

Sovereign 4381

Chapter 4381 Wang Yi Yuan's Last Words

Duan Ling Tian did not wait for Wang Yi Yuan before he entered the secret realm because he knew that even if they entered together, they would be transported to different places at the periphery of the secret realm as soon as they entered. From the periphery of the secret realm, all of them had to make their way to the heart of the secret realm. During the journey, they would have to face many challenges.

If the secret realm in the Crimson Demon's Little World was a circle, the prodigies would have to make their way from the edge of the circle from all directions to the center of the circle. Only those who managed to reach the heart of the secret realm within a certain period of time could leave the secret realm alive.

It was difficult to meet another person at the periphery of the secret realm, but the chances of meeting another person would continue to increase as they drew close to the heart of the secret realm.

'I heard that we'll be able to obtain clues after entering the secret realm... We can obtain clues from animals, plants, and beasts; we just need to look for them... It's not the end beyond the circle. If we go in the wrong direction, we'll travel on a road that leads to nowhere, getting further and further away from the heart of the secret realm...'

!!

Duan Ling Tian had learned about this from Wang Yi Yuan before entering the secret realm. This was a test of one's observational skills.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian hovered in the sky above a tranquil forest. When he looked around, he saw the scenery in each direction was the same. The surroundings were quiet, and there was nothing that caught his attention.

Duan Ling Tian's expression was serious. He knew that this tested his observational skills, and he needed to find the clues to get to the heart of the secret realm. He was not so foolish as to search for the clues on his own; he quickly opened his Little World and asked for the Five Divine Elements' help.

The Five Divine Elements were formed from the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. As such, they were very sensitive to their environment. In this regard, Duan Ling Tian, a human, was far inferior to them.

"That tree is different from the others," the Clear Heaven Divine Wood said as he gestured to a tree in a distance on Duan Ling Tian's right before he detailed the tree's abnormalities.

After listening to the Clear Heaven Divine Wood, Duan Ling Tian took a closer look at the tree. At first glance, the tree looked no different from the other trees, but after a while, he noticed that more than half of the branches on the tree were strangely pointing in one direction. Due to the number of verdant leaves on the branches, without the Clear Heaven Divine Wood, he would not have been able to discover this at all from a distance, and he would have to turn over the leaves to discover this anomaly. As the wood element, the Clear Heaven Divine Wood naturally was able to sense the difference easily.

"I'll take a look at the other trees..."

Duan Ling Tian did not immediately approach the tree that the Clear Heaven Divine Wood pointed out. Instead, he decided to look around first. After all, with just a small mistake now, he would be off to a bad start going in the wrong direction. Who knew if the tree was just a 'red herring'?

Duan Ling Tian looked around the large forest for an hour before he finally confirmed that only one tree was different from the others. He also asked for the opinions of the other Divine Elements, and the World Cleansing Divine Water also used the Divine Tree of Life to confirm the matter. After doing all these things, he finally continued to advance.

“It’s in this direction...”

...

Not long after, a sudden commotion appeared in the sky where Duan Ling Tian had just left. Following the commotion, a figure appeared in the sky. If Duan Ling Tian were still here, he would have recognized the figure immediately; it was none other than the master of Crimson Demon Ridge, the supreme powerhouse who sent him to this hellhole.

The Crimson Demon looked in the direction in which Duan Ling Tian left before he shook his head and muttered under his breath, “I should increase the difficulty of the secret realm again ... His law of wood isn’t his strongest suit so I thought it would be difficult for him to find the clue. I forgot that he also has the Five Divine Elements. The Clear Heaven Divine Wood is naturally more sensitive to trees compared to those who comprehend the law of wood.”

“His strength is almost comparable to that of the strongest top advanced Supreme Gods. With this, even if this is his first time coming to the secret realm, it won’t be hard for him to leave. I don’t have much time left... I’ll increase the difficulty of the secret realm this time. There are more than 30 people left; I only need half of them to survive. The next time I open a secret realm again, I’ll directly select three candidates with the most suitable bodies...”

The Crimson Demon’s eyes lit up with greed as he continued to mutter to himself, “I hope that Duan Ling Tian has the most suitable body for me to possess... I’m very satisfied with his body. He’s young, powerful, and attractive... This time, I’ll try to snatch the liquid from the divine fountain from him. Let’s see if it’s possible for me to force him to bring it out...”

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware of the Crimson Demon's nefarious plan. He continued to advance after confirming he was going in the right direction. At the same time, he easily passed the checkpoints and challenges he encountered along the way with his extraordinary strength.

These tests at the beginning might be difficult for ordinary intermediate Supreme Gods, but they were naturally not difficult at all for Duan Ling Tian. Although the difficulty of the tests increased the further he went, he was still strong enough to pass them easily without any issues.

‘The challenges aren’t difficult at all...’

...

At the same time, many people among the more than 30 prodigies, including Wang Yi Yuan, were struggling in different places.

Wang Yi Yuan had not recovered from his previous injuries, after all. This time, the difficulty of the secret realm increased again; it was only natural that he was struggling.

“I’ll definitely die during the next test...”

Currently, Wang Yi Yuan looked very different from how he looked when he first entered the secret realm. Not only was his robe in tatters, but it was also stained with blood from his wounds. His face was also stained with blood. He panted as he moved, and he looked completely exhausted.

‘Should I take a break first? No... If I take a break, the next test might come to me directly...’

In the past, Wang Yi Yuan had encountered such a situation. As such, he was very vigilant now.

After traveling for a while, Wang Yi Yuan finally encountered the next test. A huge demon appeared during this test and further injured Wang Yi Yuan.

‘It’s too strong... I might be able to kill him in my prime, but now...’

Wang Yi Yuan looked at the demon charging toward him with an expression of despair and eyes brimming with unwillingness. Although he was unwilling to die, he did not have the courage nor the energy to resist anymore. In the end, he subconsciously closed his eyes when he felt the blade-like wind blowing against his face as the huge demon drew close.

Just as Wang Yi Yuan thought he was going to die, he heard a loud noise. He instinctively opened his eyes and discovered that a purple figure had appeared in front of him at some point. Although he could only see the other party’s back, he recognized the other party immediately.

“Brother Ling Tian?”

Duan Ling Tian had arrived at the critical moment. He had just passed a test earlier when he heard a huge commotion from this place. Since it was relatively near, he decided to come over to have a look. When he arrived, he saw the scene of Wang Yi Yuan nearly getting killed.

Apart from Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu who offended him, Duan Ling Tian would help everyone, let alone Wang Yi Yuan whom he was most familiar with in the Crimson Demon's Little World. After all, even if he did not know the others, they were all in the same boat. If he could help, he naturally did not mind lending the others a helping hand.

Duan Ling Tian turned around and nodded with a smile at Wang Yi Yuan. However, the smile on his face vanished immediately, and his expression changed drastically. He hastily sent a seven-colored sword ray toward Wang Yi Yuan's feet. Alas, he was still too slow.

Boom!

The ground under Wang Yi Yuan's feet shook before a grayish-brown spike shot up from the ground and pierced Wang Yi Yuan's body.

Following that, a shrill cry rang from the depths of the ground, and the noise grew softer and softer before it finally disappeared.

"It's hidden so deep!"

Duan Ling Tian did not expect there to be another powerful huge demon hidden underground in Wang Yi Yuan's test. Moreover, the powerful demon was skilled in the law of earth. Before he had time to react, it had already attacked and injured Wang Yi Yuan.

Even from a distance away, Duan Ling Tian could clearly sense Wang Yi Yuan's vitality draining out of his body. Even Wang Yi Yuan's soul was growing weaker and weaker.

“B-Brother Ling Tian...”

After the death of the huge demon that comprehended the law of earth, the spike it formed, which pierced Wang Yi Yuan, had also disappeared. At this moment, Wang Yi Yuan was lying on the ground.

