Or, would he forfeit the fight?"

Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged on the bed as he thought about the fights tomorrow.

Currently, the top ten rankings were as such in ascending order: Duan Ling Tian from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Pure Yang Sect, Han Di from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect, Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect, one of the two strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion, Ximen from the Green Province Mansion's Marionette Villa, Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan, Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion's Howling Flames Sect, the other strongest prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion, Yang Qian Ye from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Pure Yang Sect, and Wang Xiong from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Mountain Manor.

All of the outstanding participants were now in the top ten except for Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect and Wanqi Hong from the Eastern Ridge Mansion's Pure Yang Sect. This was because the duo was so focused on obtaining the first token that in the end they were left with the last two tokens, which were the 29th and 30th tokens. After their first fights, they rose to the 21st and 22nd place,

Currently, the Eastern Ridge Mansion and the Feudal Lord Mansion seemed to have the best result. There were three participants from the Feudal Lord Mansion in the top ten, and there were two participants from the Eastern Ridge Mansion in the top ten.

However, if Wanqi Hong were not so obsessed with obtaining the first token, everyone knew that the Eastern Ridge Mansion would also have three participants in the top ten. If Wanqi Hong ranked in the top ten, it was certain that one of the participants from the Feudal Lord Mansion would be knocked out of the top ten.

Similarly, the Green Province Mansion would have another participant in the top ten if Yuan Mo Yu did not focus on obtaining the first token.

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Usually, the nights passed in just a blink of an eye for cultivators. For those who were cultivating, it would pass even quicker. However, tonight, time seemed to pass very slowly. Perhaps, it was due to the anticipation for the next day that time seemed to slow down.

Everyone, especially the young disciples from the various forces, naturally looked forward to the coming rounds. As the Seven Mansions Feast drew to an end, the fights would only become more fierce and exciting.

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The next day.

As soon as dawn broke, the young disciples from various forces left their wooden houses immediately, waiting excitedly for their elders to lead them to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast.

At this time, an elder from the Pure Yang Sect, who had just come out, shook his head when he saw the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect who had gathered. "These kids are very excited. Usually, they don't wake up so early."

Soon after, Ye Chen Feng, Liu Feng Gu, and Zhen Ping Fan came out as well.

Duan Ling Tian arrived a little later.

As for Yang Qian Ye, his master, Yuan Han Jin, had already led him to the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast before Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu even showed up.

Chapter 4042: Second Stage of the Final Round to Determine the Ranking

The people from the Pure Yang Sect were the last to arrive at the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast today.

'Hmm? We're not late, are we? We usually arrive at this time...' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly.

The others did not seem surprised or puzzled.

Zhen Ping Fan said to Ye Chen Feng, "Junior Uncle Ye, didn't I say you should bring us here earlier? You didn't believe me. I knew everyone was going to come early..."

"In any case, we're not late," Ye Chen Feng said with a slight smile.

Zhen Ping Fan said helplessly, "You're right. However, if we arrive earlier, the fights will start sooner as well."

Ye Chen Feng shook his head and said, "It doesn't make that big of a difference. There's no hurry. The fights will last the entire day whether we come early or not."

Upon hearing these words, Zhen Ping Fan no longer had anything to say.

Not long after the Pure Yang Sect arrived, Lin Dong Lai appeared. He said directly, "Everyone, today will be the second stage of the final round to determine the ranking of the Seven Mansions Feast." He did

not waste time before he looked at a young man in the distance and said, "Participant number 30, please enter the battlefield."

The 30th participant was the person previously defeated by Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect. This person was quite unlucky. He had obtained the 21st token but was kicked down to the 30th place. Nonetheless, he had no complaints since he was aware his strength was inferior. He even felt that if there were three or four of him fighting Yuan Mo Yu, he still would not be able to defeat Yuan Mo Yu. He thought to himself, 'There's no way I'm going to challenge the 21st and the 22nd participants. I can only challenge those behind them whom I'm confident about defeating...'

The 30th participant looked around before he finally challenged the 24th participant. Alas, he failed his challenge so he could only continue to stay in 30th place. He was in a very bad mood at this moment as he thought to himself, 'Why is everyone so cunning? Participant number 24 clearly showed strength weaker than mine before this! He suddenly became stronger after I challenged him!'

Naturally, Lin Dong Lai did not pay attention to the mood of the 30th participant. As soon as the 30th participant left, he had already called for the 29th participant.

The fights continued. Some people succeeded in their challenges, and some were knocked down.

Time continued to pass, and it was finally the turn of the 22nd participant, Wanqi Hong.

Many people thought Wanqi Hong would forfeit his fight instead of challenging the 21st participant, Yuan Mo Yu. After all, he still had a chance to climb up the ranks later. If he challenged Yuan Mo Yu now, he risked being injured.

In fact, the 22nd place was not very favorable. The person occupying this place could only challenge the 21st participant; he could not challenge the 20th participant.

As expected...

"I forfeit my turn," Wanqi Hong said. He knew that this was the best choice. Moreover, yesterday, Wanqi Yu Ning, the ancestor of the Wanqi clan, had also advised him to forfeit his turn.

Following that, it was Yuan Mo Yu's turn. He naturally did not forfeit his turn since this was a good chance for him to enter the top 20. He said, "I'd like to challenge participant number twenty."

Although the 20th participant's strength was quite decent, it could not compare to that of Yuan Mo Yu. With just one strike, Yuan Mo Yu defeated him. With this, he would be able to challenge anyone from the 11th to the 19th place during his next turn, making his way into the top ten.

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At this time, Duan Ling Tian suddenly thought of a question. He asked, "Elder Zhen, I found another loophole. If we have a few participants from our sect in the top ten, we can send the strongest disciple to 'gate-keep' at the 10th place to prevent others from advancing into the top ten, right? With this, the others in the top ten will stay in the top ten?"

Zhen Ping Fan nodded. "Indeed. However, if there's someone stronger below the 10th participant, he or she can still advance into the top ten based on a rule of the Seven Mansions Feast."

“Hm? A rule? I don’t think anything has been mentioned about this, right?” Duan Ling Tian was surprised. He did not know there was another way to enter the top ten.

“This rule has always existed, but it’s not often mentioned since there was no occasion to do so. If the occasion arises, then the rule will definitely be brought out,” Zhen Ping Fan said.

“What’s the rule?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

Zhen Ping Fan replied, “If the situation you described happens, those who are dissatisfied can request to challenge anyone from the 4th to the ninth place. However, they’ll need to pay a million divine crystals or treasures of equal value for a chance to do so.”

Zhen Ping Fan smiled and continued to say, “The payment will be added to the reward for the person who ranks first in the Seven Mansions Feast. Similarly, if the third participant ‘gate-keep’ as well, the others can challenge the first and second participants if they pay ten million divine crystals or treasures of equal value. The payment will also be added to the reward for the person who ranks first.” He paused for a beat before he continued to say, “Usually, those who are confident about ranking first will pay the fee since the payment would return to them when they rank first. However, those who can rank first naturally would not be hindered by a ‘gatekeeper’. In any case, this kind of situation rarely occurs. In the end, one’s strength is still the most important during the Seven Mansions Feast. If you’re weak, you won’t be able to climb up the ranks no matter what. This rule is only to prevent forces from cheating. It’s rather effective since no one bothered to cheat. As such, no one really mentions this rule unless it’s brought up...”

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He had learned a lot about the Seven Mansions Feast after listening to Zhen Ping Fan. This rule was indeed useful to deter others from colluding and gatekeeping.

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During the time Duan Ling Tian and Zhen Ping Fan were talking, two fights had already concluded. One of them succeeded in his challenge, and the other one failed.

Finally, it was the turn of the 11th participant. He was He Yu Xi from the Consonance Mansion’s Frost Divine Sect. Before Han Di’s appearance in the Seven Mansions Feast, he was widely acknowledged as the strongest among the younger generation in the Consonance Mansion. In 11th place, he could only challenge the tenth participant. He was in a very difficult place at this time. After all, the tenth participant was Wang Xiong from the Feudal Lord Mansion’s Frozen Mountain Manor who had just defeated him and knocked him off the tenth place.

For this reason, Lin Dong Lai skipped He Yu Xi’s turn. He said to Wang Xiong, “Participant number ten, please enter the battlefield.”

The crowd that was getting bored grew excited again when Wang Xiong entered the battlefield.

“Who do you think Wang Xiong is going to challenge?”

“Yang Qian Ye, who’s in ninth place, is quite strong. He’s clearly stronger than the eighth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion. The other participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion, who’s in fourth

place, is the weakest among those in the top ten now. Considering everything, I think Wang Xiong's going to challenge one of the participants from the Feudal Lord Mansion. It makes more sense for him to challenge the fourth participant."

"Number four and number eight are very famous in the Feudal Lord Mansions. They were acknowledged to be the strongest among the young generation there before Wang Xiong appeared. After defeating either one of them, Wang Xiong will officially become the strongest among the younger generation in the Feudal Lord Mansion."

"He's sure to challenge number four or eight. I wonder which one it will be..."

"If he challenges number four, there'll be more people challenging him after this after he takes the fourth place. It's wiser to challenge number eight even if he can defeat number four. After that, Yang Qian Ye will definitely challenge number four after that or forfeit his turn."

