

SOVEREIGN 4051

Chapter 4051: Yuan Mo Yu's Sudden Burst of Energy

'However, the duo is aware of each other's intentions so they're very cautious. If this continues, do they think they'll be able to find a breakthrough?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he shook his head.

It was clear to Duan Ling Tian that the duo was not completely confident facing each other. Strength was a huge source of confidence. However, in this case, where one was not sure if one was stronger than one's opponent, it was only natural to lack confidence.

Since the duo had yet to reveal their full strength up until now, Duan Ling Tian could not judge who was stronger as well.

'Tuo Ba Xiu clearly lacks confidence. Is it because the strength Yuan Mo Yu displayed now intimidates her or is it because she suspects he still has tricks up his sleeve? Based on Yuan Mo Yu's previous fight with Yang Qian Ye, I don't think he's holding back much. Naturally, I can't be sure that's definitely the case...'

While the duo was locked in a stalemate, Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention to the two participants ahead of Yuan Mo Yu: Luo Yuan and Han Di. Han Di was ranked second while Luo Yuan was ranked third.

Duan Ling Tian had a brief fight with Han Di previously. They both agreed to strike once with all their might, and the weaker person would surrender. Han Di surrendered, and he also confirmed that Han Di was not a threat to him. It was unlikely that Han Di would challenge him again unless Han Di's rank in the top three was confirmed.

...

After exchanging more than 100 moves, testing each other's strength...

"When are they going to end the fight?"

Many people were growing impatient as Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yuan continued to drag the fight out.

There were also a few who were excited.

"It's a test of patience now... It seems like they're evenly matched."

"Even so, I think they'll find a way to end the fight properly instead of letting it end in a tie..."

"How annoying! If one person is stronger, he or she can easily end the fight..."

After two hundred moves...

Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. 'It seems like Yuan Mo Yu is losing his patience. He was doing well earlier, but it seems like he's affected by the crowd's words.'

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had heard some people mocking Yuan Mo Yu, saying he was inferior to a woman. He did not think much of those comments. If it were true, then Yuan Mo Yu would not be the only one who was inferior to Tuo Ba Xiu. Those participants ranked below her were all inferior to her as well. Tuo

Ba Xiu was the only woman who ranked in the top ten of the Seven Mansions Feast this time; she was naturally outstanding.

As time passed, Yuan Mo Yu grew more and more agitated. No one could say for sure if he was truly affected by the conversations in his surroundings.

At this time, a young disciple from the Pure Yang Sect said in a hushed voice, "I wonder if the people from the Underworld Mansion started the discussion. Tuo Ba Xiu is from the Yuwen clan, but in fact, she's representing the top three forces in the Underworld Mansion. After all, all three forces gave them their resources. If she ranks in the top three, she'll obtain at least three slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm."

"I agree. The Underworld Mansion is trying to distract Yuan Mo Yu. If Tuo Ba Xiu fails to rank in the top three, the three top forces will be in a dilemma. How are they going to divide two slots between the three of them?"

"Well, it seems like Yuan Mo Yu has fallen into their trap..."

"Who knows? I'm sure someone from the Howling Heaven Sect will remind him about it..."

Duan Ling Tian instinctively glanced at the people from the Howling Heaven Sect upon hearing the discussion in his surroundings. He wondered inwardly, 'His elders must have given him a reminder... Is he really affected by people's words or is he just pretending?'

Duan Ling Tian had a feeling it was the latter. With Yuan Mo Yu's achievements, it did not make sense for it to be so easy to provoke Yuan Mo Yu.

At this time, Yuan Mo Yu scoffed. Then, he activated his bloodline power as he flew toward Tuo Bao Xiu.

'His strength now is comparable to what he had shown during his fight with Wanqi Hong. Is this really his limit?' Duan Ling Tian wondered again.

Everyone's eyes lit up when they saw Yuan Mo Yu finally making a move. They had long grown impatient, after all.

"It seems like Yuan Mo Yu wasn't hiding his strength..."

"I agree. He should attack with all his might now. It doesn't make sense for him to hold back. It seems like this is the extent of his strength."

"Tuo Ba Xiu should have realized this as well. I wonder if she's able to defeat herself."

"Who knows? But I hope she is"

"I think she is. If she were weaker than him, she wouldn't have lasted so long, right? The time to launch a surprise attack has long passed after all."

"That's right! If she were weaker, she would've long been defeated by Yuan Mo Yu!"

"Yuan Mo Yu let those provocative words get to him. It seems to me that Tuo Ba Xiu has a high chance of winning the fight."

Tuo Ba Xiu's eyes narrowed when Yuan Mo Yu drew close. Following that, a freezing energy swept out from her body. Soon enough, a thick wall of ice appeared in front of her.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of the duo's collision rang thunderously.

Soon after, everyone watched as Yuan Mo Yu continued to charge forward with his prominent divine artifact in hand. It lit up like a flaming torch at this time. Suddenly, he cried out, "Break!"

As soon as Yuan Mo Yu's voice, a hairline crack appeared on the wall of ice. Then, it began to spread like a spiderweb.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Tuo Ba Xiu released a cold sword ray before she vanished from her spot.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. 'Sword Dao?'

Ye Chen Feng, along with the other high-ranking officials from the various forces, was surprised as well.

"The Underworld Mansion's Tuo Ba Xiu comprehended the rudimentary form of the Sword Dao?"

"I wonder if it's luck or if she's just talented?"

When Tuo Ba Xiu's sword ray clashed with Yuan Mo Yu's attack, her sword ray seemed to gain the upper hand.