Wang Yi Yuan looked at Duan Ling Tian with a glimmer of hope in his eyes as Duan Ling Tian quickly stepped forward and brought out healing divine pills for Wang Yi Yuan.

However, Wang Yi Yuan refused the healing divine pills and said, “It’s useless... I know my body best. I have, at most, fifteen minutes left...”

Wang Yi Yuan launched into a coughing fit, spitting out blood. At the same time, he moved with great difficulty as he brought his spatial ring out and handed it to Duan Ling Tian as he struggled to say through his coughs, “Brother Ling Tian... I’ve already... removed my ownership over this spatial ring... You likely won’t... be interested in its content... However, there’s one thing in there... I’m not sure what it is... but it may be of some help to you... If it turns out to be useful to you... I hope... I hope you can do me a favor. I’m dying... I know I can’t force you to help me... but... I hope...”

Chapter 4382 Arriving at the Heart of the Secret Realm

Duan Ling Tian returned to his senses after Wang Yi Yuan fell to the ground limply with his eyes open. Duan Ling Tian’s gaze was complicated at this moment. Although he had lived for a thousand years and had experienced countless deaths, he still could not but feel helpless. He could not help but wonder if he could really escape from the Crimson Demon.

Before Wang Yi Yuan passed away, he had asked Duan Ling Tian to help his family in his clan.

‘There’s nothing I can do if I die here or end up being possessed by the Crimson Demon... Will I be able to help him?’ Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly. He felt that Wang Yi Yuan had overestimated his ability.

‘Perhaps, it’s just a way to attain peace before he passes...’ Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly as he raised his hand.

!!

The law of life, combined with the Divine Tree of Life’s vital energy, swept out and healed the wounds on Wang Yi Yuan’s body before Duan Ling Tian stored Wang Yi Yuan’s body in Wang Yi Yuan’s spatial ring.

‘If I can’t escape, I hope you’ll rest in peace there... If I’m able to escape, I’ll bring your body back to your family...’

After putting away Wang Yi Yuan’s spatial ring which Duan Ling Tian now owned, Duan Ling Tian continued on his journey. Since he was still in the secret realm, he had no time to look at the identified item that Wang Yi Yuan mentioned. He had no doubt that the item had to be special since Wang Yi Yuan mentioned it before his death. Moreover, it was also very mysterious since even Wang Yi Yuan could not tell what it was.

In Duan Ling Tian’s mind, he had no doubt that Wang Yi Yuan had obtained the mysterious item in the outside world before he was imprisoned in the Crimson Demon’s Little World. It was impossible for Wang Yi Yuan to cherish the item if it was obtained in the Crimson Demon’s Little World, and it was also impossible for the Crimson Demon to leave a worthless thing in his Little World.

...

Duan Ling Tian continued to advance to the heart of the secret realm. Although the difficulty of the tests continued to increase, he still passed the tests relatively easily. If he were to find a test challenging, he felt that only a few prodigies would be able to survive the secret realm.

As he continued to advance, he discovered that the tests encountered tested his intelligence and ability to react. Without sufficient intelligence and the ability to react, it would be difficult to pass these tests even if one was very strong.

...

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that the Crimson Demon was monitoring his progress in the secret realm.

‘Duan Ling Tian is definitely the most outstanding one among the prodigies... His performance is flawless! There are also a few prodigies who seem to be having an easy time in this secret realm... I’ll raise the difficulty to the highest in the next secret realm. At that time, we’ll see how many prodigies will be able to survive. In the end, if there are a few suitable candidates like Duan Ling Tian, I’ll choose Duan Ling Tian...’

Although the Crimson Demon was mostly focused on Duan Ling Tian, he also monitored the other prodigies. He naturally had a high regard for Duan Ling Tian compared to the others. After all, Duan Ling Tian did not only possess a huge amount of liquid from the divine fountain, but Duan Ling Tian who was a little over a thousand years old was also the youngest among the group of prodigies. Most importantly, Duan Ling Tian, who was an intermediate Supreme God now, was very close to becoming an advanced Supreme God. If there were no unforeseen circumstances, it was likely that Duan Ling Tian would become an advanced Supreme God before reaching two thousand years old.

‘There’s nothing interesting to watch anymore... I thought I’d be able to find a way to obtain the liquid from the divine fountain from him, but the tests were too easy for me to do so. Moreover, I also can’t suddenly raise the difficulty of the tests again. Otherwise, it’ll alarm him. Forget it, I better not push him too hard now. If he destroys his spatial ring before I possess him, I won’t be able to get even a drop of liquid from the divine fountain...’

Previously, the Crimson Demon planned to snatch the liquid from the divine fountain from Duan Ling Tian first because he was not certain if he would possess Duan Ling Tian in the end. He knew Duan Ling Tian was very strong and highly talented, but he was not sure about Duan Ling Tian’s other abilities. However, after monitoring for a while, he was rather satisfied with Duan Ling Tian’s performance. At the same time, he was also rather certain that Duan Ling Tian would definitely be among the last ones standing. Although he was almost 100% certain that Duan Ling Tian had the most compatible body, he still wanted to put Duan Ling Tian through the final test. After all, he could only possess one body once in his lifetime. It was of great importance that he possessed the most compatible body since it would raise his chance of success.

...

Duan Ling Tian, who was unaware that the Crimson Demon coveted his liquid from the divine fountain, continued his journey to the heart of the secret realm. During the journey, he encountered two prodigies whom he was not familiar with, but he did not pay attention to them.

As for the duo, they gave Duan Ling Tian a wide berth after they witnessed how strong he was when he killed Peng Pu Sha.

“Duan Ling Tian is so strong... He’s just an intermediate Supreme God, but he’s on par with top advanced Supreme Gods. Once he becomes an advanced Supreme God, perhaps, only two people among us are a match for him...”

The two prodigies were forced to join forces to pass the tests in the secret realm. However, due to the increasing difficulty of the tests, they were also losing the advantage they gained from joining forces. They were also able to work together due to the trust they built over the years.

Many prodigies would not join forces unless they trusted each other. Even if Duan Ling Tian was extremely strong, they still would not join forces with him if given a chance. After witnessing his strength, they had become wary of him.

At this time, one of the two prodigies suddenly asked, “Do you think we’ll be able to beat him if we join forces?”

“Are you crazy? We can’t even beat Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu, let alone Duan Ling Tian! Didn’t you see how terrified Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu were before entering the secret realm?” the other prodigy refuted as he shook his head.

The prodigy, who raised the question, fell silent for a moment before he shook his head and said with a sigh, “I didn’t expect that I’d be so frightened of an intermediate Supreme God... He’s truly a monster...”

...

When Duan Ling Tian finally arrived at the heart of the secret realm, he saw a huge Transportation Formation. The Formation glowed brilliantly whenever a prodigy stepped into the Formation, and the light would dissipate when the prodigy vanished out of sight.

Just as Duan Ling Tian arrived, he saw a black-clad aloof young man standing in the Formation. They both exchanged a look before the black-clad young man disappeared.

‘He arrived a little earlier, and it seems like he didn’t suffer any injuries... He must be one of the strongest among the group of prodigies mentioned by Wang Yi Yuan...’

A few years ago, Wang Yi Yuan had mentioned a few prodigies who were top advanced Supreme Gods.

Duan Ling Tian knew he was not any weaker than the black-clad young man who had just left. After all, he did not use the Five Divine Elements and the Divine Tree of Life when he was undergoing the tests. There was also a slight delay when he encountered Wang Yi Yuan.

‘Let’s get out of here first. This secret realm is easy but it might not be the case with the next secret realm... I wonder if Sister Water and the Divine Tree of Life gained anything from this secret realm...’