Wang Xiong felt rather speechless when he heard the people who were fervently discussing him. He wondered, 'Is my mind so easy to read?'

As expected, Wang Xiong challenged the eighth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion.

The eyes of many young disciples from the Frozen Mountain Manor lit up, and they looked at Wang Xiong expectantly.

"Senior Brother Wang Xiong!"

"Once Senior Brother Wang Xiong wins, he'll be acknowledged as the strongest person among the younger generation in the Feudal Lord Mansion!"

Chapter 4043: Puzzled

Wang Xiong was not famous in the Frozen Mountain Manor in the past, let alone the Feudal Lord Mansion. Many people had heard of him, but they assumed he was just an ordinary prodigy. However, during the Seven Mansions Manor, everyone realized he was much stronger than they had imagined and that he had been hiding his strength all this time. Perhaps, he had hidden his strength for so long just to reveal it during the Seven Mansions Feast.

Previously, when Wang Xiong had been selected as a seeded participant, it had confused many young disciples in the Frozen Mountain Manor. Similar to the others, they had no idea that he was so strong and that he had been hiding his strength.

Initially, there were quite a few young prodigies who were unconvinced when Wang Xiong was selected as a seeded participant. However, after he displayed his strength, he had silenced their doubts and completely convinced them. Now that he was in the top ten, they even felt proud that they had such a prodigy in their Frozen Mountain Manor. This was only natural since they were from the same force,

At this moment, one of the two top young prodigies from the Feudal Lord Mansion looked at Wang Xiong solemnly and said, "Wang Xiong, I didn't know there was such an outstanding disciple in the Frozen Mountain Manor. You hid your strength really well."

As one of the two strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion, he was naturally arrogant. He had never heard of Wang Xiong in the past, and now, Wang Xiong wanted to challenge him. Once Wang Xiong defeated him, he would no longer be known as one of the two strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion. It was only normal that he was unhappy.

Wang Xiong smiled slightly and said, "I'm a nobody so it's only normal that you've never heard of me."

"A nobody?" Wang Xiong's opponent laughed. "How could a nobody obtain a token in the twenties? How could a nobody enter the top ten during the first stage to determine the ranking?"

Clearly, Wang Xiong's words had provoked his opponent. After a moment, he took a deep breath and said, "Let's cut to the chase and decide the winner. I really want to witness the strength of the prodigy of our Feudal Lord Mansion who had hidden his strength so well."

As soon as Wang Xiong's opponent's voice fell, his Divine Energy and profundities from the law burst forth from his body. His aura was incredibly strong. Without hesitation, he shot toward Wang Xiong like a lightning bolt, striking first to gain the upper hand. He did not dare to underestimate Wang Xiong. After all, Wang Xiong's defenses were extremely high. He was not confident about breaking Wang Xiong's defenses.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The fight was fierce. Shockwaves rippled out as the two opponents clashed.

Lin Dong Lai, the elder from the Howling Flames Sect who was an intermediate Emperor of Gods, easily neutralized the shockwaves as the duo fought. With his presence, the shockwaves from the fight would not be able to hurt the others. Even if the duo attacked the spectators, it would be difficult for them to do so with him keeping watch.

"In fact, this prodigy who's known as one of the strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion is quite deserving of this title."

"Previously, the other strongest prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion, who's ranked fourth, was defeated so quickly by Luo Yuan so I thought that the rumor was exaggerated. Now that I think about it, perhaps it was not that he was not as strong as the rumor said. It's just that Luo Yuan is too strong!"

"That's right. Based on this person's strength, number 4 isn't weak at all. He was only defeated so quickly because Luo Yuan was too strong."

Wang Xiong's opponent, the eighth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion, surprised everyone with his strength. This made the others rethink their judgment about the fourth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion, who was on par with the eighth participant.

With this, the expression of the fourth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion, who had been mocked earlier, eased greatly.

'All of you finally understand now. It's not that I'm weak. It's just that Luo Yuan is too strong! Moreover, I was defeated so quickly because I was careless as well! I didn't expect him to attack with all his might so quickly so I was caught off guard. If I didn't let down my guard, I would've been able to withstand more than ten moves. That aside, it seems like the two of us aren't a match for Wang Xiong as well...'

The fourth participant from the Feudal Lord Mansion who was on par with the eighth participant continued to watch the fight. At the same time, he sighed inwardly. He thought to himself with a bitter smile on his face, 'Initially, I thought I'd be able to rank in the top three. Now, it seems like I'd be lucky if I'm able to rank in the top ten. Wang Xiong is very strong. Yang Qian Ye is also very strong. As for the others, I have no hope of defeating them. There are also Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong who are still making their way to the top ten. If we can't defeat Wang Xiong, we can forget about ranking in the top 8; if we can't defeat Yang Qian Ye, we can forget about ranking in the top 9. There's also He Yu Xi, who's recognized as the strongest young prodigy in the Consonance Mansion, before the appearance of Han Di from the United Heavens Sect. I'm not sure I'll be able to defeat He Yu Xi. In short, it's going to be difficult for us to rank in the top ten.'

While the fourth participant was lost in his thoughts, the fight on the battlefield suddenly changed.

Wang Xiong, who had been on the defensive, suddenly launched a counterattack on his opponent. After three moves, his opponent suffered minor injuries. In contrast, his face was only slightly flushed from the exertion.

Seeing that Wang Xiong had switched to the offensive and was about to attack again, his opponent said, "I surrender."

The eighth participant knew it was best for him to surrender to avoid more injuries. He no longer dared to continue the fight. After all, he was not confident he would be able to defeat Wang Xiong. It was best to cut the loss and conserve his strength to avoid affecting his performance later. He thought to himself, 'I have no chance of ranking in the top three, but I have to do my best to rank in the top ten. I can't afford to get injured at the critical moment.'

Earlier in the morning, the eighth participant's elders had also advised him to surrender if he could not win the fight and to think of the bigger picture.

Meanwhile, Wang Xiong's victory stirred up a commotion among those from the Feudal Lord Mansion's Frozen Manor Mountain. They were elated that they had such an outstanding prodigy in the Frozen Manor Mountain. He had completely surpassed the two strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion. From now on, the strongest young prodigy in the Feudal Lord Mansion was Wang Xiong from their Frozen Mountain Manor.

"He won!"

"Brother Wang Xiong won!"

'With Wang Xiong's strength, it won't be a problem for him to rank in the top ten,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself after watching this fight. He had briefly seen the beads of sweat on Wang Xiong's forehead before Wang Xiong's Divine Energy evaporated it. He could tell that although Wang Xiong did not use all his strength during this fight, he had attacked with almost all of his strength.

At this time, Wang Xiong had already exchanged his token with his opponent. He rose to eighth place while his opponent fell to tenth place.

Following that, it was finally Yang Qian Ye's turn.

“Is Yang Qian Ye going to forfeit his turn?”

Although Yang Qian Ye had displayed his amazing strength earlier, most people thought that he was at most on par with the former two strongest young prodigies in the Feudal Lord Mansion. Wang Xiong’s opponent was now in eighth place, ahead of Yang Qian Ye who was in ninth place. As such, they thought it would be best for him to forfeit his turn now. Even the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect thought so.

To everyone’s surprise, after entering the battlefield, Yang Qian Ye said, “I challenge participant number four.”

Everyone began to discuss this unexpected turn animatedly among themselves.

“Does this mean that Yang Qian Ye has yet to use all his strength earlier?”

In just a moment, the fourth participant, the other strongest young prodigy from the Feudal Lord Mansion who was ranked fourth, entered the battlefield. Soon enough, everyone’s speculations were confirmed. Indeed, Yang Qian Ye had been holding back during his earlier fights. His attacks now were much stronger than before. It did not take too long before he finally defeated his opponent.

“Yang Qian Ye’s not weaker than Wang Xiong!”

“I wonder if this is the extent of his strength...”

“Yang Qian Ye is also from the Eastern Ridge Mansion’s Pure Yang Sect, right? This time, there are two outstanding prodigies from the Pure Yang Sect!”

“That’s right. I’ve only heard about Duan Ling Tian, but I’ve never heard about this Yang Qian Ye until now.”

Unlike Duan Ling Tian who had long become famous in the Seven Mansions, Yang Qian Ye was only known to those top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. After all, they had tried to recruit him in the past. However, although he was outstanding, he was not heaven-defying or particularly special. Hence, they had only sent ordinary elders to recruit him. Who knew such a person was in fact a hidden gem?

At this time, an Emperor of Gods from the Seven Kill Valley looked puzzled as he said, “If I’m not mistaken, my granddisciple sent someone to recruit Yang Qian Ye previously. Based on his judgment, Yang Qian Ye’s talent and comprehension are good, but it’s only slightly above average. How did he become so strong?”

It was not just those from the Seven Kills Valley, the people from the other top forces in the Eastern Ridge Mansion such as the Dragon Martial Divine Sect, the Alliance of Benevolence and Justice, and the Wanqi clan were puzzled as well. Based on their previous assessment, Yang Qian Ye was only slightly above average.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘The Supreme Divine Mansion helped Yang Qian Ye grow so strong in such a short time?’