With this, everyone thought the fight was going to end in Tuo Ba Xiu's favor.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Unexpectedly, Yuan Mo Yu suddenly burst forth with energy. With this, he immediately turned the table.

"Yuan Mo Yu was still hiding his strength earlier!"

"Heavens! So he was holding back all this time?!"

"He could've easily suppressed Tuo Ba Xiu if he had just attacked with his full strength earlier, right?"

"Well, he was testing the water earlier. He had no idea how strong Tuo Ba Xiu was, after all."

Duan Ling Tian was also rather shocked. Although he had speculated that Yuan Mo Yu was still holding back, he felt that Yuan Mo Yu was not holding back much.

At the same time, Wanqi Hong's expression turned unsightly. 'Damn it! He was holding back so much when we fought previously!'

After seeing Yuan Mo Yu's strength now, Wanqi Hong knew he was no match for Yuan Mo Yu. Even if he could hold on for a moment, he would eventually be defeated. Nonetheless, anger was irrational. At this

time, he felt insulted that Yuan Mo Yu held back when they fought but chose to unleash his full strength when fighting Tuo Ba Xiu.

Wanqi Hong had forgotten that he was ranked tenth now. When he challenged Yuan Mo Yu, who was ranked fourth, Yuan Mo Yu would still remain in fourth place after defeating him. As such, there was no need for him to waste so much energy if the outcome would be the same.

Chapter 4052: Determining the Victor With Just a Strike Again?

“Yuan Mo Yu is winning!”

“Unless Tuo Ba Xiu is still hiding her strength, she’ll be defeated!”

“I don’t think she’s hiding her strength. She’d been waiting for him to make a move for a long time. She must be confident about defeating him so she took her time. Alas, she probably didn’t expect that Yuan Mo Yu had hidden so much of his strength!”

“Yuan Mo Yu is quite cunning. He’s been biding his time to make a move at the crucial moment...”

“I don’t think we can say anything for sure now. Tuo Ba Xiu is the prodigy that the top forces from the Underworld Mansion cultivated, after all. We don’t know what her strength is like.”

...

On the battlefield.

Yuan Mo Yu successfully suppressed Tuo Ba Xiu with his sudden burst of strength.

Tuo Ba Xiu hastily retreated, erecting a wall of ice about 100 meters in height and length as she did so.

However, Yuan Mo Yu’s attack shattered the wall of ice in seconds. Chunks of ice flew out like sharp knives, but they were quickly deflected by Lin Dong Lai before they could reach the crowd. Otherwise, half of the people present would have been injured or even died.

Everyone watched as Tuo Ba Xiu spat out a mouthful of blood. The veil covering her face was blown up at this time, revealing her beautiful face. All of a sudden, her aura turned freezing as she launched another sword ray at Yuan Mo Yu.

Swoosh!

The sword ray was much stronger than the one before.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and shook his head. ‘She was still hiding her full strength.’

At this time, after testing each other for more than a couple of hundred moves, the duo finally fought with all their might.

‘Their strength is actually on par with that of Han Di from the United Heavens Sect,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, the few participants in the top ten were divided into three groups according to their strength. Han Di, Yuan Mo Yu, and Tuo Ba Xiu were in the top group; Wang Xiong and Wanqi Hong were in the second group; Ximen Long Xiang and Yang Qian Ye were in the third group.

Since Lin Yuan and Luo Yuan had yet to reveal their full strength, Duan Ling Tian had yet to place them in a group. However, based on his observation, he thought they likely belonged to the first group.

At this moment...

"I surrender," Tuo Ba Xiu said.

Everyone felt that it was a pity that she lost. She had hidden her true strength for too long. Perhaps, if she had attacked with all her might earlier, she could have defeated Yuan Mo Yu.

"I bet she didn't expect the fight to end this way. However, it's also understandable why she held back for so long. She probably did not think she needed to use all her strength and wanted to conserve her energy. It was what Yuan Mo Yu did when he fought Wanqi Hong."

"That's right. It's unfortunate that she underestimated Yuan Mo Yu."

"Yuan Mo Yu is amazing!"

Many people's attention was focused on Yuan Mo Yu, the most outstanding prodigy from the Howling Heaven Sect who was rumored to be the descendant of an advanced Emperor of Gods. He was also said to be the future leader of the Howling Heaven Sect.

"Based on the strength they displayed so far, it seems like Duan Ling Tian, Yuan Mo Yu, and Tuo Ba Xiu are the strongest. I wonder if the others who are hiding their strength are just as strong or stronger..."

"If the others aren't hiding their strength, then those three will rank in the top three..."

"That's right."

After this fight, most people thought that Duan Ling Tian, Yuan Mo Yu, and Tuo Ba Xiu were mostly likely to rank in the top three at the end of the Seven Mansions Feast.

Duan Ling Tian naturally disagreed with the crowd's opinion. He thought that they had underestimated Han Di. In his opinion, Han Di was not weaker than the duo. When their strength was on par or almost on par, other factors would determine their victory or loss. Each decision one made during a fight would contribute greatly to the outcome.

If Yuan Mo Yu and Tuo Ba Xiu fought with all their might from the beginning, it was likely that the fight would end in a draw. However, if Tuo Ba Xiu had unleashed her strength before Yuan Mo Yu did, she likely would have won the fight. Alas, she made the wrong judgment by continuing to hold back and was injured, losing the fight. If it were a life-or-death fight, she could have died due to her error in judgment.

Soon enough, the crowd's attention shifted away from the duo, anticipating the next fight.

"Luo Yuan, who's ranked third, is next!"