Before arriving at the heart of the secret realm, Duan Ling Tian found the final two tests relatively challenging. However, he did not ask for help from the Five Divine Elements and the Divine Tree of Life because they were occupied. It was part of their plan to help Duan Ling Tian escape from the Crimson Demon.

‘I hope they gained something out of this experience since it’ll increase my chances of escaping from the Crimson Demon. Apart from that, according to Sister Water, if I become an advanced Supreme God, my chances of success will increase significantly. It’ll increase my success rate from 50% to at least 70%!’

Chapter 4383 The Spherical Order Token

When Duan Ling Tian’s vision returned to him, he found that he had already left the secret realm and returned to the place where they were held captives by the Crimson Demon. The black-clad young man who had left ahead of him had also left, nowhere to be seen.

After returning to his cave, Duan Ling Tian asked the World Cleansing Divine Water in his Little World, “Sister Water, did you and the Divine Tree of Life gain anything from the secret realm the Crimson Demon opened?”

Although Duan Ling Tian had never communicated with the Divine Tree of Life, he knew it had its own consciousness. It could not communicate with him now because it had yet to return to its peak condition. Only the Five Divine Elements who had spent years with it could communicate with it at this moment. Needless to say, although he could not communicate with the Divine Tree of Life, it would still help him when it sensed that he was in danger.

“It’s just as I expected. There’s nothing special about the secret realm,” the World Cleansing Divine Water replied, “The secret realm in the Crimson Demon’s Little World is created with the help of his Divine Tree of Life. In other words, the energy that supports the secret realm came from the Divine Tree of life in his Little World. After discussing the matter with the other Divine Elements, we concluded that the best time for you to escape this place is when the next secret realm opens. For this reason, you have to cultivate diligently before the secret realm opens again. The chances of you escaping are greater if you’re an advanced Supreme God when you enter the secret realm.”

!!

Just as they previously speculated, Duan Ling Tian learned from the World Cleansing Divine Water that the secret realm was supported by the Crimson Demon’s Divine Tree of Life. Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Tree of Life previously took root in the Little World of a supreme powerhouse, after all. As such, it was also familiar with the techniques and requirements for a supreme powerhouse to create a secret realm in his or her Little World. Coupled with the World Cleansing Divine Water’s knowledge, everyone was confident about helping Duan Ling Tian to escape from the Crimson Demon’s Little World.

‘Advanced Supreme God...’ Duan Ling Tian’s eyes shone brightly as he thought to himself. He took a deep breath to calm down before he brought out the spatial ring Wang Yi Yuan gave him and brought out the mysterious object that Wang Yi Yuan mentioned before his death.

The object was spherical, and it looked like an order token. There were intricate and ancient carvings on the surface of the object that Duan Ling Tian was not familiar with. He could not tell if the carvings were just pictures or words. Apart from that, the material the object was forged from was so extraordinary that even the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword could not leave a scratch on it.

In the beginning, Duan Ling Tian thought that the spherical object was a Profound Divine Metal since it roughly resembled the Profound Divine Metal in its primitive form. However, the Profound Divine Metal in his Little World disagreed.

“This is definitely not a Profound Divine Metal,” the Profound Divine Metal said.

“Then, what is it?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

“Little Tian, toss it into your Little World. Make sure it lands at the root of the Divine Tree of Life,” the World Cleansing Divine Water suddenly said.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up with anticipation as he tossed the spherical object into his Little World as instructed. He could tell that World Cleansing Divine Water intended for the Divine Tree of Life to have a look at the object.

‘Why didn’t I think of it earlier? After all, the Divine Tree of Life used to be rooted in a supreme powerhouse’s Little World so it has to be very knowledgeable. Wang Yi Yuan and I might not recognize the object, but it may not be the case for the Divine Tree of Life...’

Duan Ling Tian watched expectantly as the Divine Tree of Life glowed brilliantly.

As the Divine Tree of Life's branches reached toward the spherical object, a faint vital energy from the spherical object lit up and tried to stop the branches from approaching it. However, it was no match for the Divine Tree of Life's vital energy and was quickly snuffed out.

'It has vital energy? What is it exactly?' Duan Ling Tian was surprised to see the pure vital energy from the spherical order token. Although the energy was weak, it was identical to the Divine Tree of Life's energy. It was also purer than Duan Ling Tian's vital energy when he used the law of life. According to the World Cleansing Divine Water, he had to comprehend the law of life to the perfect form if he wanted to produce such a pure energy.

The branches of the Divine Tree of Life curled around the spherical order token before they released a gentle flow of vital energy into it.

Initially, Duan Ling Tian was puzzled, but after a few moments, his eyes widened in shock when he saw the spherical order token greedily devouring the vital energy from the Divine Tree of Life. However, the Divine Tree of Life did not resist at all and allowed the spherical object to absorb its vital energy.

Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask the World Cleansing Divine Water, "Sister Water, what's going on?"

"I'm not sure as well," the World Cleansing Divine Water replied, "I asked the Divine Tree of Life about it, but there's no response. It seems like it's inconvenient for it to reply. Let's wait for a while. Although I'm not sure what's happening, I can feel that the Divine Tree of Life is willingly letting it absorb its vital energy. I don't know what the object is, but I'm sure it's not ordinary." After a pause, she asked curiously, "Little Tian, where did you obtain it?"

Duan Ling Tian told the World Cleansing Divine Water about Wang Yi Yuan and everything that happened.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian, the World Cleansing Divine Water could not help but exclaim, “You’ll owe him a huge favor if this thing happens to be useful to you!”

Duan Ling Tian nodded as his eyes shone with determination. “Even if this object is useless to me, I’ll definitely carry out his final wish to the best of my ability because of his trust in me...”

“You’re a responsible man, Little Tian,” the World Cleansing Divine Water remarked.

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian and the World Cleansing Divine Water waited for a response from the Divine Tree of Life.

...

After three days and three nights, the Divine Tree of Life finally stopped supplying vital energy to the spherical order token. Compared to the beginning, the Divine Tree of Life’s light had dimmed. Obviously, it had depleted quite an amount of vital energy.

Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian did not urge for a response from the Divine Tree of Life. Even a person would be exhausted after supplying energy to another person for three days and three nights.

After a while, the World Cleansing Divine Water’s excited voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind.

“Little Tian! The object that Wang Yi Yuan gave you is a treasure!”

Duan Ling Tian looked confused when he heard the World Cleansing Divine Water's words. Although he knew that the spherical order token was not ordinary after seeing the Divine Tree of Life's reaction to it, he did not dare to have high hopes. Moreover, even if it helped with the comprehension of his law of life, it would be impossible for him to forsake the law of space and the law of time for the law of life. After all, in his opinion, the law of space was stronger than the law of life, and the law of time was stronger than the law of space.

Chapter 4384 The Spirit in the Order Token

“Sister Water, what is it?”

Duan Ling Tian maintained his composure even after the World Cleansing Divine Water claimed that the spherical order token was a treasure. It was definitely a treasure if it could help him to further comprehend the law of life. However, he was reluctant to shift his focus to the law of life. After all, not only did he have a very profound comprehension of the law of time and the law of space, but he also possessed the Supreme Powerhouse Divinities for the law of space and the law of time respectively, which helped him greatly in comprehending the two laws. Let alone in the God Defying World, the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity was a supreme treasure even in the Outer Boundary.

‘If that thing can help me to comprehend the law of life, I wonder if its ability is better than the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity?’

Duan Ling Tian did not think the spherical order token's ability would be superior to that of the Supreme Powerhouse Divinity. Nonetheless, he waited patiently for the World Cleansing Divine Water's response. The World Cleansing Divine Water might not be completely aware of Duan Ling Tian's current situation, but he was confident that she was aware of his thoughts regarding the law of life.