Duan Ling Tian could not help but grow excited again when he thought about the possibility of entering the Supreme Divine Mansion after the end of the Seven Mansions Feast. Perhaps, his improvements would far surpass those of Yang Qian Ye.

Chapter 4044: The Top Ten Participants

Chapter 4044 The Top Ten Has Been Determined

Apart from that, the elders from the Pure Yang Sect, including Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu, were also shocked by Yang Qian Ye's improvements. Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu were not puzzled, but they did not expect Yang Qian Ye to improve so much. After a moment, many of them instinctively turned to look at Yuan Han Jin, Yang Qian Ye's master who was a Transcendence Elder of the Pure Yang Sect's Ping Sheng Faction. Some of them even looked at Yuan Han Jin with a hint of envy.

At the same time, Yuan Han Jin only smiled, clearly not surprised by Yang Qian Ye's performance. He had known from the beginning how strong Yang Qian Ye was, after all.

At this time, another Transcendence Elder from the Pure Yang Sect sighed emotionally and said, "Elder Yuan, it seems like you already know that your disciple is so strong."

Yuan Han Jin replied with a smile, "I only found out not too long ago. I have to say that I was surprised by my incompetent disciple as well in the beginning."

When Yuan Han Jin used the words 'incompetent disciple', many of the elders from the Pure Yang Sect could not help but curse inwardly. If his disciple was incompetent, what did their disciples count as? Were their disciples trash?

Another elder said, "Elder Yuan, it seems like Yang Qian Ye will definitely rank in the top ten this time. In addition to Duan Ling Tian, there'll be two disciples from our sect ranking in the top ten!"

"At that time, our sect will have at least four slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm."

The Transcendence Elder, who spoke earlier, said confidently, "No. I think we'll get at least five slots. Duan Ling Tian will likely rank in the top three. If Yang Qian Ye ranks in the top ten, we'll have five slots."

The group of elders from the Pure Yang Sect could not help but feel excited thinking that the Pure Yang Sect would obtain five slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm. If they obtained so many slots, there was a small chance that a Nirvanic Elder would even be given a chance to enter the Secret Holy Realm.

Even the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect could not help but feel excited for their Nirvanic Elders.

After all, the more intermediate Emperors of Gods who entered the Secret Holy Realm, the higher the chances of them becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods. At that time, the Pure Yang Sect would cement its status as the strongest force in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. This would only benefit all of them.

At the same time, a few young disciples from the Ping Sheng faction just regained their senses. None of them knew Yang Qian Ye was so strong. Although many of them knew him, they did not think much of him. After all, he was just an ordinary rudimentary Lord of Gods previously, and he was weaker than them. How could they not be surprised now? Not only did he become an intermediate Lord of Gods, but he had also somewhat stabilized his cultivation base. His comprehension of the law was quite high as well. It was clear now that he was much stronger than them.

With this thought in mind, a few young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect's Ping Sheng faction looked at Yang Qian Ye with complicated expressions on their faces.

The few young disciples from other factions wanted to ask those from the Ping Sheng faction about Yang Qian Ye. However, based on their expressions, it was clear that they did not know anything as well. Despite knowing better, some of them still asked about Yang Qian Ye. As expected, all of them knew nothing apart from Yang Qian Ye being Yuan Han Jin's disciple and that he used to be a rudimentary Lord of Gods not too long ago.

Meanwhile, after Yang Qian Ye returned, Duan Ling Tian glanced at him and said through Voice Transmission, "Congratulations."

Yang Qian Ye looked at Duan Ling Tian from the corners of his eyes before replying through Voice Transmission, "Although I'm still weaker than you, I believe that I'll catch up to you one day. At that time, perhaps, I'll avenge my brothers, Du Qian Jun and Du Po Jun."

"Alright, I'll wait for you," Duan Ling Tian said with a slight smile. He did not defend himself or explain that he was not directly involved in Du Qian Jun and Du Po Jun's deaths. After all, he did indirectly cause the deaths of the duo.

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While everyone was talking about Yang Qian Ye, Lin Dong Lai, the elder of the Howling Flames Sect, spoke, attracting everyone's attention. He said loudly, "Participant number seven, please enter the battlefield."

Yang Qian Ye was ranked ninth earlier so it should be the eighth participant's turn to issue a challenge. However, since the eighth participant had just finished a fight with Wang Xiong, his turn was skipped.

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

This time, most people expected Lin Yuan to challenge someone since he had forfeited his turn previously.

Contrary to everyone's expectations, Lin Yuan said, "I forfeit my turn,"

Lin Yuan did not explain, but everyone assumed he still wanted to conserve his strength.

Subsequently, Lin Dong Lai called out, "Participant number six."

The sixth participant was Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan. After entering the battlefield, she looked around. Her eyes landed briefly on Yang Qian Ye before she, like Lin Yuan, forfeited her turn.

It was finally the fifth participant's turn. He was Ximen from the Green Province Mansion's Marionette Villa. Previously, he had challenged Yang Qian Ye, and their fight ended in a draw. Similar to Yang Qian Ye, he was not very outstanding in the past and only rose to fame recently. As such, many people speculated that the Marionette Villa had deliberately kept his existence a secret for the Seven Mansions Feast.

"I forfeit my turn," Ximen said after entering the battlefield.

Duan Ling Tian, who was looking at Ximen at this time, saw Ximen turning to look at him with a strange and complicated expression on his face. Upon seeing that, he could not help but feel puzzled. 'Why is he looking at me like that? I don't know him that well...'

Yang Qian Ye, who was now in fourth place, skipped his turn as well since he had just issued a challenge earlier. Hence, it was the third participant's turn.

Everyone's attention was focused on the battlefield again.

"Participant number three... Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect!"

Duan Ling Tian looked at Luo Yuan, who had risen from fourth to third place.

Earlier, Luo Yan was ranked fourth so he could only challenge the third participant. Now that he was ranked third, he could only challenge the first or second participants, who were Duan Ling Tian and Han Di respectively.

As such, Duan Ling Tian naturally had to pay attention to Luo Yuan. He was rather curious if Luo Yuan would challenge him or Han Di.

"I forfeit my turn," Luo Yuan said.

With this, Duan Ling Tian could only put his curiosity aside for now. However, he knew his curiosity would be satisfied sooner or later since Luo Yuan would have to challenge him or Han Di eventually.

Everyone was disappointed that Luo Yuan had forfeited his turn.

At this time, Lin Dong Lai said, "The second stage to determine the ranking is over. We will continue with the third stage tomorrow. Everyone, you may now leave."

Since Duan Ling Tian had just defeated Han Di and rose from second place to first place, there was no need for him and Han Di to fight anymore. If no one replaced Han Di and took over the second place, Duan Ling Tian would no longer be challenged. To challenge Duan Ling Tian, the third participant, Luo Yuan, would have to challenge and defeat Han Di first. However, if by chance, Han Di suddenly had a breakthrough, he could also challenge Duan Ling Tian again. It was not uncommon for people to break through under pressure, and it happened many times in the history of the Seven Mansions Feast.

...

Most people could not wait for the third stage of the final round to determine the ranking tomorrow. There were also some who thought that not much would change tomorrow.

"Based on the situation, perhaps, the only thing worth seeing is if Yuan Mo Yu from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect can make it into the top ten. Oh, there's also Wanqi Hong. However, I think he'll have to wait until the sixth stage to enter the top ten."

"That's when the top ten participants are determined."

"After a few more stages, the weak will be knocked out of the top ten..."

“Hey, do you think those two top prodigies will be able to maintain their places in the top ten?”

“I think it’s very unlikely. Duan Ling Tian, Han Di, Luo Yuan, Yang Qian Ye, Tuo Ba Xiu, Lin Yuan, Wang Xiong, and Ximen are stronger than them... Do you think those two are stronger than Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong?”

“I think they’ll definitely be knocked out of the top ten by Yuan Mo Yu and Wanqi Hong...”

...

The next few stages of the final round went exactly as many people expected them to.

At this time, the current ranking was as followed:

1. Duan Ling Tian
2. Han Di
3. Luo Yuan
4. Yuan Mo Yu
5. Ximen
6. Tuo Ba Xiu
7. Lin Yuan
8. Wang Xiong
9. Yang Qian Ye
10. Wanqi Hong

Chapter 4045: Yuan Ping Sheng, the Founder of the Ping Sheng Faction

Now that the top ten participants had been selected, even if the ranking had yet to be determined, some were overjoyed and some were disappointed.

For example, the forces that the two top young prodigies from the Feudal Lord Mansions belonged to were greatly disappointed. They did not expect that their respective disciples would not even rank in the top ten. Initially, they thought no matter how badly their disciples performed, they still would be able to rank in the top ten. It was unexpected that so many participants who had hidden their strength would appear in the Seven Mansions Feast this time, shocking everyone with their strength.

When Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Pure Yang Sect arrived at the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast in the morning, many people had already arrived and were discussing among themselves.

“I thought that the Pure Yang Sect’s Yang Qian Ye would be able to maintain his rank at fourth place. Alas, he was defeated by Yuan Mo Yu from the Howling Heaven Sect.”

Yesterday, Yuan Mo Yu, the young prodigy from the Green Province Mansion's Howling Heaven Sect, who was ranked ninth challenged Yang Qian Ye, successfully rising to fourth place. After exchanging thirty moves, Yuan Mo Yu gained the upper hand and injured Yang Qian Ye. As a result, Yang Qian Ye surrendered.