“Since Yuan Mo Yu, who’s in fourth place, just fought, it’s naturally Luo Yuan’s turn. I don’t think he’ll be so foolish as to issue a challenge directly after a fight.”

“That’s right. Tuo Ba Xiu is in sixth place. Lin Yuan is in fifth place, but he just fought not too long ago as well. So it’s not his turn.”

“With Yuan Mo Yu and Lin Yuan out of the way, it’s Luo Yuan’s turn!”

As expected, Lin Dong Lai said, “Participant number three, please enter the battlefield.”

Due to Tuo Ba Xiu’s brilliant performance, the crowd was eager to watch Luo Yuan fight.

“He must be as strong as Tuo Ba Xiu at least, right? Like Tuo Bao Xiu, all the top forces in the Divine Morning Mansion gave him all their resources.”

“If he’s as strong as Tuo Ba Xiu, then the fights for the top three places are going to be exciting!”

“If he’s as strong as Tuo Ba Xiu, then it’s questionable if Tuo Ba Xiu will be able to rank in the top three.”

“That’s right. Tuo Ba Xiu is severely injured from her fight with Yuan Mo Yu. She might not recover in time. Moreover, she had lost to Yuan Mo Yu so she could only rank under him now unless someone she defeated could defeat Yuan Mo Yu. However, that’s unlikely, right?”

At this time, everyone wondered who Luo Yuan, who had entered the battlefield, would challenge. Since he was ranked third, he could only challenge Han Di, who was ranked second, or Duan Ling Tian, who was ranked first.

“If Luo Yuan challenges Duan Ling Tian and wins, he’ll rank first. However, Duan Ling Tian won’t fall to the third place, right, since he defeated Han Di?”

“Who do you think he’ll challenge?”

“It’s difficult to say.”

At the same time, the elders from the Divine Morning Mansion’s Autumn Leaves Sect were advising Luo Yuan as well.

“Luo Yuan, take it easy and challenge Han Di first.”

“Try to discuss with Han Di and see if he’s willing to fight according to the rules he had when fighting Duan Ling Tian. This way, both of you can avoid injuries and conserve your energies.”

The advice from the elders of the Autumn Leaves Sect was very reasonable. It was a win-win situation for both Luo Yuan and Han Di.

“Alright,” Luo Yuan replied. Then, he looked at the people from the United Heavens Sect and said loudly, “I challenge Han Di, participant number two.”

This was Han Di’s first fight after his fight with Duan Ling Tian. His fighting spirit soared as soon as he heard Luo Yuan’s words, and his eyes lit up with excitement. Then, he became slightly stunned when he received a Voice Transmission from Luo Yuan.

“Why don’t we determine who’s stronger with just a strike like you and Duan Ling Tian did?”

Han Di's eyes flashed before he readily agreed. "Sure. Why not? It's a win-win situation for both of us anyway." His voice turned cold as he continued to say, "However, if you go back on your words, I'll drag you down with me even if I'm severely injured."

Chapter 4053: Sudden Reversal

Luo Yuan sighed inwardly as he said sincerely, "That's a matter of course. I won't dig my own grave. If we fight with all our might now, the other participants I'll only give the other participants a chance to take advantage of the situation. You've seen how strong Yuan Mo Yu and Tuo Ba Xiu are. If either one of us is injured and can't recover in time, we won't be able to deal with them and will lose our chance to rank in the top three."

Han Di's expression eased after listening to Luo Yuan. He said, "I didn't mean to offend. I was only worried you'd renege on our promise during the critical moment and attack me. This is our first time cooperating, after all. If you were Duan Ling Tian, I wouldn't say those words since we've cooperated before."

Luo Yuan naturally did not take offense. It was only normal for Han Di to feel suspicious. It was not that he trusted Han Di without any qualms as well. He only trusted Han Di since there was no problem with Han Di and Duan Ling Tian's cooperation. Nonetheless, it did not mean he had completely let his guard down. It would be foolish to do so.

After speaking to Han Di, Luo Yuan sent a Voice Transmission to his elder from the Autumn Sect Leaves.

The elders from the Divine Morning Mansion were naturally pleased that Luo Yuan agreed to the proposal. After all, they did not want Luo Yuan to take the risk and affect his chances of ranking in the top three. He was their only hope to obtain slots to enter the Secret Holy Realm after all, and they needed three slots. Previously, they had high hopes about Luo Yuan ranking first in the Seven Mansions Feast. However, after the appearances of so many hidden prodigies, they felt it was enough as long as he ranked in the top three. It would be a bonus if he ranked first.

The elder from the Autumn Leaves Sect also conveyed the intention of the others from the top forces in Divine Morning Mansion.

"Don't try to ambush Han Di. He won't let his guard down anyway. Just cooperate with him like Duan Ling Tian did. If you feel like he's no match for you, tell him to surrender. If he refuses, fight with him. If both of you are on par with each other, convince him to end the fight in a draw. If you're no match for him, surrender. You'll still rank third. If you're no match for him, then you're certainly no match for Duan Ling Tian. As such, you should just focus on maintaining your position in third place. Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu are both injured now, and it won't be easy for them to fully recover in such a short time. If you maintain your peak condition, it'll be easy for you to deal with them."

Since this was the intention of three top forces in the Divine Morning Mansion that invested heavily in him, Luo Yuan naturally acquiesced to their suggestion.

At this time, Lin Dong Lai said, "Gentlemen, you may begin when you're ready."