!!

“It’s a key,” the World Cleansing Divine Water finally replied.

Duan Ling Tian was briefly stunned by the reply. After a while, he thought it must be a key to a place that was filled with treasures that would be useful to him. Unlike what he had assumed, it had nothing to do with the law of life.

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up with anticipation as he asked, “A key? A key to where or what?”

“According to Wood Spirit, the key holds the aura of a supreme powerhouse. Most importantly, that supreme powerhouse was someone the tree’s former master idolized! In fact, that supreme powerhouse is much stronger than his former master! Wood Spirit also said that the key has a spirit that was created by said supreme powerhouse after he had comprehended the law of life to the paramount stage. According to Wood Spirit, after that supreme powerhouse’s demise, the purpose of the key is to open up the independent realm that holds the possessions of that supreme powerhouse. Whoever is capable of awakening the spirit will gain access to all the treasures in the independent realm!”

After a beat, the World Cleansing Divine Water continued to say, “Wood Spirit and its former master saw that supreme powerhouse once from a distance. This was before I lived in the Divine Tree of Life. It said that the supreme powerhouse was extremely powerful. Its former master even mentioned that the supreme powerhouse was a second-tier supreme powerhouse, only second to the three strongest mysterious supreme powerhouses from the three major Worlds. In the past, there were fewer than thirty second-tier supreme powerhouses in the Myriad Worlds. Just so you know, there was only one second-tier supreme powerhouse from the God Defying World in the past acknowledged by the Myriad Worlds...”

Wood Spirit was the name of the Divine Tree of Life in Duan Ling Tian’s Little World. Duan Ling Tian had only learned of its name not too long ago.

Duan Ling Tian was shocked by the World Cleansing Divine Water's words. He did not expect the spherical order token to belong to a second-tier supreme powerhouse. Moreover, that person was idolized by his Divine Tree of Life's former master. One had to know that its former master was also a supreme powerhouse. One could only imagine how strong that supreme powerhouse must have been.

According to the World Cleansing Divine Water, the spherical order token was a key left behind by a second-tier supreme powerhouse that would open up an independent realm created by said supreme powerhouse. The person who awakened the key's spirit would have access to that supreme powerhouse's possession.

After returning to his senses, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Sister Water, does that supreme powerhouse have any direct descendants or disciples?"

"Wood Spirit said that the supreme powerhouse was a sectless cultivator who wandered the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary. There were rumors that he was a native of the Outer Boundary. The Outer Boundary isn't part of the Myriad Worlds, and it's located outside of the Myriad Worlds. Such a place had produced many powerhouses throughout the years, and some of them even became supreme powerhouses. According to Wood Spirit, it's normal for that supreme powerhouse to place all his possessions in an independent realm before his demise for the fated person," the World Cleansing Divine Water replied, "Wood Spirit said that you can claim ownership over the key. All you have to do is drip your blood on it to claim ownership. Although its spirit was awakened by it, it doesn't make a difference since you're its master now."

Duan Ling Tian cast aside his curiosity and quickly claimed ownership of the spherical key after he brought it out of his Little World. He dripped his blood on it according to the World Cleansing Divine Water's instruction, and a beat later, he felt an inexplicable connection with another being.

"The Divine Tree of Life in your Little World awakened me. As such, you're the fated person mentioned by my master. Once you become stronger, I'll bring you to the independent realm my master left behind to inherit his possessions."

When the spherical key trembled, a childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind. After it finished speaking, the key turned into a streak of light and entered his body, settling right next to his soul, startling him.

"Rest assured," the childish voice said again, "I won't hurt you. After all, you're the fated person mentioned by my master. I will rest near your soul and protect it at the critical moment. However, my ability is limited. Defending against soul attacks is my only skill. I'm afraid I won't be able to help you with anything else even if I'm willing to help you..."

Duan Ling Tian heaved a sigh of relief after listening to the spirit's words. At the same time, a thought appeared in his mind, and he could not help but ask, "You said that you'll take me to the independent realm your master left behind after I grow stronger... How much stronger do I need to be?"

In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, it would be best if he could enter the independent realm after he became an advanced Supreme God. Alas, he was destined to be disappointed by the spirit's reply.

"You'll have to become a supreme powerhouse first!"

Chapter 4385 Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu Seeks Protection

A supreme powerhouse!

Duan Ling Tian felt dispirited upon hearing the words of the spherical key, and the excitement in his heart vanished in just an instant. The idea of becoming a supreme powerhouse seemed like a distant dream to him now since he was not even an advanced Supreme God yet. Moreover, even after becoming an advanced Supreme God, it would not be easy to become a supreme powerhouse. He knew that he was able to become an intermediate Supreme God and stabilized his cultivation base so quickly only because of the divine fountain. Such an opportunity was unlikely to present itself

again in his lifetime. The amount of liquid he had in his possession was only enough for him to become an advanced Supreme God; it was not enough to stabilize his cultivation base, let alone help him become a supreme powerhouse.

‘What a pity that I can only enter the independent realm that supreme powerhouse left behind after I become a supreme powerhouse...’ Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly. He had expected to be able to enter the independent realm after he became an advanced Supreme God, but his expectations were quickly destroyed by the spherical key’s words.

‘Initially, I thought I might be able to use the treasures or resources in the independent realm to speed up the process of becoming a supreme powerhouse after I become an advanced Supreme God...’ Duan Ling Tian could not help but sigh again. After a while, he quickly calmed down and reminded himself that the spherical key was given to him by Wang Yi Yuan before Wang Yi Yuan’s death.

!!

‘If I manage to escape alive, I’ll definitely fulfill your last wish on your behalf,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself solemnly as he recalled Wang Yi Yuan’s final words. Although Wang Yi Yuan had passed away, he was determined to keep his word.

‘I should calm down and start cultivating. Hopefully, I’ll be able to become an advanced Supreme God before the secret realm opens again...’

Duan Ling Tian was aware that his only chance to escape from the Crimson Demon was when the next secret realm opened again. According to the World Cleansing Divine Water, if he did not break through into the realm of advanced Supreme Gods, he only had a 50% chance of escaping from the Crimson Demon. Nonetheless, although the success rate is higher if he became an advanced Supreme God, there was still a chance that he might fail.

‘No matter what, I should try my best to obtain a higher success rate!’

Duan Ling Tian inhaled deeply and calmed down before he brought out the liquid from the divine fountain and began to cultivate. Just like before, he lost track of time as he immersed himself in cultivating, hoping to break through into the realm of advanced Supreme Gods.

...

At this time, a few people left the secret realm one after another after Duan Ling Tian returned to his cave. Unlike Duan Ling Tian, they were injured, some minor and some severe.

A frail figure stumbled out of the secret realm at this moment. He retched before he spat out a mouthful of blood, causing his face to turn pale. As he wiped the blood off the corners of his lips, he looked around his surroundings vigilantly. When he confirmed that he was alone, he finally heaved a sigh of relief.

‘If I’d known better, I wouldn’t have provoked Duan Ling Tian... I didn’t expect him to be so powerful!’

If Duan Ling Tian were present, he would have recognized the man immediately. The man was none other than Ao Long Yu, one of the two prodigies who sought trouble with Duan Ling Tian before they entered the secret realm.

The Ao Long Yu from before was arrogant and dignified, but he looked exhausted and weak now. Although he managed to survive the secret realm, it took a huge toll on him. With his injuries now, he might not survive the next secret realm. Moreover, he had provoked Duan Ling Tian previously so there was a chance that Duan Ling Tian would seek revenge from him and kill him before the secret realm opened again. He was no match for Duan Ling Tian even when he was in peak condition, let alone now that he was severely injured.