"If you ask me, I think Yang Qian Ye didn't want to surrender. Before he surrendered, I saw him looking in the direction of the people from the Pure Yang Sect. His elder must have advised him to surrender."

Duan Ling Tian had similar thoughts as well. It was not that Yang Qian Ye was one to ignore the bigger picture, but at the same time, Yang Qian Ye did not seem like the type to surrender under those circumstances.

In any case, Yang Qian Ye, who had risen to fourth place, surrendered and fell back to ninth place.

After everyone arrived, Lin Dong Lai, the elder from the Profound Jade Mansion's Howling Flames Sect, appeared in front of everyone. He swept his gaze around before he asked, "Is there anyone ranked from the 11th to the 30th place who's dissatisfied with their ranking? Is there anyone who's going to pay the price and challenge the top ten participants?"

In the beginning, the young disciples of the various forces were confused. After all, many of their elders did not tell them about this, deeming it unnecessary. It was unlikely to say anything unless someone deliberate gate-keep at the tenth place.

Wanqi Hong was in tenth place now. Apart from him, there was no one from the Wanqi clan in the top ten. As such, there was no reason for him to gatekeep. Naturally, he could still help someone who was not from the Wanqi clan but from the Eastern Ridge Mansion, but there was no real reason for him to do so. The other two participants from the top ten were Duan Ling Tian and Yang Qian Ye from the Pure Yang Sect. Their strength was obvious and indisputable; their ranks were unshakeable.

Under these circumstances, no one would pay for a chance to challenge the top ten participants unless they wanted to give away divine crystals for no good reason.

"Is this possible?"

"I didn't even know such a rule existed. However, I guess it makes sense to prevent people from gatekeeping."

"I thought I'd be able to pay someone to gatekeep for me, hoping to exploit the loopholes. Alas, it seems like it's impossible."

"The Seven Mansions Feast has a long history. The Seven Mansions aren't fools. If there are loopholes, many people would've taken advantage of them. As time passes, more and more rules will be created to prevent people from taking advantage of the loopholes."

"That's right. Did you think you can outsmart our elders?"

No one stepped forward in response to Lin Dong Lai's words. As such, he continued to say, "Since there's no objection, the 11th to the 30th rankings are now confirmed. Next, we will finalize the ranking for the top ten participants. Among the top ten participants, Duan Ling Tian had defeated Han Di and Yuan Mo Yu had defeated Yang Qian Ye. Yang Qian Ye and Ximen fought, but their fight ended in a draw.

For both Han Di and Yang Qian Ye, they can challenge Duan Ling Tian and Yuan Mo Yu again respectively, but they have to defeat another opponent first before they're able to do so."

Everyone was very excited. After all, the upcoming fights were definitely going to be fierce and exciting.

Among the top ten participants, only a few of them had fought each other. Most of them had yet to fight each other.

"I think we'll be able to see the fight between Tuo Bai Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan and Luo Yuan from the Divine Morning Mansion's Autumn Leaves Sect soon! I can't watch the fight between these two participants who received the collective resources from the top forces of their respective Mansions."

Many people felt the same way.

The other participants were highly talented and had great comprehension skills. They had also been given plenty of resources from their respective forces. Except for fortuitous encounters, they were in a way the same.

However, unlike the other participants, Tuo Ba Xiu and Luo Yuan received the resources from all the top forces in their respective Mansions. One could only imagine how many resources they received. As such, many people who were envious of them were really eager to see how strong they were after being given so many resources. Moreover, during their previous fights, they had held back or forfeited their turns. Now that it was time to finalize the rankings in the top ten, they would definitely fight with all their might.

Apart from that, there were also those who were interested in other participants.

"I'm interested to see Luo Yuan and Tuo Ba Xiu fight, but I'm also very interested to see if Duan Ling Tian will fight again. I wonder if he'll be able to maintain his rank."

"As for me, I hope to see Wang Xiong and Yang Qian Ye fight. Among the top ten participants, I think they're the weakest. I'm curious which of them is stronger."

"Wanqi Hong only entered the top ten yesterday so he has yet to have a chance to climb higher."

"Wanqi Hong will be the first to fight after this. Who do you think he'll challenge?"

"I think he'll challenge Yang Qian Ye. After all, Yang Qian Ye was just defeated by Yuan Mo Yu yesterday. Who knows if his injuries have healed? He has lost his momentum after his defeat..."

Many people's attention quickly shifted to Wanqi Hong who would be the first to issue a challenge today. Everyone wondered if he would challenge Yang Qian Ye or Wang Xiong.

At this time, He Yu Xi, who was standing with the people from the Divine Frost Sect in the Consonance Mansion, wore a complicated expression on his face. Before Han Di appeared, he was the strongest prodigy in the Consonance Mansion. As such, he was very arrogant. Although Han Di was stronger than him, he still remained confident. Even if he could not defeat Han Di or rank in the top three, he was certain he would be able to rank in the top ten. Unexpectedly, he was ranked 11th in the end.

After the two strongest young prodigies from the Feudal Lord Mansion were kicked out of the top ten, He Yu Xi had defeated them, and the duo fell to the 12th and 13th places respectively. Similar to him, they failed to rank in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast despite their initial high hopes.

At the same time, the high-ranking officials of the various forces in the Seven Mansions Feast looked at the people from the Pure Yang Sect from time to time. They were truly jealous.

The Pure Yang Sect had stolen the limelight this time. All the other forces from the Seven Mansions paled in comparison to the Pure Yang Sect.

“The Pure Yang Sect will get at least four slots this time. Duan Ling Tian has a high chance of ranking in the top three. If that’s the case, the Pure Yang Sect will have five slots. Do they even need so many slots?”

“Five slots... However, if Duan Ling Tian ranks first in the end, it means that the Pure Yang Sect will have six slots!”

“If the Pure Yang Sect obtains six slots, I wonder if they’ll auction off one or two slots.”

“Who knows? Six slots might not be enough for them...”

The eyes of many high-ranking officials from the various forces lit up when they thought about the possibility of the Pure Yang Sect auctioning off one or two slots. Many of them even contacted their sect leaders and clan leaders to get in touch with the Pure Yang Sect. The early birds would get the worms, after all. However, there were also some who were not optimistic.

...

Back in the Pure Yang Sect.

“We’ll get at least four slots? If Duan Ling Tian ranks in the top three, we’ll get five slots? And if he ranks first, we’ll get six slots?”

The Sect Leader of the Pure Yang Sect and the others elders who stayed behind in the Pure Yang Sect were shocked when they heard the news.

They had expected Duan Ling Tian to rank in the top ten. Then, they thought he might have a chance of ranking in the top three. However, later, they received news that there were many strong participants, who had previously hidden their strength, so they did not think he would be able to rank in the top three. It was fine as long as he ranked in the top ten.

Unexpectedly, Duan Ling Tian had also hidden his strength, and currently, he was tentatively ranked first. As such, they had high hopes again that he would rank in the top three.

That aside, they were even more shocked that Yang Qian Ye managed to rank in the top ten.

Even Yuan Ping Shen, the founder of the Ping Sheng faction in the Pure Yang Sect, who was Yuan Han Jin’s father, was shocked, let alone the others.

After learning about what happened, Yuan Ping Sheng sent a message to Yuan Han Jin immediately.

“Did you send him into the Supreme Divine Mansion? Didn’t you promise previously that you’d stop sending your disciples into that place and causing their deaths?”

Chapter 4046: Wanqi Hong and Yuan Mo Yu’s Fight

“Father, h-how, how do you know about the Supreme Divine Mansion?” Yuan Han Jin’s expression changed slightly upon hearing his father’s message. He had told his father that he had found a dangerous place filled with fortuitous encounters, but he had never said it was the Supreme Divine Mansion.

In the past, when Yuan Han Jin’s disciples died in the beginning, Yuan Ping Sheng had dismissed it as an accident. However, as Yuan Han Jin’s disciples continued to die one after another, he became suspicious. At that time, he had questioned Yuan Han Jin, and Yuan Han Jin said he had found a place that could help rudimentary Lords of Gods become intermediate Lord of Gods, providing they came out of that place alive. After listening to Yuan Han Jin, he had warned Yuan Han Jin against sending his disciples to that deadly place again.

Yuan Ping Sheng scoffed and said coldly, “I knew it all along. I just didn’t want to expose you in the past. As you know, the Supreme Divine Mansion may contain fortuitous encounters, but it’s extremely deadly. The survival rates are low. There’s a reason why I prohibited you from sending your disciples there. It wasn’t easy for you to find a talented new disciple after so many years, but you actually sent him to that place. Yang Qian Ye was indeed talented and had good comprehension skills, but it would be impossible for him to progress so much in such a short time. It’s obvious that you sent him to the Supreme Divine Mansions, and he, fortunately, survived his time there.”

Yuan Han Jin smiled and replied, “Father, you’re too smart. However, I succeeded this time! Look at him! He managed to rank in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast! Even if he’s only in tenth place, he’ll still obtain two slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm! One of the slots will go to you, Father!”