Duan Ling Tian and the others watched the battlefield. They had high expectations for Luo Yuan, who received the resources from the top three forces in the Divine Morning Mansion, after watching Tuo Ba Xiu's fight. Moreover, his opponent was Han Di from the Consonance Mansion's United Heaven Sect. Han Di was also unheard of prior to the Seven Mansions Feast and only revealed his strength recently.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the two opponents on the battlefield and thought to himself, 'Han Di is terrifyingly strong, but so is Luo Yuan...'

At this time, a young disciple from the Pure Yang Sect suddenly asked, "Senior Brother Duan, who do you think is stronger? After all, you fought Han Di previously."

Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "It's difficult to say. Han Di is very strong, but the Divine Morning Mansion gave Luo Yuan all their resources. As such, Luo Yuan has to be very strong as well. Look at Tuo Ba Xiu for example. She's very strong. Be patient. We'll find out who's stronger soon enough."

Duan Ling Tian thought highly of Tuo Ba Xiu even though she lost her fight.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian, the young disciple from the Pure Yang Sect shifted his attention back to the battlefield.

The duo, who stood across from each other, made a move at the same time. In just a blink of an eye, they drew close to each other.

Seeing this, a few of them quickly realized what was going on.

"Han Di and Luo Yuan aren't fighting. They're just going to determine their strength with one strike like what Han Di and Duan Ling Tian did previously!"

"Han Di must have suggested it. Why is he so cautious? Isn't it time for him to reveal his strength?"

"Well, Luo Yuan agreed to the suggestion."

"Isn't it normal for Luo Yuan to agree? With this, he can conserve his energy and hide his true strength."

Meanwhile, Yuan Mo Yu and Tuo Ba Xiu's expressions were rather unsightly. In comparison to Han Di and Luo Yuan, they had fought desperately and were severely injured and exhausted as a result. Since Han Di and Luo Yuan were doing this, it would be bad for both of them when they faced Han Di and Luo Yuan later.

'Again?' Duan Ling Tian was also slightly startled when he discovered Han Di and Luo Yuan's intentions.

The crowd had yet to recover from the surprise when the two opponents shot past each other, sensing each other's strength.

Suddenly, Han Di frowned slightly.

On the contrary, a hint of joy could be seen on Luo Yuan's face.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian had already noticed Han Di's abnormality. He was most familiar with Han Di's strength. During his fight with Han Di, even the Emperors of Gods' attention was on him so they did not pay attention to Luo Yuan. As such, he was the first to realize that the strength Han Di unleashed now seemed weaker than before.

'Why did his strength become weaker? He didn't fight recently, and he's not injured. It doesn't make sense...'

Then, a thought suddenly appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind. 'Han Di is setting a trap for Luo Yuan!'

On the battlefield, Luo Yuan, who was delighted, instinctively let down his guard, not expecting Han Di to make a move. He would come to regret letting his guard down at this moment.

Similarly, the Emperors of Gods from the Divine Morning Mansion were delighted by the result as well.

"Huh? Is this the extent of Han Di's strength? Does this mean Luo Yuan has a chance of fighting Duan Ling Tian for the first place?"

"It seems like the prodigy from the Consonance Mansion's United Heavens Sect isn't a match for Luo Yuan!"

Suddenly...

Boom!

Everyone's expressions froze.

Han Di's Divine Energy surged out violently as he activated his bloodline power. At the same time, his prominent divine artifact was slashing toward Luo Yuan.

"Han Di!" Luo Yuan roared. Alas, it was too late for him to react when he sensed Han Di's fierce attack from the back. Anger overwhelmed him as he realized that Han Di had reneged on the promise. He could only quickly mobilize his energy and the profundities from the law to form a barrier at this time.

Boom!

Luo Yuan's protective barrier shattered, and he was sent flying back, spitting out a mouthful of blood. He was severely injured. He choked on the blood in his mouth, struggling and failing to surrender.

Boom!

Without another word, Han Di seized the chance and struck again!

Luo Yuan fell unconscious and plummeted to the ground.

Chapter 4054: The Weak Are Prey to the Strong

Luo Yuan was thoroughly defeated. He failed to defend himself from the ambush and was struck twice before falling to the ground, unconscious.

"Han Di wins," Lin Dong Lai said loudly after stopping Han Di. He frowned slightly at Han Di for going back on his words. However, he also knew that Luo Yuan should not have let his guard down no matter what, especially not before the fight officially ended.

The entire place was silent as Lin Dong Lai sent Luo Yuan back to the people of the Autumn Leaves Sect. None of them expected this sudden twist.

Only the elders from the United Heaven Sect seemed indifferent. Clearly, they had long been aware of Han Di's plan. Moreover, they clearly agreed to the plan. In fact, they did not think Han Di would succeed. If he did, they thought it would just serve as a lesson to Luo Yuan. Hence, they were also slightly surprised that Han Di succeeded. They could only sigh at Luo Yuan's carelessness and naivety.

'How ruthless,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he glanced at Han Di, who was still on the battlefield. At the same time, he was glad that he remained vigilant during their fight. He also wondered if Han Di did not attempt to deceive him because he was much stronger than Han Di.

Based on the current situation, Duan Ling Tian thought that unlike what everyone believed earlier, Luo Yuan must have been the one who suggested they determined their strength with a strike. It was likely the reason why Luo Yuan was not on high alert as well. If Han Di had been the one to suggest that, Luo Yuan would have definitely been more on guard.

'I don't think the Divine Morning Mansion will let things go so easily,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the people from the Divine Morning Mansion. Most of them were still on their feet.

After a moment, the three leaders of the entourage from the top three forces in the Divine Morning Mansion suddenly flew out. The three intermediate Emperors of Gods landed in front of Han Di, who was just about to leave the battlefield. Their expressions were extremely unsightly at this time.