“Just like what Tian Hu and I discussed earlier before entering the secret realm, we should seek protection from someone after we leave the secret realm. Duan Ling Tian is powerful, but there must be a few prodigies in the Crimson Demon’s Little World who aren’t afraid of him...” Ao Long Yu muttered to himself. Instead of returning to his cultivation ground, he left in a different direction.

...

At the same time, Tian Hu was in a cave located in one of the distant mountain ranges.

“Tian Hu, what do you mean by this?”

A handsome white-clad young man sat at a stone table, sipping a cup of tea, as he looked at the spatial ring that Tian Hu presented him.

“Young Master Jun, this is more than half of my life savings. I came here to seek protection from you,” Tian Hu said earnestly with a solemn expression on his face.

“Seek protection from me?’ The white-clad young man was stunned by Tian Hu’s words. After a moment, he laughed bitterly and said, “I’m afraid you’ve come to the wrong person. Just like you, I’m also a prisoner of the Crimson Demon. You should look for the Crimson Demon instead.”

Tian Hu did not give up. He continued to say, “Young Master Jun, I only need you to protect me until the secret realm opens again. Once we enter the secret realm, you don’t need to protect me anymore.”

A hint of desperation could be seen in Tian Hu's voice when he spoke. He was naturally unwilling to die in Duan Ling Tian's hands before the secret realm opened again. He wanted to raise his strength before the secret realm opened again so he would have a higher chance of surviving. Moreover, if he became stronger, he might not have to fear fighting Duan Ling Tian with Ao Long Yu. He knew that Ao Long Yu was on the verge of a breakthrough, and it was possible that Ao Long Yu might be able to do so before the secret realm opened again. All in all, he and Ao Long Yu needed protection to buy time for themselves. In his opinion, he and Ao Long Yu might not be a match for Duan Ling Tian now, but that might not be the case after a few years.

The white-clad young man looked at Tian Hu knowingly as he asked, "Are you afraid that the newcomer will attack you?"

Tian Hu took a deep breath and replied, "Young Master Jun, I'll be honest with you. Ao Long Yu and I are indeed afraid that he might make a move on us. That's why I'm seeking protection from you as a preventive measure. I believe he won't dare to cause trouble if you're around..."

Tian Hu was clearly confident about the white-clad young man's ability. The white-clad young man, Shangguan Jun, was a top advanced Supreme God and one of the strongest prodigies in the Crimson Demon's Little World, after all. In Tian Hu's opinion, Duan Ling Tian was at most on par with Shangguan Jun; it would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to beat Shangguan Jun.

Shangguan looked at Tian Hu before he shifted his eyes to the spatial ring and said, "It's not a problem for me to protect you. However... I'll have to see if your sincerity is worth my protection. Otherwise, you'll have to look for another person to protect you. After all, I'm not the only person in this Little World who's capable of protecting you..."

Tian Hu bowed slightly and handed the spatial ring to Shangguan Jun as he said, "Young Master Jun, please have a look."

After accepting the spatial ring, Shangguan Jun claimed ownership of it before he took a look inside. His gaze was calm in the beginning, but his eyes suddenly lit up like the stars in the sky a moment later. His breathing was slightly heavy, and he had to take a deep breath to calm down

before he looked at Tian Hu and said, “You’re really generous... I have no reason to refuse you. We have a deal. If we were in the Outer Boundary, I wouldn’t make an enemy out of him due to his high innate talent. However, there’s no reason for me to fear him here since all of us are just waiting for our deaths in the Crimson Demon’s Little World.”

After a brief pause, Shangguan Jun continued to say, “You’ll stay and cultivate here until the secret realm opens again. If Duan Ling Tian shows up, I’ll stop him.”

“Thank you, Young Master Jun!” Tian Hu said, delighted. He finally felt at ease after Shangguan Jun agreed to his request.

...

When Tian Hu successfully obtained Shangguan Jun’s protection, Ao Long Yu had just arrived outside of a cave. The cave was the cultivation ground of another prodigy comparable to Shangguan Jun.

After greeting the prodigy, Ao Long Yu expressed his intention and made an irresistible offer. Similar to Tian Hu, he also successfully obtained protection from a prodigy who was one of the strongest prodigies in the Crimson Demon’s Little World.

...

It did not take long for word of the duo’s actions to spread.

The surviving prodigies could empathize with the duo. After all, if they were in the duo’s shoes, they would have done the same.

“It’s impossible for Duan Ling Tian to attack Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu now that the duo has Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun’s protection...”

Chapter 4386 Duan Ling Tian, the Advanced Supreme God!

Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware that Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu were so frightened that they had both paid a high price to hire the strongest prodigies in the Crimson Demon’s Little World to protect them.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was completely immersed in cultivating, losing track of time and everything else...

With the help of the divine fountain, his cultivation improved very quickly, and he was drawing closer and closer to the realm of advanced Supreme Gods.

Even the Crimson Demon, who would spy on Duan Ling Tian occasionally, could sense the change and improvement in Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base.

!!

“This kid’s cultivation speed is truly amazing. Initially, I planned to open the secret realm after a few years. However, based on the current situation, I’ll delay it until he becomes an advanced Supreme God. The next secret realm will be the final secret realm. Only one person will be chosen in the end. Previously, the secret realm opened ahead of time. This time, I’ll postpone the opening. It’ll also give the others more time to recuperate...”

...

The dozen or so prodigies in the Crimson Demon's Little World who survived the secret realm assumed that the next secret realm would open ahead of time as well. They speculated that it would open again in a few years. However, after a few years had passed, they discovered that the secret realm did not open. Then, another few years passed, and they found that the secret realm also did not open.

"Perhaps, the secret realm will open according to the old schedule?"

Many people shared this idea.

However, when the time came again, the secret realm still did not open, causing the prodigies to feel puzzled.

"What's going on? Why isn't the secret realm open yet?"

"Perhaps, there's a delay because it was opened ahead of time previously?"

"Something doesn't feel right..."

Although the prodigies were confused, there was nothing they could do. After all, everything was under the Crimson Demon's control in this place.

Among the prodigies, many of them were direct descendants of supreme powerhouses, and those supreme powerhouses had always been willing to help them. Alas, they had no way to seek help from those supreme powerhouses in the Crimson Demon's Little World.

A few of them even had life-saving jade tokens, which would help them contact a supreme powerhouse in the outside world but were useless in the Crimson Demon's Little World.

Unsurprisingly, all forms of communication were cut off in the Crimson Demon's Little World, making it impossible for them to seek help. The Crimson Demon had planned everything meticulously, after all.

...

Similarly, Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu were also puzzled.

"What's going on? The secret realm hasn't opened yet?"

At this time, the duo had healed from most of their injuries. They thought they would have to enter the secret realm injured and did not expect to have the time to heal their injuries before entering the secret realm.

"In any case, this is good news for me... It seems like I'll be able to heal all my injuries before entering the secret realm again... Perhaps, I'll also be able to raise my strength further before entering the secret realm..." Tian Hu muttered to himself with bright eyes.

Similarly, Ao Long Yu's eyes lit up as well as he muttered under his breath, "I've grown stronger... I might not be a match for Duan Ling Tian alone, but if I join forces with Tian Hu, it'll be very

difficult for him to kill us. If Tian Hu's strength has improved as well, we might even be on par with him if we join forces. Since the secret realm has yet to open, I'll continue healing my injuries. Once I'm completely healed, I'll be able to protect myself better..."

...

Duan Ling Tian was the only one who did not pay attention to the opening of the secret realm. He was still immersed in cultivating and left the Five Divine Elements to guard him. If there was trouble, they would alert him immediately.

He was not worried about missing the secret realm since the Crimson Demon's voice would jolt him awake even if the Five Divine Elements did not remind him.

While Duan Ling Tian cultivated, he absorbed the liquid from the divine fountain and converted part of it into his Divine Energy. As a result, his Divine Energy continued to grow stronger.