Yuan Ping Sheng remained silent for a moment. Then, he replied with a sigh, “I’ve told you that the Secret Holy Realm might not be able to help me. I’m still far from becoming an advanced Emperor of Gods so entering the Secret Holy Realm might not even help me to become one. There were many intermediate Emperors of Gods like me who entered the Secret Holy Realm in the past, and they all failed to achieve a breakthrough. This chance will only be wasted on me.”

Nearing the end of his words, Yuan Ping Sheng’s voice softened considerably. He knew Yuan Han Jin was doing this for his sake.

Yuan Han Jin replied solemnly, “Father, it doesn’t matter if you don’t have a breakthrough. No matter what, you’ll definitely benefit from entering the Secret Holy Realm. Although you acted like nothing was wrong, I knew you were injured during your last Heavenly Tribulation!”

Yuan Ping Sheng fell silent after listening to Yuan Han Jin’s message. He changed the topic and asked, “Did you have something to do with the death of Yang Qian Ye’s father?”

Yuan Han Jin’s eyes widened immediately. He hastily replied, “Father, what do you mean? What could I possibly have to do with his father’s death? Qian Ye and the 10,000 Devils Sect confirmed that his father

was killed by Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. Qian Ye was very determined to avenge his father, and as a result, he survived the Supreme Divine Mansion. I...”

Before Yuan Han Jin finished speaking, Yuan Ping Sheng interjected solemnly, “Someone has already started an investigation. It’s been confirmed that when Qian Ye’s father died, you weren’t in the Pure Yang Sect’s estate. Do you think the others would be fooled by you? Do you believe they’d think it’s just a coincidence?”

Yuan Han Jin’s expression darkened when he heard that the matter was being investigated. He asked, “Father, do you know who’s investigating the matter?”

“I only know it’s one of the Ascension Elders,” Yuan Ping Sheng replied.

Yuan Han Jin’s expression changed again, and he instinctively glanced at Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu.

Before Yuan Han Jin reacted, Yuan Ping Sheng sent another message. “Be honest with me. Do you have anything to do with the death of Qian Ye’s father? If you don’t tell me the truth, I won’t be able to help you if things escalate. I’m your father. Do you think I’ll harm you?”

Yuan Han Jin was moved by his father’s words. After a brief moment, he replied, “Father, I, I killed Qian Ye’s father. However, I made sure not to leave any traces so it should be fine. I mimicked Long Qing Chong’s movements to kill Qian Ye’s father after studying past Mirror Image recordings of him. I even recorded the entire scene and deliberately left it there so everyone would think it’s Long Qing Chong.”

“Is that what you think?” Yuan Ping Sheng said coldly, “It might not be as traceless as you think it is. In any case, this will be the last time that you do something like this.”

After the conversation ended, Yuan Han Jin sighed in relief inwardly. Fortunately, his father did not reprimand him too harshly. However, he was unaware that after their conversation, his father, who had not left Ping Sheng Island for a long time now, not only left Ping Sheng Island, but he had left the Pure Yang Sect’s estate as well, making his way to the Flying Dragon Sect.

...

At the same time.

Lin Dong Lai said, “Participant number ten, please enter the battlefield.”

Everyone watched as Wanqi Hong flew into the battlefield.

Wanqi Hong’s expression was a little gloomy. He thought to himself, ‘Everyone thinks I’m only strong enough to challenge Wang Xiong or Yang Qian Ye?’

After a moment, Wanqi Hong turned to look at the people from the Howling Heaven Sect and said expressionlessly, “I challenge participant number four.”

The fourth participant was Yuan Mo Yu from the Howling Heaven Sect. He was a hidden trump card of the sect and had only revealed his strength during the Seven Mansions Feast.

Yuan Mo Yu flew out expressionlessly, looking like a monk who had forsaken all worldly desires and emotions.

Everyone began to discuss among themselves.

“Wanqi Hong challenged Yuan Mo Yu?”

“Isn’t he risking too much for the fourth place?”

“It’d be better for him to challenge Yang Qian Ye since there’s a chance Yang Qian Ye has yet to recover from his injuries.”

“Well, I guess he’s aiming for the fourth place, not the ninth place...”

“That’s right.”

Wanqi Hong felt like he had made the right choice even more so after listening to the hushed conversations in his surroundings. With this, his mood improved slightly.

After landing, Yuan Mo Yu wore a rare smile on his face as he said, “Wanqi Hong, the former strongest young prodigy in the Eastern Ridge Mansion. Your reputation precedes you.”

Yuan Mo Yu’s words were said casually with no malice, but to Wanqi Hong, they sounded like they were mocking him. His eyes flashed with murderous intent as he said, “I’ve been waiting to spar with the outstanding prodigy from the Green Province Mansion’s Howling Heaven Sect. I really want to see if you’re going to embarrass your sect today.”

Wanqi Hong smiled contemptuously at the end of his words.

Yuan Mo Yu frowned upon hearing those words. However, after a moment, he realized that Wanqi Hong must have taken offense at his words when he meant none. However, as an outstanding prodigy, he was naturally prideful. As such, he did not bother to explain himself. He said expressionlessly, “Don’t worry. I won’t embarrass the Howling Heaven Sect. You’ll see for yourself soon enough.”

Soon after, the duo moved.

Wanqi Hong attacked fiercely like a raging tornado.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Thunderous explosions rang in the air as shockwaves after shockwaves rippled out.

Lin Dong Lai waved his hand, neutralizing the shockwaves.

After exchanging ten and twenty moves, the two opponents were still equally matched.

“The former strongest young prodigy from the Eastern Ridge Mansion really lived up to his reputation! He’s undoubtedly strong!”

“I didn’t expect Yuan Mo Yu to be strong as well. After all, he was not as famous as Wanqi Hong. Yuan Mo Yu is amazing!”

“Based on the current situation, it seems like it’ll take a while to determine a winner.”

“Look! Wanqi Hong is casting his bloodline power!”

“Yuan Mo Yu is doing the same!”

After exchanging 30 moves, Wanqi Hong and Yuan Mo Yu finally cast their bloodline powers, greatly boosting their strengths.

Meanwhile, the expressions of the high-ranking officials from the Howling Heaven Sect and the Wanqi clan darkened.

At this time, Wanqi Yu Ning received a message.

“They’ll exhaust themselves if this continues. What do you think, Elder Yu Ning?”

Chapter 4047: The Law of Earth Isn’t Wang Xiong’s Strongest Law?

The message Wanqi Yu Ning received was from an elder from the Green Province Mansion’s Howling Heaven Sect, who led the sect’s entourage here.

Wanqi Yu Ning glanced at the old man before he replied, “I agree.”

Wanqi Yu Ning and the old man were on the same page. They did not want to fight to drag on any longer.

For Wanqi Yu Ning, instead of letting Wanqi Hong waste his energy here, he wished Wanqi Hong would conserve his strength so Wanqi Hong could fight to rank in the top three later.

The old man from the Howling Heaven Sect sighed in relief. “Very well. Let’s advise the junior.”

“Alright,” Wanqi Yu Ning replied.

Following that, the duo sent a message to their disciples.

Wanqi Hong and Yuan Mo Yu who were fighting suddenly stopped moving. Then, the duo stared at each other vigilantly as they backed away.

“Are we going to end this with a draw?” Yuan Mo Yu asked calmly despite feeling reluctant to let the fight end in such a manner.

Wanqi Hong felt reluctant as well. Nonetheless, he still nodded and said, “Yes. It won’t be too late for us to decide the winner later when fighting for first place.”

Yuan Mo Yu was slightly stunned by Wanqi Hong’s words. He thought that Wanqi Hong was delusional when Wanqi Hong implied that he was aiming for first place. He knew he was no match for Duan Ling Tian, but did Wanqi Hong think he was stronger than Duan Ling Tian?

Yuan Mo Yu looked at Wanqi Hong for a moment before he turned around wordlessly and returned to the people from the Howling Heaven Sect.

Wanqi Hong left as well.

Although the duo did not say anything, Lin Dong Lai naturally knew that the duo had agreed to end the fight in a draw. He said, “The fight between Wanqi Hong and Yuan Mo Yu ends in a draw.”

“It ended in a draw?”

“I guess they still want to conserve their strength...”

“It’s not surprising. Based on their strength, they likely hope to rank in the top three.”

“I agree. Among the ten participants, only Ximen and Yang Qian Ye don’t have much of a chance to rank in the top three. Those two have already revealed their full strength. On the other hand, there’s a chance Wang Xiong has yet to use his full strength. So far, no one has challenged him so we can’t confirm if that’s really the case.”

“I think so as well.”

“It’s not just Wang Xiong. I’m sure there are still a few of them who have yet to unleash their full strength.”

After a moment, when Lin Dong Lai called for the ninth participant, everyone turned to look in the direction of the people of the Pure Yang Sect.

“Do you think Yang Qian Ye will issue a challenge or forfeit his turn?”

“I think he’ll either challenge Wang Xiong or forfeit his turn. I don’t think he has the confidence to challenge the others...”

“I agree!”

“If he challenges Wang Xiong, we might be able to see if Wang Xiong is still hiding his strength. Who knows if Yang Qian Ye can force him to reveal his full strength?”

“After listening to you, I want to watch Yang Qian Ye and Wang Xiong fight!”

After entering the battlefield, Yang Qian Ye called out, ‘Participant number eight.’”