The elder from the Autumn Leaves Sect spoke first. "Han Di, why did you ambush Luo Yuan when you clearly agreed to determine your strength with one strike? You're really despicable!"

The other elder said, "Han Di, you have to give us an explanation."

"That's right. You have to be responsible for this despicable act!"

The three intermediate Emperors of Gods glared at Han Di murderously.

Duan Ling Tian thought that the trio looked as though they were about to attack Han Di.

At this time, the leading elder from the United Heavens Sect flew into the battlefield as well. He stood in front of Han Di, shielding Han Di, before he said with a scoff, "You can only blame Luo Yuan for being careless. During Han Di's fight with Duan Ling Tian, Han Di admitted defeat since Duan Ling Tian kept his guard up and was not tricked. He was also the one who suggested this to Duan Ling Tian. However, Luo Yuan was the one who proposed this before the fight. He was injured due to his own carelessness and complacency. You should be grateful that it wasn't a life-or-death battle. Otherwise, he would've died. You should thank Han Di for teaching him such a valuable life lesson!"

Despite their anger, the powerhouses from the Divine Morning Mansion could not do much. After all, not only was there the elder from the United Heavens Sect, but Lin Dong Lai was present as well. In the end, they could only glare at Han Di before returning to their seats. They could even argue since Han Di had already been declared the winner. Despite his despicable method, his victory was legitimate. They could only return and heal Luo Yuan.

Meanwhile, the crowd returned to their senses and lamented Luo Yuan's outcome.

“What a pity.”

“I assumed that Han Di was the one who made the proposal. As it turns out, it was Luo Yuan!”

“If they had fought like normal, he wouldn’t have suffered such severe injuries. I don’t think he’d be able to rank in the top three now...”

“Luo Yuan really shot himself in the foot this time!”

After Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu’s fight, everyone knew it was understandable that Luo Yuan wanted to conserve his energy and mitigate the risks of getting injured. It was only unfortunate that he let his guard down at the critical moment, giving Han Di an opening. However, they could understand why Han Di would suddenly let his guard down. They only found out about what happened from their elders.

“So Han Di pretended to be weaker to get Luo Yuan to lower his guard?”

“Han Di is really vicious!”

“Well, the winner is the king. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with Han Di’s action. It’s Luo Yuan’s fault for being careless.”

“I agree.”

People thought Han Di’s action was vicious, but at the same time, they also thought it was not unreasonable even if it was despicable. Moreover, if they were in his shoes, they might have done the same thing.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian looked at the elders from the Autumn Leaves Sect, who were gathered around Luo Yuan, as he thought to himself, ‘Luo Yuan has no hope of ranking in the top three now... Although his elders are unreconciled, there’s nothing they can do. Even if they give him all their healing divine pills, it’s already considered good if they can heal half of his injuries before his next fight.’

Duan Ling Tian had a clear view of Luo Yuan’s injuries earlier so he was very confident about his judgment.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian shifted his eyes over to the people of the United Heaven Sect. Coincidentally, he met Han Di’s gaze.

Han Di smiled and asked through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, do you think I’m despicable as well?”

Duan Ling Tian looked at Han Di meaningfully and asked in return, “What do you think?”

Han Di sighed. “I’m not surprised that you think of me that way. However, this is a world where only the weak are prey to the strong. Luo Yuan can only blame himself for being careless. He wouldn’t be in this state if he had only remained vigilant like you did. If you weren’t so alert, I would’ve done the same. I have to say cultivators from the Devata Realm like you are quite formidable.”

Duan Ling Tian might not agree with Han Di’s despicable method, but he could not deny that there was some truth in Han Di’s words. This world was indeed one where the weak were prey to the strong.

Nonetheless, he did not think he would get along with someone like Han Di. It was against his principles to break promises. Even if the Pure Yang Sect asked him to do something like that, he would never agree to it.

At this time, Lin Dong Lai said, "The fights will end here today. We will continue tomorrow."

The bout ended early since everyone had fought. A new bout would only continue tomorrow.

At the same time, the atmosphere remained gloomy until everyone dispersed.

Chapter 4055: Prime Supreme-Rank Forces

Although it was still noon when the bout ended, no one, including those from the Pure Yang Sect, wandered around and returned to their respective accommodations, which were arranged by the Profound Jade Mansion.

During their journey back, many of the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect were still discussing Han Di and Luo Yuan. Some found Han Di's action acceptable while some thought he was too vicious and despicable.

"Han Di is really vicious and despicable! He had come to an understanding with Luo Yuan, but he went back on his words at the critical moment and ambushed Luo Yuan!"

"This is the Seven Mansions Feast. Everyone's competing to rank higher. I can only say that Luo Yuan is too naive and careless. I can't believe he let down his guard. If he had been alert, even if Han Di's ambush was successful, he wouldn't have been so injured."

"Luo Yuan can only blame himself for being careless."

"If I were Han Di, I would have seized the opportunity and ambushed him as well."

"That's right! Han Di must have noticed that Luo Yuan was on par with him in the beginning. Then, he seized the chance when Luo Yuan let his guard down and ambushed him."

"Han Di intentionally showed his weakness to make Luo Yuan let down his guard. It's a pity that Luo Yuan was fooled!"

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised that most of the young disciples from the Pure Yang Sect were on Han Di's side. Although Han Di's method was despicable, he was ultimately the winner. The winner was the king in this world.

It was also understandable why Han Di stooped so low to maintain his rank. Ranking in the top three meant that one would have more slots than ranking in the top ten. If he maintained his rank in the top three, there was no doubt that he would be greatly rewarded by the United Heaven Sect. With that, his cultivation path in the future would become much smoother.