When Duan Ling Tian finally opened his eyes, he had already successfully broken through. His eyes shone briefly with excitement before he quickly calmed down.

"How long have I been cultivating? It feels like I've absorbed most of the liquid from the divine fountain in my possession... I have less than half left..."

After checking his spatial ring, he found that he had three-fifth less of what he had before he began to cultivate; he only had two-fifth of liquid from the divine fountain left.

His eyes widened slightly as he asked the World Cleansing Divine Water, "Sister Water, how long have I been cultivating?"

“You’ve been cultivating for 32 years...” the World Cleansing Divine Water replied.

“32 years?! So long?” Duan Ling Tian’s expression changed slightly.

Then, a thought appeared in his mind, and he asked, “Why isn’t the secret realm open yet? There’s no announcement from the Crimson Demon, right? I couldn’t have missed it otherwise even if I was cultivating. What’s going on? Moreover, if I missed entering the secret realm, the Crimson Demon definitely wouldn’t let me off so easily. It seems like the secret realm truly hasn’t opened yet...”

Duan Ling Tian was still puzzling out this matter when the Crimson Demon’s voice rang in the air.

“The secret realm will be open after three months...”

Duan Ling Tian was slightly stunned that the secret realm would open soon after his breakthrough. It was clear that the opening of the secret realm was deliberately delayed. He wondered if it was just a coincidence.

After a moment, he asked, “Sister Water, do you think the Crimson Demon is aware of my breakthrough? We’re in his Little World, after all.”

The World Cleansing Divine Water replied, “Of course. As long as he keeps an eye on you, he’ll naturally be aware of it. Why do you ask?”

The World Cleansing Divine Water knew that Duan Ling Tian would not ask such a question for no good reason.

Duan Ling Tian told the World Cleansing Divine Water about the strange coincidence.

“Soon after you broke through, the Crimson Demon announced the opening of the secret realm in three months? The opening has also been delayed the longest this time?”

The World Cleansing Divine Water thought about it for a moment before she said, “If I’m not mistaken, it’s not a coincidence. He must have waited for you to break through into the realm of advanced Supreme Gods. It’s clear that he values you. Apart from that, it’s likely that he’ll choose the most suitable body to possess this time...”

The World Cleansing Divine Water’s words confirmed Duan Ling Tian’s speculations. However, he really did not expect the Crimson Demon to choose a compatible body so soon. He asked skeptically, “Sister Water, why do you think that he’ll choose the most compatible body this time? Even if the elimination rate is 50% like before, he’ll still have a few prodigies left to choose from. Is he going to directly select someone out of the remaining survivors?”

“I have my reasons for thinking this way,” the World Cleansing Divine Water said, “Previously, you told me that the death rates have been getting higher and higher each time the secret realm opens. It’s clear that the Crimson Demon is growing anxious and can’t wait any longer. It seems like he has no plan of undergoing his upcoming once-in-ten-thousand-year Heavenly Tribulation. Moreover, it’s likely that it’s coming up soon. That’s why he’s eager to possess a new body and use his clan’s technique to hide and escape from the Heavenly Tribulation...”

Duan Ling Tian felt the World Cleansing Divine Water’s analysis made sense, and his expression turned solemn immediately.

Upon seeing the expression on Duan Ling Tian's face, the World Cleansing Divine Water said, "Little Tian, you don't have to worry too much. Whether or not this is the final secret realm, the plan has always been to escape during this time, and it doesn't affect our plan at all..."

Duan Ling Tian's expression eased up after listening to the World Cleansing Divine Water's words.

The World Cleansing Divine Water continued to say, "If he really waited for you to break through before opening the secret realm, then, he has inadvertently helped you. Now that you're an advanced Supreme God, we have a higher chance of successfully escaping..."

With this, a smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face.

...

At the same time, the other prodigies in the Crimson Demon's Little World also heard the announcement, causing their hearts to tremble.

"It's finally here..."

They had waited a long time for the secret realm to be opened, and none of them expected to wait for 32 years.

...

Some of those who were severely injured, like Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu, also managed to recover from their injuries during this time.

Not only did Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu completely heal from their injuries, but they also managed to raise their strength. Similar to before, the duo decided to join forces again. With their bond and rapport, they were not any weaker than the respective prodigies they hired to protect them if they joined forces.

Chapter 4387 The Crimson Demon in Disguise; Duan Ling Tian Seeks Revenge!

Although Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu had grown stronger and were on par with the two prodigies they hired if they joined forces, none of them left the protection of the two prodigies. After all, the duo had spent a huge fortune hiring them to protect them until they entered the secret realm. Moreover, if they had a conflict with Duan Ling Tian now and were injured before entering the secret realm, their chances of survival would drop.

At this time, Ao Long Yu sent a message to Tian Hu.

“The secret realm will open in three months. Before that, it’s not necessary for us to meet. Those two prodigies won’t leave their cultivation ground for us, and we’ll lose their protection if we leave their cultivation grounds. Let’s have them escort us to the entrance of the secret realm when the time comes.”

“I agree...” Tian Hu replied. He shared the same thoughts as Ao Long Yu.

Ao Long Yu continued to say, “Duan Ling Tian didn’t show up at all over the past 32 years, and it’s unlikely that he’ll look for trouble over the coming three months. However, we still shouldn’t let our guards down.”

Needless to say, Tian Hu agreed with Ao Long Yu again.

While the duo decided on meeting up after three months when the secret realm opened, they were unaware that a purple figure flew up from a mountain range and flew in the direction of their cultivation ground.

...

After asking around, Duan Ling Tian arrived at Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu's cultivation ground, which was also a cave.

'Is this really their cultivation ground?'

Duan Ling Tian frowned when he saw that the cave was empty.

'Did they die in the secret realm? Or did the person who pointed me here lie to me?'

Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned and looked at the young man who pointed him to Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu's cultivation.

When the young man saw Duan Ling Tian looking at him, he smiled faintly and asked, "This is indeed their cultivation ground. Do you want to ask me where they've gone?"

After Duan Ling Tian killed Peng Pu Sha at the entrance of the secret realm previously, everyone was aware of his strength that was comparable to a top advanced Supreme God despite only being an intermediate Supreme God. However, the young man did not seem afraid of him.

“Do you know where they’ve gone?”

Duan Ling Tian’s eyes flashed with surprise upon hearing the young man’s words. His gaze changed as well when he looked at the young man. Previously, he only thought that the young man was kind for pointing him to Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu’s cultivation ground. However, seeing that the young man followed him here and even spoke to him so casually, he felt that the young man was definitely not as simple as he had thought.

“I do,” the young man replied with a nod, “Both of them were severely injured during their time in the secret realm. They spent a fortune hiring a prodigy each to protect them. Those prodigies are the strongest among us. If you go looking for them now, I’m afraid those two prodigies they hired won’t just stand aside and do nothing.”

Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows upon hearing this. He did not expect Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu to be so cautious. However, this did not affect his determination to kill them at all. After all, if he were weaker, he would have died because of them. As the saying went, ‘An eye for an eye’; he would not let this matter go.

When Duan Ling Tian found out that the prodigies protecting Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu were top advanced Supreme Gods and were among the strongest people here, his eyes lit up immediately. He had just recently become an advanced Supreme God, and he needed to fight to adapt to the changes in his Divine Energy. Although he had yet to stabilize his cultivation base, his Divine Energy had grown much stronger than before. For this reason, he was eager to find out exactly how strong he had become, and the best way to do that was to fight.

“Can you please tell me where they are now?” Duan Ling Tian asked politely.

The young man led Duan Ling Tian to a place before he pointed in two directions and said, “They are in the caves over there. The caves are the cultivation grounds of the two prodigies. Tian Hu is in the cave on the right, and Ao Long Yu is in the cave on the left.”