Everyone’s eyes lit up immediately when they heard Yang Qian Ye challenging Wang Xiong from the Frozen Mountain Manor.

Wang Xiong entered the battlefield. He took a swig from his wine gourd before he smiled and said, “I battled the Pure Yang Sect’s Ye Ying Cai previously. He’s really extraordinary. You’re stronger than him so you’re definitely extraordinary as well. Alas, I wonder if I’ll have a chance to challenge Duan Ling Tian.”

Duan Ling Tian was now in the first place. In order to challenge Duan Ling Tian, one had to rank third. This meant that if Wang Xiong wanted to challenge Duan Ling Tian, he would have to defeat the fourth and the third participants first. However, if Duan Ling Tian dropped past third place, he could directly challenge Duan Ling Tian.

“Don’t compare me to them.” Yang Qian Ye said tonelessly.

Wang Xiong smiled, unfazed. “I didn’t mean any offense, and I wasn’t trying to belittle you. I’ve already said, I think you’re extraordinary. I think it won’t be easy for me to defeat you.”

Everyone was only slightly surprised when they heard Wang Xiong's words that implied he could defeat Yang Qian Ye. After all, they had suspected this.

At the same time, Yang Qian Ye's expression changed imperceptibly. After a moment, he said tonelessly, "Let's begin."

Wang Xiong smiled. "I've always preferred to defend. Why don't you make a move first?"

Yang Qian Ye cocked an eyebrow. Following that, he swept out at the speed of light toward Wang Xiong as he drew his prominent divine artifact.

Wang Xiong's Divine Energy burst forth, and he imbued it with the law of earth to create the defensive barrier, which he had used in his previous fights.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The defensive barrier shook violently when Yang Qian Ye attacked with his prominent divine artifact.

In fewer than ten strikes, the defensive barrier cracked and shattered.

The crowd was in an uproar.

"Wang Xiong's defense has finally been broken! I guess his previous opponents were just too weak."

"Wang Xiong is skilled in defense. He's skilled in the law of earth, after all. Previously, he had used his defenses to gain the upper hand. Now that his defensive barrier is broken, will he still be a match for Yang Qian Ye?"

"I really don't know..."

Initially, everyone thought Wang Xiong had a chance of winning, but at this time, they began to doubt if Wang Xiong could defeat Yang Qian Ye after Yang Qian Ye broke his barrier. They began to think that Wang Xiong might not win the match.

However, in the next moment, everyone was shocked again.

After Wang Xiong's defensive barrier broke, the mustard yellow energy around him suddenly vanished and was replaced by golden energy.

"That... Isn't that the law of metal?!"

"Wang Xiong is switching to the law of metal?"

"Isn't he skilled in the law of earth? Why did he switch to the law of metal?"

Many people wondered if Wang Xiong had lost his rationality due to the pressure. Since his strongest law was the law of earth, why did he use the law of metal? As such, they were further shocked when they saw that after switching to the law of metal, his offensive power rose greatly. With just three moves, he suppressed Yang Qian Ye.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed slightly as he watched the fight. 'As expected, Wang Xiong was hiding his strength...'

Everyone assumed Wang Xiong's law of earth was the strongest. They were unaware that his law of metal was stronger than his law of earth.

At the same time, apart from the leader of the entourage, the other elders from the Frozen Mountain Manor were shocked as well.

Needless to say, the young disciples of the Frozen Mountain Manor were even more shocked.

"Wang Xiong's comprehension of the law of metal is so profound?!"

"He also comprehended the law of metal?"

"Wang Xiong had been keeping a low profile for a long time now. Everyone in the Frozen Mountain Manor knows that he comprehends the law of earth, but in the past, they were able to defeat him. Who knew he'd surprised everyone during the Seven Mansions Feast? Not only that, but he further surprised everyone by revealing his law of metal that's even stronger than his law of earth!"

At this time, Wang Xiong had made ten moves before he finally injured Yang Qian Ye.

Yang Qian Ye did not surrender and continued to fight Wang Xiong.

The elders from the Pure Yang Sect spoke to Yuan Han Jin, hoping he would persuade Yang Qian Ye to surrender. However, Yuan Han Jin shook his head and said, "His ranking in the top ten is secure so let him fight to his heart's content. It doesn't matter if he's defeated at this point. Moreover, as they fight, Wang Xiong's energy will also be depleted. We still don't know if Wang Xiong has shown all his strength. If Yang Qian Ye can deplete his energy, it'll also help secure Duan Ling Tian's position in the top three..."

Yuan Han Jin's words were reasonable.

Indeed, Yang Qian Ye's ranking in the top ten was secured; it was just the exact ranking that had yet to be determined. He fought to a draw with Ximen from the Marionette Villa and now he was about to be defeated by Wang Xiong; no matter what, it was impossible for him to rank in the top three. Now that he was sure to rank in the top ten and unable to rank in the top three, there was indeed nothing wrong in letting him continue to fight.

Chapter 4048: Is He Ximen Long Xiang?

Up until now, the most shocking revelation during the Seven Mansions Feast was that the law of earth was not Wang Xiong's strongest law. Previously, everyone had been impressed by how profound Wang Xiong's comprehension of the law of earth was; he was extremely skillful. Based on the reactions of his peers in the Frozen Mountain Manor, it was obvious that none of them knew that Wang Xiong had such a high comprehension of the law of earth as well, proving that he had been hiding his strength.

Wang Xiong's law of earth left such a deep impression on everyone that whenever he was mentioned, everyone would inevitably think of his invincible barrier that was like a tortoise shell. As such, they even secretly gave him the nickname 'Wang Ba¹'.

When Wang Xiong suddenly switched to the law of metal when fighting Yang Qian Ye, it was only natural that everyone thought he had cracked under the pressure. After all, they were unaware that his comprehension of the law of metal was even more profound than that of the law of earth. With the law of metal, he managed to turn the tide. With ten moves, he suppressed and injured Yang Qian Ye with the law of metal.

After 20 moves, Lin Dong Lai was forced to intervene because Yang Qian Ye was already severely injured.

However, despite the state he was in, Yang Qian Ye's gaze remained unyielding and piercing.

Wang Xiong said with a hint of admiration, "You have my respect, Yang Qian Ye. However, you're no match for me."

After Wang Xiong finished speaking, he took a swig from his wine gourd as he returned to the people of the Frozen Mountain Manor, staggering like a drunkard.

Meanwhile, the opinion of the young disciple of the Frozen Mountain manor about Wang Xiong changed again. The few outstanding young disciples felt rather ashamed. Not only was Wang Xiong about the same age as them, but they did not think they could defeat him even if he only used the law of earth, which was not his strongest law.

Among everyone from the Frozen Mountain Manor, only the leader of the entourage was aware of this.

Meanwhile, everyone discussed among themselves animatedly. Most of them began to feel optimistic about Wang Xiong ranking in the top three.

"How unexpected! Wang Xiong's strongest law is the law of metal!"

"Wang Xiong is so strong!"

"I take back my words! I think Wang Xiong has a chance of ranking in the top three!"

On the contrary, the expressions of Lin Yuan, Tuo Ba Xiu, and Luo Yuan, who were ranked higher than Wang Xiong for now, darkened. They did not consider Wang Xiong a match for them previously. They assumed he was only as strong as Yang Qian Ye and Ximen. However, after watching his fight with Yang Qian Ye, they realized that Wang Xiong was not any weaker than them. Moreover, who knew if this was the extent of his strength? There was a chance that he was still holding back.

'Is it a trend for strong people to dress sloppily?' Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly as he glanced at Wang Xiong. He was reminded of another sloppy middle-aged man, Ke'er's third uncle in her past life. He was Xia Jie, the third master of the Xia clan, a supreme-rank clan in the Divine Offering Land.

When Duan Ling Tian first met Xia Jie, he did not know much. After all, he had not even ascended to the Devata Realms at that time. However, after coming to the Realm of Gods, he came across a scroll of supreme-rank forces in the Divine Offering Land in the Cloud Peak faction's library. With that, he also learned that Xia Jie was a Supreme God. Not only that, but there were only a handful of people in the Xia clan who were a match for him.

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Since Yang Qian Ye failed to defeat Wang Xiong, both of them remained in 8th and 9th place. Since Wang Xiong had just finished the fight, his turn was skipped.

Lin Dong Lai called out, "Participant number seven, please enter the battlefield."

Everyone watched as a young man walked out leisurely among the people from the Howling Flames Sect. After entering the battlefield, he looked at the people of the Marionette Villa and said, "Participant number five. Ximen."

After Ximen entered the battlefield, Lin Yuan smiled faintly and asked, "I'm curious. Ximen is your surname, right? So what's your name?"

Ximen stared at Lin Yuan with a piercing gaze as he said, "My name? You'll have to defeat me to find out."

Lin Yuan cocked an eyebrow before he nodded. "Very well."

Not long after the fight started, Lin Yuan injured Ximen with his first strike. After another three moves, Lin Dong Lai was forced to intervene and rescue the severely-injured Ximen.

Lin Yuan smiled and asked, "Now, can you tell me your name?"

Ximen took a deep breath before he wiped the blood off the corner of his mouth. Before walking away, he said, "Ximen Long Xiang."