"Fortunately, Duan Ling Tian is stronger than Han Di. Otherwise, he might have done the same thing as well."

Soon enough, their conversation strayed over to Duan Ling Tian. Many of them felt their heart racing in their chests when they imagined the danger Duan Ling Tian could have been in.

Duan Ling Tian only smiled when he heard their conversation. Even if Han Di ambushed him, Han Di would not have succeeded. After all, he remained vigilant from the beginning to the end. He had mobilized his Divine Energy and was prepared to release it at a moment's notice. Hence, he was confident that he would be unscathed even if Han Di ambushed him.

Meanwhile, Zhen Ping Fan, Ye Chen Feng, and Liu Feng Gu did not say anything. They knew that with Duan Ling Tian's experience from his time in the mundane realm until now, Duan Ling Tian would not make such a careless mistake like Luo Yuan did.

At this time, someone said, "In my opinion, although the participants are very outstanding, Senior Brother Duan has a chance of ranking first in the Seven Mansions Feast."

Everyone, including Ye Chen Feng and Liu Feng Gu, from the Pure Yang Sect instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

The two elders also thought that Duan Ling Tian had a high chance of ranking first. Initially, they thought he would only rank second or third. However, based on the participants' conditions today and Luo Yuan's injury, they thought that Duan Ling Tian could rank first.

Zhen Ping Fan asked, "Duan Ling Tian, are you confident about ranking first?"

Duan Ling Tian smiled and replied, "I will try my best."

Zhen Ping Fan said seriously, "Try your best to rank first. Not only will the sect reward you greatly, but you'll also gain the attention of outside forces. I don't know if you remember this. Previously, I told you that if you want to become stronger, the best step to take next is to join a supreme-rank force. Naturally, it's best that it's a supreme-rank force with Supreme Gods. Supreme-rank forces are the strongest in the Profound Energy Land. Even Junior Uncle Ye wants to join a supreme-rank force. Once he breaks through and becomes an advanced Emperor of Gods, he'll definitely be recruited to join a supreme-rank force. In fact, even now, many of those from supreme-rank forces think Junior Uncle Ye has a high potential of becoming a Supreme God. In fact, in the past, there were supreme-rank forces that invited him to join them. However, he refused the invitations at that time because he felt like he was not strong enough. Moreover, those supreme-rank forces no longer had Supreme Gods and were a pale shadow of their past. Due to various reasons, he knew that the resources he would be given there would not be better than what he would get from the Pure Yang Sect. After all, in our sect, he was the most outstanding one. If he had gone to a supreme-rank force at that time, they would not treat him as such. However, with his current ability or when he breaks through, he'll be given a high rank as well when he joins one of the supreme-rank forces. Hence, he'll also enjoy the best cultivation resources. It's the same for me as well..."

Then, Zhen Ping Fan looked at Duan Ling Tian as he continued to say, "However, you're different. You're young, but you've already shown great potential. Your innate talent and comprehension skills are very high as well. Moreover, you've also comprehended the Sword Dao. If you rank first in the Seven

Mansions Feast, you'll definitely receive invitations from strong supreme-rank forces that are only second to the top supreme-rank forces in the Profound Energy Land."

Duan Ling Tian knew about the top supreme-rank forces that Zhen Ping Fan mentioned. They were the strongest forces in the Profound Energy Land. They had many Supreme Gods, and among them were advanced Supreme Gods. These few top supreme-rank forces were known as prime supreme-rank forces in the Profound Energy Land.

The Xia clan, which Ke'er was from in her past life, was also a prime supreme-rank force in the Divine Offering Land. Similarly, the Yun clan in the Divine Offering Land was also a prime supreme-rank force.

In fact, most of the prime supreme-rank forces were clans. In comparison, there were fewer prime supreme-rank sects. This was because these prime supreme-rank clans had the support of supreme powerhouses, whom they were descendants of. As for prime supreme-rank sects, supreme powerhouses would only support them if they had no descendants or if they had a deep affection for the sects.

Whether it was an ordinary cultivator or a supreme powerhouse, everyone naturally would support their family.

Apart from that, the prime supreme-rank force seldom recruited outsiders as disciples. This was especially true for the clans. Moreover, there was no shortage of extraordinary prodigies in these forces. Hence, unless one was extraordinarily talented, one would not be recruited by a prime supreme-rank force.

For this reason, Zhen Ping Fan said that if Duan Ling Tian ranked first, he would be invited by strong supreme-rank forces that were second to prime supreme-rank forces. Even if he ranked first, he was not considered extraordinary in the eyes of those from prime supreme-rank forces. Perhaps, they would only pay attention to him once he became an advanced Emperor of Gods.

Apart from that, not all prime supreme-rank forces had the support of supreme powerhouses. Some of the supreme powerhouses behind those prime supreme-rank forces had perished, but the forces were still able to stand strong due to the Formations and other treasures that the supreme powerhouses left behind. Such a Formation was impossible for the inhabitants of the Realms of Gods to break. Even supreme powerhouses might get injured from forcibly breaking such a Formation. It was not a trivial matter for a supreme powerhouse to be injured since another supreme powerhouse might target him or her in his or her weakened state; it could lead to death.

However, supreme powerhouses generally would not attack prime supreme-rank forces for no good reason. After all, there were more cons and pros in doing so. For this reason, prime supreme-rank forces stood tall in the Realms of Gods.