After the young man finished speaking, he turned around and prepared to leave.

Duan Ling Tian thanked the young man and watched the young man leave. He inexplicably felt that the young man was very mysterious. He wondered inwardly, ‘Is he also among the strongest prodigies in this place?’

When the young man finally vanished out of sight, Duan Ling Tian heard the sounds of hushed conversations

“Who’s that person with Duan Ling Tian?”

“I’ve never seen him before... He must be a recluse...”

“I dare say that I’ve seen everyone here, including Duan Ling Tian who’s a newcomer. However, I really don’t remember seeing that person before...”

Four men hovered in the distant sky, looking at Duan Ling Tian. They had emerged from their caves just at the moment Duan Ling Tian and the young man arrived.

Duan Ling Tian frowned when he heard the four men’s words. ‘They’ve never seen that young man before?’

...

‘I wonder how that kid will fare against them now that he has become an advanced Supreme God...’ the young man muttered to himself before he vanished into thin air.

If Duan Ling Tian were present, he would have recognized the young man’s voice, which had changed from before. The voice belonged to none other than the Crimson Demon who imprisoned him here.

The Crimson Demon had disguised himself. He did not know much about Duan Ling Tian, but he was certain that someone like Duan Ling Tian would not let Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu go after what they had done. He was even more certain when Duan Ling Tian saw him and asked him about Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu’s whereabouts. As such, he decided to push the boat along and showed Duan Ling Tian the way to Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu’s locations.

...

‘That young man must be the Crimson Demon in disguise,’ Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly after hearing that the four men had never seen the young man before. He was further convinced when he recalled how the young man had told him about Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu’s whereabouts and situations. He speculated that the Crimson Demon wanted him to find Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu so the Crimson Demon could see his strength after becoming an advanced Supreme God.

‘The Crimson Demon really thinks highly of me... He waited for me to break through before he decided to open the secret realm, and now, he disguised himself and waited for me outside my cave to lead me here...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. With this, he was even more certain that the Crimson Demon hoped to possess his body.

After a brief moment, Duan Ling Tian returned to his senses. His eyes glinted coldly as he teleported to one of the two caves.

“It’s payback time...” Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself before he said, “Ao Long Yu, are you going to come out or do you want me to come in and drag you out?”

Duan Ling Tian had imbued his voice with Divine Energy, and as such, although it was not loud, it covered a vast area.

...

“Duan Ling Tian?”

At this time, Tian Hu, who was in the midst of cultivating, trembled. His expression was grim as he rose to his feet, preparing to go outside.

In just a moment, a cold voice rang from another room in the cave. “Tian Hu, Duan Ling Tian has become an advanced Supreme God.”

Tian Hu froze in his tracks, shocked.

Subsequently, a young man walked out of a room. He was the prodigy whom Tian Hu hired to protect himself. He was among the strongest prodigies here. Apart from that, not only did he leave the secret realm unscathed previously, but he also left ahead of Duan Ling Tian.

Chapter 4388 One Versus Four

“Advanced Supreme God!”

Not even in Tian Hu’s wildest dreams did he imagine the intermediate Supreme God, whom he and Ao Long Yu feared since 32 years ago, would become an advanced Supreme God so soon.

Without Shangguan Jun’s reminder, Tian Hu, who had grown stronger and was confident about facing Duan Ling Tian with Ao Long Yu next to him, would have been fearless. However, after learning that Duan Ling Tian had become an advanced Supreme God, he could not help but feel shaken. He trembled again when he recalled the trace of Divine Energy in Duan Ling Tian’s voice; indeed, Duan Ling Tian had become an advanced Supreme God.

Tian Hu looked at Shangguan Jun with a grim expression and said, “Young Master Jun, after he deals with Ao Long Yu and Sun Zhi Yao, he’ll definitely come for me... and you...”

!!

Shangguan Jun grunted. “I wouldn’t have agreed to your request if I’d known he would become an advanced Supreme God so soon. Follow me. We’ll go to Ao Long Yu and Sun Zhi Yao!”

Although Shangguan Jun was confident about his ability, he did not dare to underestimate Duan Ling Tian at all. Even if Duan Ling Tian had yet to stabilize his cultivation base, Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Energy had grown a level stronger. Even if he was one of the strongest prodigies here and a second-tier top advanced Supreme God, he was not completely confident he would be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian.

‘Even if Duan Ling Tian isn’t a first-tier top advanced Supreme God, he must only be slightly weaker. Not only am I no match for him, but he might even be able to beat me in a short time...’ Shangguan Jun thought to himself. He looked calm, but inwardly, he felt rather worried.

At this moment, Shangguan Jun regretted agreeing to protect Tian Hu. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to have a breakthrough during this time.

Shangguan Jun knew that he was no match for Duan Ling Tian so he decisively brought Tian Hu with him to look for Sun Zhi Yao, who was on par with him, and Ao Long Yu.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

When Shangguan Jun and Tian Hu arrived outside Sun Zhi Yao’s cave, Sun Zhi Yao and Ao Long Yu were coincidentally walking out of the cave.

The four of them naturally gathered and stood together without the need to speak.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this time, people began to fly over from all directions.

Apart from Duan Ling Tian and the four people who stood across from him, eleven people were present on the scene. Based on this, it seemed like only 16 prodigies were left in the Crimson Demon's Little World.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu before he looked at Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao and asked, "Both of you are intent on protecting them?"

Duan Ling Tian vaguely recognized Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao. He had seen them when he fought Peng Pu Sha, but at that time, he was unaware that they were the strongest prodigies here.

Shangguan Jun furrowed his brows slightly as he said sincerely, "Duan Ling Tian, I can't let you lay a single finger on Tian Hu until the secret realm opens three months later... Wait until you leave the secret realm before you make a move on him. After that, if he survives, I promise that I won't protect him anymore even if he offers me a huge fortune."

Before Duan Ling Tian responded, Sun Zhi Yao, a blue-clad young man, chimed in, "The same goes for me as well..."

Upon hearing Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao's words, Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu's faces twisted into unsightly expressions. When they sought protection from the duo, they were seriously injured so they did not have high hopes of surviving the next secret realm. Things naturally changed when the secret realm only opened 32 years later. They healed their injuries completely, increasing their chances of survival. Alas, they did not expect that they would still need the duo's protections after coming out of the upcoming secret realm.

Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu exchanged a look and quickly discussed among themselves before they sent a message to Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao.

"Young Master Jun..."

“Brother Sun...”

Unsurprisingly, Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu offered up everything they had in exchange for Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao’s protection; they were willing to do anything as long as they could preserve their lives.

Unfortunately, Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao ignored the duo. After all, they were not so foolish as to offend Duan Ling Tian, who had become an advanced Supreme God and was likely stronger than them now. They naturally hoped to come to a compromise with Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, panic set in when Tian Hu and Ao Long Yu saw Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhiyao ignoring them. They naturally did not want to face Duan Ling Tian if they survived the upcoming secret realm. After all, even if they survived, they would undoubtedly be injured. At that time, it would be impossible for them to defend themselves against Duan Ling Tian who had become an advanced Supreme God. Although they knew they could not avoid death in the Crimson Demon’s hand, they wanted to live for as long as they could. Moreover, there was a chance that the Crimson Demon might let them go after choosing a person to possess. After all, as a supreme powerhouse, the Crimson Demon could easily erase their memories and release them without any consequences.

All the prodigies hoped to survive and leave this place, and as such, many of them held onto this hope.

At this time, the other prodigies could see how wary Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao were now that Duan Ling Tian had become an advanced Supreme God. Although the duo did not say it outright, based on Sun Zhi Yao’s response, it was clear that he stood on Shangguan Jun’s side.

“It seems like Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao are going to join forces... Clearly, they’re pressured by Duan Ling Tian who has become an advanced Supreme God.”