"Ximen Long Xiang?" Lin Yuan raised an eyebrow and said, "That's a nice name."

Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard the familiar name. During his time in the Flying Dragon Sect, the Flying Dragon Sect and the Tai Yi Sect were engaged in war in the Imperial War Realm in hopes of producing Emperors of Gods in their respective sects. At that time, he had heard about the outstanding prodigy from the Tai Yi Sect, Ximen Long Xiang. At that time, he had killed many disciples from the Tai Yi Sect on the King Battlefield. Then, Ximen Long Xiang retaliated by killing many disciples from the Flying Dragon Sect as well.

After becoming a Lord of Gods, Ximen Long Xiang had entered the Lord Battlefield. At that time, he had killed a Lord of Gods from the Tai Yi Sect as well.

At some point, people began to compare Duan Ling Tian and Ximen Long Xiang. In the beginning, many people thought he was no match for Ximen Long Xiang. However, he naturally did not care about what people said. Since he had heard Ximen Long Xiang's name countless times, it naturally left an impression on him.

'Is he Ximen Long Xiang from the Tai Yi Sect? Or just someone with the same name from the Marionette Villa? Wait...'

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian recalled the time when he had Zhen Ping Fan in the Imperial War Realm's Peace City. At that time, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Sect had brought a Silver Marionette Elder from the Marionette Villa to Peace City as well. This meant that the Tai Yi Sect had a connection with the Marionette Villa.

'So they're the same person? Since the Tai Yi Sect has connections with the Marionette Villa, it's not surprising that Ximen Long Xiang joined the Marionette Villa. I really didn't expect him to become an intermediate Lord of Gods so soon. His strength is on par with that of Yang Qian Ye, but Yang Qian Ye only progressed so much because of the Supreme Divine Mansion. I don't think Ximen Long Xiang entered a Supreme Divine Mansion as well, right? He must have had a fortuitous encounter...'

Although Duan Ling Tian had never met Ximen Long Xiang, he knew when Ximen Long Xiang broke through and became a rudimentary Lord of Gods.

'He must have had a fortuitous encounter to become an intermediate Lord of Gods in such a short time. I wonder if he came across it accidentally or if it's a chance given by the Marionette Villa...'

At this time, Ximen Long Xiang, who sensed Duan Ling Tian's gaze, looked over. Following that, he said through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, when I was in the Tai Yi Sect, my only regret was that I didn't get to fight with you in the Imperial War Realm. Previously, I planned to make up for my regret during the Seven Mansions Feast. I was rather confident about beating you, but your progress was beyond my expectations. However, I'll visit the Pure Yang Sect to challenge you sooner or later."

"I'll be waiting for you," Duan Ling Tian replied. He really did not expect to meet Ximen Long Xiang, the most outstanding prodigy of the Tai Yi Sect, during the Seven Mansions Feast.

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian felt a gentle vibration in his spatial ring. When he took a look, he discovered one of the Soul Pearls had shattered.

Chapter 4049: The Death of Long Qing Chong

Duan Ling Tian rarely contacted the owner of the shattered Soul Pearl. However, he had used it recently because of Yang Qian Ye. The owner of the shattered Soul Pearl was none other than Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect.

'S-sect Leader Long... died?!' Duan Ling Tian was shocked that the person whom he spoke to not too long ago had died.

After taking a deep breath, Duan Ling Tian quickly contacted Xue Hai Chuan and Dongfang Yang Nian, the two White Dragon Elders of the Flying Dragon Sect. He had the closest relationship with the duo among everyone in the Flying Dragon Sect.

"You found out about it?"

Xue Hai Chuan and Dongfang Yan Nian both sounded gloomy.

"I felt his Soul Pearl shatter. It just happened, right?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Yes," Xue Hai Chuan replied grimly, "A very strong powerhouse broke into our sect and killed the sect leader. The sect's Guarding Formation only inflicted a minor injury on him. He was too strong and too fast."

"Who was it? Did the sect's Mirror Image Formation catch him?"

“We can’t see him clearly since his body shone with light. However, he’s definitely not a rudimentary Emperor of Gods. A rudimentary Emperor of Gods wouldn’t have been able to break our sect’s Guarding Formation so easily,” Dongfang Yan Nian replied.

‘It’s not a rudimentary Emperor of Gods? Even if the Guarding Formation only inflicted minor injuries on him, it’s still an injury. This means he’s likely an intermediate Emperor of Gods. If that’s the case, doesn’t this mean Linghu Ren Feng is an advanced Emperor of Gods?’

Duan Ling Tian still remembered when Linghu Ren Feng easily shattered the Flying Dragon Sect’s Guarding Formation. It was clear that she was stronger than whoever killed Long Qing Chong.

‘An intermediate Emperor of Gods killed Sect Leader Long? But why?’

Needless to say, there had to be a reason why Long Qing Chong was killed. As the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, his status was not low. Although the Flying Dragon Sect did not have any Emperors of Gods, Emperors of Gods would not rashly make a move against Long Qing Chong. After all, the Flying Dragon Sect had allies from emperor-rank forces. They definitely would not let the culprit go if they found out who the culprit was.

Soon enough, Duan Ling Tian glanced at Yuan Han Jin. ‘Yuan Han Jin has the motive, but he has not left at all. Moreover, he’s not even an Emperor of Gods. Even if he wants to kill Sect Leader Long, he’d have to lure Sect Leader Long out of the sect’s estate. He’s incapable of breaking the Guarding Formation with his strength.’

After a moment, another thought appeared in Duan Ling Tian’s mind.

‘There’s another person who has a reason to kill Sect Leader Long. Moreover, his strength matches that of the culprit... Yuan Ping Sheng, the founder of the Ping Sheng faction! He’s also Yuan Han Jin’s father’

Although Duan Ling Tian had never met Yuan Ping Sheng before, he naturally knew that Yuan Ping Sheng, an Ascension Elder of the Pure Yang Sect, was an intermediate Emperor of Gods. Even Ye Chen Feng, the founder of the Hidden Sword faction, addressed Yuan Ping Sheng as senior brother.

Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine. If Yuan Ping Sheng was the culprit, it meant that Yuan Ping Sheng must have found out that Yuan Han Jin had killed Yang Qian Ye’s father, Lan Qing, who was the Sect Leader of the 10,000 Devils Sect, and that Yuan Han Jian pushed the blame to Long Qing Chong. The truth would come to light if they did not get rid of Long Qing Chong. After all, Yang Qian Ye was not a fool. It would be over once Yang Qian Ye discovered the truth. Not only would it be bad for Yuan Han Jin, but it would not benefit Yuan Ping Sheng as well. After all, Yang Qian Ye was now ranked in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath to calm down before he sent a Voice Transmission to Yang Qian Ye, who was standing near him. “Yang Qian Ye, Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect, whom you wished to kill, is dead.”

Yang Qian Ye’s eyes widened in shock upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. Despite the calm expression on his face, his heart was racing in his chest. When he recovered his senses, he asked, “Are you sure?”

“I have his Soul Pearl. As you know, I spoke to him not long ago. Did you forget?”

“Who killed him?” Yang Qian Ye asked as his eyes flashed with suspicion, “Did he die in the Imperial War Realm?”

Although it was unlikely since Long Qing Chong was one of the strongest people in the Flying Dragon Sect, it was not impossible for Long Qing Chong to die in the Imperial War Realm. However, Yang Qian Ye still did not think that was the case. Even if the top Lords of Gods joined forces, they were unlikely to be able to kill Long Qing Chong. Even if Long Qing Chong could not defeat all of them, it would not be a problem for him to escape.

“No. Someone broke into the Flying Dragon Sect’s estate and killed him,” Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission.

Yang Qian Ye’s expression changed imperceptibly upon hearing these words. He instinctively glanced at the small floating island behind him where the Pure Yang Sect’s high-ranking officials, including his master, were seated. After a moment, he said, “Duan Ling Tian, you have a good relationship with Elder Zhen Ping Fan. Can you get him to ask Ascension Elder Zhen if Ascension Elder Yuan left the sect?”

“Yang Qian Ye, I can ask Elder Zhen to inquire about this matter. However, that’s likely the extent of his help. After all, the stability of the Pure Yang Sect is the most important to him. Long Qing Chong, to him, is just an outsider,” Duan Ling Tian said bluntly.

“I understand,” Yang Qian Ye said grimly, “I just want to verify this matter. I’ll investigate this matter further on my own. However, if it’s really him... I’ll...”

Yang Qian Ye did not finish his words, but his eyes glinted coldly.

After ending the conversation with Yang Qian Ye, Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Zhen Ping Fan.

“Elder Zhen, I have a favor to ask of you.”

Zhen Ping Fan was both curious and puzzled. “What is it?”

“Is it possible for you to ask Elder Yun Feng to check if Elder Yuan Ping Sheng is in the sect? Or check the sect’s Mirror Image Formation to see if Elder Yuan Ping Sheng left the sect?” Duan Ling Tian asked directly.

“What happened?” Zhen Ping Fan frowned.

“Elder Zhen, please help me first. I’ll explain it to you after this. This matter is quite urgent,” Duan Ling Tian said.

Zhen Ping Fan stared at Duan Ling Tian for a moment with a probing gaze. He naturally knew something was amiss. After a moment, he sent a message to his father and conveyed Duan Ling Tian’s message without mentioning Duan Ling Tian.