"There are a few prime supreme-rank forces in the Profound Energy Land. On the other hand, there are more than a dozen supreme-rank forces that are only second to them. These forces are the ones likely to recruit you. They have advanced Supreme Gods in their ranks as well. Some of them aren't weaker than the strongest advanced Supreme Gods in prime supreme-rank forces. After all, prime supreme-rank forces are only stronger because they have the support of supreme powerhouses," Zhen Ping Fan said, "Unlike prime supreme-rank forces, there are many strong supreme-rank sects."

After a pause, Zhen Ping Fan continued to say, "That's why I said do your best to rank first in the Seven Mansions Feast. You'll definitely attract the attention of these strong supreme-rank forces if you do that. After all, you're not even 3,000 years old, but you've comprehended the Sword Dao. There's no need to talk about your innate talent and comprehension skills. Ranking first will prove that you have the strength of a top advanced Lord of Gods despite only being an intermediate Lord of Gods. This will speak volumes about your talent. At that time, how can they not be interested?"

If Duan Ling Tian ranked first in the Seven Mansions Feast, he would be officially recognized to be as strong as a top advanced Lord of Gods. One must know that top advanced Lords of Gods had strength comparable to ordinary rudimentary Emperors of Gods. Imagine having such strength when he was just an intermediate Lord of Gods.

'Supreme-rank forces...' Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed with anticipation and longing. This was also his goal before Zhen Ping Fan brought it up. He really did not have much time left to become stronger.

Chapter 4056: Lin Yuan and Wang Xiong

'I must rank first in the Seven Mansions Feast!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes and heart burned with fighting spirit and determination. Those who stood in his way would only become his stepping stone.

When the people from the Pure Yang Sect arrived at their temporary accommodation, Duan Ling Tian bade Zhen Ping Fan and Ye Chen Feng farewell before he returned to his wooden house.

Ye Chen Feng found that Duan Ling Tian was acting differently than usual so he asked Zhen Ping Fan, "What did you say to him?"

Earlier, Ye Chen Feng saw Duan Ling Tian and Zhen Ping Fan looking at each other frequently. Clearly, the duo was communicating through Voice Transmission. Now that Duan Ling Tian was behaving strangely, it was only natural for him to ask Zhen Ping Fan about it. It was not difficult to guess that it had something to do with Zhen Ping Fan's words.

Zhen Ping Fan shrugged and said, "It's nothing. I only stressed on the importance of ranking first in the Seven Mansions Feast. I reminded him that not only would he be greatly rewarded by our sect, but it'd help his future greatly as well. After all, if he ranks first, he'll definitely attract the attention of the dozen or so strong supreme-rank forces in the Profound Energy Land." Then, he said teasingly, "Junior Uncle Ye, if Duan Ling Tian ranks first and is recruited by one of those supreme-rank forces, it means that he's better than you. After all, until the time you become an advanced Emperor of Gods, those supreme-rank forces won't take the initiative to invite you to join them!"

Ye Chen Feng smiled when he heard Zhen Ping Fan's teasing words. He said, "He's indeed stronger than me now when I was his age. His potential and innate talent are much higher than mine as well. I only began to attract the attention of those notable supreme-rank forces after I comprehended the Sword Dao, and even more so after my prominent divine sword gained a complete artifact soul. Even then, they'll only recruit me once I become an advanced Emperor of Gods. Otherwise, it won't be enough for them to recruit me."

Ye Chen Feng was very self-aware.

Zhen Ping Fan asked with a smile, "Junior Uncle Ye, if Duan Ling Tian ranks first and joins a supreme-rank force, will you consider joining the same supreme-rank force after you become an advanced Emperor of Gods? If that's the case, both of you can also look after each other."

Then, Zhen Ping Fan's eyes grew brighter as he continued to say, "Once I become an advanced Emperor of Gods, I'll join both of you as well! At that time, three of us can form a faction of our own in that supreme-rank force! We can name it the Pure Yang faction!"

Zhen Ping Fan was filled with anticipation as he let his imaginations run wild.

Seeing Zhen Ping Fan's expression and hearing Zhen Ping Fan's words, Ye Chen Feng felt rather speechless. After a moment, he smiled and said calmly, "Whether it's the same one or not, it's not a problem for me and Duan Ling Tian to join a supreme-rank force. However, you... You should focus more on becoming an intermediate Emperor of Gods first before thinking about such things."

Inwardly, Ye Chen Feng added, 'Even if you become an advanced Emperor of Gods, you don't know if those supreme-rank forces will recruit you.'

...

After entering the wooden house, Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged on the bed with his eyes closed. He replayed the scenes he had seen today. Mostly, he was thinking about Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu's fight and the time when Han Di ambushed Luo Yuan.

Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu only revealed their strength at the critical moment. The duo was evenly matched, but due to Tuo Ba Xiu's error in judgment, she lost rather miserably.

As for Han Di, although he won by using a despicable method, there was no doubt that he was strong as well.

In fact, Luo Yuan was just as strong. It was a pity that he was tricked and let down his guard, causing him to lose.

Duan Ling Tian muttered, "Han Di is not weaker than Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu..."

'There's Lin Yuan too...'

It was clear when Lin Yuan from the Profound Jade Mansion's Howling Flames Sect fought Ximen Long Xiang from the Green Province Mansion's Marionette Villa that Lin Yuan had held back a lot. Despite that, he had won rather easily.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian felt that he had a good grasp of the top ten participants' strength.

Ximen Long Xiang and Yang Qian Ye were no match for him at all so they were not a threat to him.

Although Wanqi Hong had stabilized his cultivation base in the realm of an advanced Lord of Gods, based on his battle with Yuan Mo Yu, Duan Ling Tian knew Wanqi Hong was no match for him as well. In fact, even if Duan Ling Tian did not watch the fight, he still knew he was stronger than Wanqi Hong.

Luo Yuan was as strong as Han Di, Tuo Ba Xiu, and Yuan Mo Yu, but he was severely injured by Han Di today. Hence, he was no longer a contender for the top three places.

'There's also Wang Xiong...'

Although Han Di, Tuo Ba Xiu, and Yuan Mo Yu were very strong, Duan Ling Tian did not think they were a great threat to him. In fact, he was more threatened by Lin Yuan and Wang Xiong. After all, Lin Yuan and Wang Xiong had yet to reveal their full strength.

The strength Wang Xiong displayed so far was not as strong as Tuo Ba Xiu, Yuan Mo Yu, and Han Di. However, who could say for sure he was not holding back his strength and biding his time?

Lin Yuan was the same. The strength he displayed so far was weaker than Tuo Ba Xiu, Yuan Mo Yu, and Han Di. There was no doubt he was still holding back his strength. No one dared to underestimate him because he was the external help that the Howling Flames Sect found from outside the Seven Mansions.

There were rumors that Lin Yuan was from a supreme-rank clan. After all, there was a supreme-rank clan called the Lin clan not too far away from the Seven Mansions.

Subsequently, there were also rumors that Lin Dong Lai, the elder from the Howling Flames Sect, was also from the supreme-rank Lin clan. However, no one came up with a reason why he came to the Profound Jade Mansion to join the emperor-rank Howling Flames Sect.

Lin Dong Lai joined the Howling Flames Sect when he was young. He was not even 10,000 years old when he joined the Howling Flames Sect. He rose in ranks step by step in the sect, achieving many great things.

Many speculated that he had invited Lin Yuan to join the Howling Flames Sect on behalf of the set to participate in the Seven Mansions Feast.

In any case, there was no doubt that Lin Yuan was outstanding as well. There was no way the Howling Flames Sect would find someone ordinary to represent them in the Seven Mansions Feast.

'Lin Yuan, Wang Xiong...'

Duan Ling Tian was most worried about the duo for now. After all, a hidden enemy was much more terrifying than a known one. Those two had yet to reveal their strength so it was only normal that he was slightly worried.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian began to assess his strength.

With the help of the Five Divine Elements, he had completely stabilized his cultivation base in the realm of an intermediate Lord of Gods. With the Sword Dao and the law of space, his strength had surpassed most advanced Lords of Gods.

He was also getting better at using the Mastery Dao, which also further increased his strength. With his current cultivation base, it would be difficult for people to detect that he had used the Mastery Dao unless they were Supreme Gods.

Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian did not become complacent. After all, who knew how strong Lin Yuan and Wang Xiong were?

“The fights tomorrow are going to be even more exciting...”

They would continue to determine the top ten ranks for the participants tomorrow. Both Lin Yuan and Wang Xiong would naturally have to fight again.

‘I don’t have to worry about Wang Xiong for now since he’s ranked eighth. He’ll have to challenge a few more people before he can challenge me. He’ll have an easy victory if he challenges Ximen Long Xiang who’s ranked seventh.’

‘As for Lin Yuan, who’s ranked fifth, he can only challenge Yuan Mo Yu, who’s ranked fourth. Apart from that, Tuo Ba Xiu, who’s ranked sixth, can only challenge him since she was defeated by Yuan Mo Yu, who’s ranked fourth.’

With these thoughts in mind, Duan Ling Tian became even more excited about the fights tomorrow.

‘Faced with Tuo Ba Xiu, Lin Yuan won’t be able to hold back and hide his strength anymore, right?’

...

Apart from Duan Ling Tian, many people were also looking forward to Tuo Ba Xiu and Lin Yuan’s fight tomorrow. Unless Tuo Ba Xiu forfeited her turn, Lin Yuan had no choice but to fight her.

No one thought Tuo Ba Xiu would forfeit her turn tomorrow since she would lose her chance of ranking in the top three if she did so. If she truly forfeited her turn tomorrow, it was equivalent to admitting she was inferior to Lin Yuan. No one would think she was conserving her energy anymore.

With so many people ahead of her, how could Tuo Ba Xiu rank in the top three if she forfeited her turn tomorrow?

Similar to Duan Ling Tian, after witnessing Han Di and Luo Yan’s fight, many people also thought that Han Di was not any weaker than Tuo Ba Xiu and Yuan Mo Yu.

...

The next morning, the golden sunlight lit up the land.

The people from the various forces in the Seven Mansions arrived very early at the venue of the Seven Mansions Feast.

When the people from the Pure Yang Sect arrived earlier than they usually did, they found many others had already arrived.

When everyone arrived, Lin Dong Lai took center stage again. He did not waste time and called out, “Participant number ten, please enter the battlefield.”

Since the Seven Mansions Feast was already drawing to a close, Lin Dong Lai had already stated the rules, and everyone was also already familiar with the rules. Hence, there was nothing else for him to say.

The tenth participant was none other than Wanqi Hong. Previously, he challenged Yuan Mo Yu, and their fight ended in a tie. Initially, just like everyone else, he assumed Yuan Mo Yu’s strength was on par

with his. However, he realized how wrong he was after watching Yuan Mo Yu fight Tuo Ba Xiu. It seemed like Yuan Mo Yu was only toying with him when they fought.

At this moment, many people looked at Wanqi Hong curiously when he entered the battlefield.

“Who is Wanqi Hong going to challenge?”

“Will he challenge Yang Qian Ye or Ximen?”