Zhen Yun Feng asked, confused, “Why do you want to know about your Senior Uncle Ping Sheng? Moreover, you want me to investigate him discreetly? Can’t you ask someone else?”

“Father, please help me. It’s inconvenient for me to explain now,” Zhen Ping Fan said. After Duan Ling Tian explained the matter to him, he would naturally explain it to his father.

“Alright.”

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In the Pure Yang Sect’s estate.

Zhen Yun Feng did not waste time and checked on Yuan Ping Sheng’s whereabouts immediately. When he was done, he sent a message to Zhen Ping Fan.

“Your Senior Uncle Ping Sheng isn’t in the sect.”

Chapter 4050: Tuo Ba Xiu Versus Yuan Mo Yu

After informing Zhen Ping Fan about the result of his investigation, Zhen Yun Feng asked, “What happened exactly? Why did you want to know this?”

However, Zhen Yun Feng did not immediately receive a reply from his son.

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It was not that Zhen Ping Fang did not want to reply to his father, but he himself also did not know what happened. At this moment, he was telling Duan Ling Tian about the result of his father’s investigation.

“Senior Uncle Ping Sheng isn’t in the sect. He left the sect very recently and has yet to return.”

After that, Zhen Ping Fan asked, “Can you tell me what happened now? My father’s also asking me for an explanation.”

Duan Ling Tian was already highly suspicious of Yuan Ping Sheng. After hearing Zhen Ping Fan’s words, he was almost completely certain that Yuan Ping Sheng, the Ascension Elder of the Pure Yang Sect, killed Long Qing Chong, the Sect Leader of the Flying Dragon Sect. How could there be such a coincidence in the world?

Moreover, from what he had heard, he knew that Yuan Ping Sheng rarely left Ping Sheng Island, let alone the Pure Yang Sect’s estate. Even his duties as an Ascension Elder that required him to leave the sect were delegated. Perhaps, it was due to his old age and his injuries from his past Heavenly Tribulation that he spent almost all his time cultivating. Perhaps, he could have improved his strength outside the sect, but it came with risks as well. If he were injured when he went out, his chances of surviving his next Heavenly Tribulation would be even lower. Moreover, there were not many fortuitous encounters that could help an intermediate Emperor of Gods; they were extremely rare. One had to be very lucky to encounter them.

The Secret Holy Realm was one such rare fortuitous encounter. However, the Pure Yang Sect managed to obtain quite a lot of slots this time during the Seven Mansions Feast. It was likely that Yuan Ping Sheng would be given a slot to enter the Secret Holy Realm. After all, a disciple of his faction had won two slots. It would be unreasonable if he were not given a slot to enter the Secret Holy Realm.

Meanwhile, although Yang Qian Ye seemed to be looking ahead, he was keeping a watch on Duan Ling Tian from the corners of his eyes. Hence, he had seen the slight change in Duan Ling Tian's expression. He asked, "What happened?"

Duan Ling Tian did not hesitate and replied, "Although I didn't interact much with Sect Leader Long in the past, I had a good impression of him. I'm also saddened by his death. Saying that, we're not so close that I'd seek revenge for him." After a beat, he continued to say, "I'll tell you what I learned since I feel that you deserve to know the truth. Moreover, this can also be considered the final thing I do for him. It was his wish that you know he didn't kill your father."

Although Duan Ling Tian was saddened by Long Qing Chong's death, it was not to the extent that he wanted to avenge him. There were too many people he knew in the world. He could not possibly avenge each and every one of them when the occasion arose.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say as his voice turned solemn, "I hope you won't tell anyone about how you came across this information. At the very least, you can't mention that you found out about it from me or Elder Zhen Ping Fan. I don't want to implicate him in this matter."

Yang Qian Ye listened to Duan Ling Tian's words patiently before he replied, "I understand your concerns. You don't have to worry. I won't mention this to anyone. Moreover, I still have to confirm the matter myself. I won't just blindly trust your words."

Yang Qian Ye made his stance very clear. He would not just listen to Duan Ling Tian and would confirm and investigate the matter personally as well.

In the beginning, Yang Qian Ye had been blinded by hatred due to his father's death. However, after speaking to Duan Ling Tian previously, he began to calm down and analyzed the matter. Indeed, there were many suspicious points about his father's death. As such, he found it even more difficult to trust another person completely. He could only depend on himself to discover the truth.

"I'm glad you understand that," Duan Ling Tian said. Then, he no longer wasted time and told Yang Qian Ye about what he had learned.

"Elder Zhen asked for help from his father. It's confirmed that the founder of your faction isn't in the sect. It should take a while before he returns..." Duan Ling Tian said. At the same time, he thought to himself, 'After all, even if he's traveling in an emperor-grade flying ship, it'll take a while for him to travel back to the Pure Yang Sect from the Flying Dragon Sect...'

At the same time, Zhen Ping Fan, who had yet to receive a reply from Duan Ling Tian, grew impatient.

"Duan Ling Tian? You're not going to go back on your words, are you? Tell me what happened."

Duan Ling Tian sighed and replied, "Of course not. I was talking to another person, comforting them a little."

"So what happened?"

At this time, Zhen Ping Fan could vaguely guess that Yuan Ping Sheng's absence from the Pure Yang Sect had something to do with Duan Ling Tian's friend. His heart skipped a beat immediately, and his expression changed slightly.

Before Zhen Ping Fan could send another message, Duan Ling Tian said, "Elder Zhen, I just found out not long ago that Sect Leader Long of the Flying Dragon Sect is dead."

Zhen Ping Fan's eyes widened imperceptibly. "How did he die?"

"A powerhouse broke the Flying Dragon Sect's Guarding Formation and killed Long Qing Chong. Based on the words of the members of the sect, the culprit is an intermediate Emperor of Gods at least," Duan Ling Tian said.

Zhen Ping Fan fell silent for a moment. Then, he asked, "You suspect that the culprit is... Senior Uncle Ping Sheng?"

Duan Ling Tian remained silent, but it was as good as an answer.

Zhen Ping Fang frowned slightly, somewhat regretting helping Duan Ling Tian to inquire about this matter. After all, this would stir up internal strife in the Pure Yang Sect. Moreover, although Duan Ling Tian would not avenge Long Qing Chong, it was inevitable that Duan Ling Tian's impression of the Pure Yang Sect would take a hit because of this matter. With these thoughts in mind, his head began to ache a little.

Zhen Ping Fan knew Yuan Ping Sheng certainly had the motive to kill Long Qing Chong. He, his father, and Ye Chen Feng had long been suspicious of Yuan Han Jin and Yang Qian Ye's sudden progress. This new revelation only confirmed their suspicion.

After a moment, Zhen Ping Fan asked grimly, "I've already done you a favor and investigated this matter with my father's help. I hope that you won't speak a word of this from this moment onward."

This was the first time Duan Ling Tian had seen Zhen Ping Fan so serious. Thinking that he had spoken to Yang Qian Ye before making this promise, he did not think he was breaking his promise.

"Alright."

Zhen Ping Fan did not expect that Duan Ling Tian had informed Yang Qian Ye about the matter as soon as Duan Ling Tian received his message. After all, he knew Duan Ling Tian and Yang Qian Ye were not close at all. If anything, they were more enemies than friends.

Duan Ling Tian and Yang Qian Ye already had bad blood between them before Duan Ling Tian went to the Flying Dragon Sect and when Yang Qian Ye was still in the 10,000 Devils Sect. Later on, because of Duan Ling Tian, the Flying Dragon Sect killed many members of the 10,000 Devils Sect, including elders and two of Yang Qian Ye's childhood friends.

Zhen Ping Fan sighed in relief when he heard Duan Ling Tian's reply. Then, he informed his father about what he had learned from Duan Ling Tian. He also did not forget to inform Ye Chen Feng about it.

When Ye Chen Feng learned about what happened, his expression froze for a brief moment. A hint of dissatisfaction and coldness flashed in his eyes as well. Although Yuan Ping Sheng could be considered his senior brother, he found Yuan Ping Sheng's actions quite despicable.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention back to the battlefield.

Two people were fighting at this moment. One of them was the sixth participant, Tuo Ba Xiu from the Underworld Mansion's Yuwen clan. Her figure danced in the air as a freezing energy swept out.

Previously, Lin Yuan rose from sixth to fifth place while his opponent. Then, it was Tuo Ba Xiu's turn.

Since Lin Yuan had just finished his turn, Tuo Ba Xiu naturally could not challenge him. Hence, she challenged the fourth participant, Yuan Mo Yu.

Yuan Mo Yu previously fought with Wanqi Hong, who was ranked tenth. However, the duo's fight ended in a tie. The fight took place a while ago so he had long recovered his energy with various divine pills.

After exchanging 30 moves, Yuan Mo Yu and Tuo Ba Xiu were still evenly matched.

However, Duan Ling Tian and the others could tell that Yuan Mo Yu and Tuo Ba Xiu were still holding back.

'Are they going to test the water first, hoping to defeat each other in one fell swoop at the critical moment?' Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly. It was not a bad strategy. Although it would deplete more energy, it was not something that could not be recovered with a few divine pills. Hence, it would not affect their later performances.