“Unbelievable... A newcomer who’s been here for a few decades became so powerful so quickly...”

“I wonder how strong he has become... It’s possible that he’s the strongest person here...”

The other prodigies whispered among themselves as they looked at Duan Ling Tian, wondering how he would react. Most of them thought that Duan Ling Tian would compromise. Otherwise, he would need to face four opponents at once. Putting Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao aside, Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu would definitely kill Duan Ling Tian if the opportunity arose.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao and said nonchalantly, “I’m afraid none of you’re able to stop me from killing them...”

The prodigies were all shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

Shangguan Jun scoffed. “How presumptuous!”

“Why don’t you give it a try?” Sun Zhi Yao said indignantly.

Duan Ling Tian raised his hand. Following that, his doppelgangers from the law of space and law of time flew toward Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao. They did not engage in a fight with the two prodigies. Instead, they used the law of space and the law of time respectively to restrain the two prodigies. In terms of strength, the doppelgangers were naturally no match for Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao. In fact, Duan Ling Tian did not send his doppelgangers to defeat or kill the two prodigies, what he wanted to test was his doppelgangers’ abilities to restrain the two prodigies.

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian said to Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao through Voice Transmission, “Gentlemen, we can still coexist peacefully as long as you don’t destroy my doppelgangers. Otherwise, I won’t hold back if I encounter both of you in the secret realm...”

Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao’s expressions darkened immediately.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Energy burst forth. At the same time, he cast the law of time and mobilized the energies of the Divine Tree of Life and the Five Divine Elements.

Swoosh!

Like a huge seven-colored sword ray, Duan Ling Tian, who was brimming with his Divine Energy, the Divine Tree of Life’s vital energy, and the Five Divine Elements’ mysterious energies, shot toward Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Terrifying heat waves swept out into the surroundings, stirring up a violent wind in their wake.

Boom! Boom!

In just a moment, a mountain range collapsed into a giant pit, stirring up a heavy cloud of dust.

“Hang in there! Young Master Jun will rescue us after the doppelgangers are destroyed!” Tian Hu cried out to Ao Long Yu as he mobilized his Divine Energy and cast his strongest law. He brought out his prominent divine artifact before he shot toward the huge seven-colored sword ray.

Upon seeing this, Ao Long Yu had no choice but to follow suit and join forces with Tian Hu.

Chapter 4389 Duan Ling Tian’s Trails Are Exposed

Tian Hu and Ao Long Yu did not think they would lose to Duan Ling Tian if they joined forces with Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun. For this reason, they did not despair even though Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun were held back by Duan Ling Tian’s doppelganger. They thought that the duo would come to their rescue after destroying the doppelgangers.

Swoosh!

The terrifyingly huge seven-colored sword ray that eclipsed the sun caused chills to run up the other prodigies’ spines as it shot out in the air. At the same time, they whispered among themselves.

“Duan Ling Tian is too terrifying!”

!!

“With his strength, he’s definitely the strongest among us!”

“Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu were truly foolish to have offended him! Fortunately, I didn’t provoke him even though I dislike him. Otherwise, I’d be like them!”

“There’s no doubt that Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun won’t protect them anymore once the secret realm opens...”

Similar to Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu, the other prodigies assumed that Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun would join forces with Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu to fight Duan Ling Tian after the doppelgangers were destroyed.

Meanwhile, although Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu attacked with all their might, they were still suppressed by Duan Ling Tian. Although their attacks were quite powerful, they only managed to slow down the sword ray. In the end, the huge sword ray easily destroyed their attacks.

‘What are they doing?!’

At this moment, Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu began to panic when they saw that Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun were still restrained by the doppelgangers. They did not expect the doppelgangers to restrain the duo for so long. At the same time, they quickly exhausted their strength trying to defend themselves against Duan Ling Tian’s fierce attack.

“Are you waiting for Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun?” Duan Ling Tian asked Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu through Voice Transmission before he said, “I just warned them not to destroy my doppelgangers. Otherwise, I won’t hold back if I run into them in the secret realm. I’m afraid it’ll only be in vain if you’re waiting for them to come to your rescue.”

Although Duan Ling Tian had spoken tonelessly, his voice was like the thunder in Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu’s ears. They finally realized that Duan Ling Tian had threatened Sun Zhi Yao and Shangguan Jun. Most importantly, based on the duo’s performance, it was clear that the threat was effective. In just a blink of an eye, they were overwhelmed by despair. After all, it was clear that the duo would not come to their rescue.

Following that, Duan Ling Tian easily crushed Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu's defenses before he killed them.

In just a blink of an eye, two relatively strong advanced Supreme Gods ceased to exist, leaving only their weapons and spatial rings behind.

Silence reigned in the entire place as the prodigies watched the two advanced Supreme Gods die.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian withdrew his two doppelgangers.

Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao looked at Duan Ling Tian at the same time. A hint of reluctance flashed in their eyes as they returned to their respective cultivation grounds. They felt like they had suffered humiliation today for failing to protect Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu. They also felt embarrassed because they knew it was obvious that they had held back when they were facing the doppelgangers.

Duan Ling Tian did not linger and returned to his cultivation ground as well. He had achieved his goal of killing Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu; he had no reason to stay any longer. He wanted to continue to cultivate so he could grow stronger and escape from the Crimson Demon.

After Duan Ling Tian left, the other prodigies sighed.

"Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu are really unfortunate."

“I didn’t expect Shangguan Jun and Sun Zhi Yao to abandon them. How unreliable...”

“This just proves that they’re not trustworthy... We should be cautious of them and think twice even if we have to join forces with them in the secret realm...”

...

The Cyclic World.

The Sun clan in the Upper Tri-domains’ Luo Domain was acknowledged as the strongest force among the three major prime supreme-rank forces. Whenever the clan’s supreme powerhouse returned, the members of the clan would receive him with a grand celebration. This was not surprising since they worshiped him like an omnipotent deity. However, this time, the celebratory atmosphere was absent during the supreme powerhouse’s return. On the contrary, an ominous atmosphere loomed over the clan’s estate.

At this time, Sun Yi Qian, one of the clan’s most brilliant prodigies, and a middle-aged man were kneeling in the main hall. The middle-aged man was Sun Long. Sun Yi Qian wore an expression of disbelief on his face while Sun Long wore an expression of regret and helplessness.

“Tell us how both of you met him in detail.”

Sun Ping Yun, the Sun clan’s one and only supreme powerhouse and pillar of strength, sat in the main hall. He seldom returned to the Sun clan, and this time, he returned because of Duan Ling Tian. He discovered that it was likely that Duan Ling Tian, the terrifying prodigy from the God Defying World who escaped, was the same person as the intermediate Supreme God who came to the Sun clan a few decades ago.

As news of this matter spread, the supreme powerhouses from the Cyclic World began to show up at the Sun clan and demand liquid from the divine fountain from Sun Ping Yun. In their opinion, since Duan Ling Tian was able to escape to the Outer Boundary from the Sun clan's estate, Duan Ling Tian must have given something to the Sun clan.

However, the truth was Sun Ping Yun knew nothing about this matter. Not only did he not gain anything from Duan Ling Tian, but he also did not know that Duan Ling Tian was the intermediate Supreme God who used the Sun clan's Transportation Formation to go to the Outer Boundary. When he first caught wind of this matter, he had returned to the clan immediately to investigate the matter. He wanted to find out who had given Duan Ling Tian permission to use the Sun clan's Transportation Formation to the Outer Boundary. It did not take long for him to find out that Sun Yi Qian was the key person and that Sun Long was present when the former met Duan Ling Tian.

Chapter 4390 World Supreme Powerhouse

Sun Yu Qian was in disbelief. He did not expect that Duan Ling Tian, the God Defying World's heaven-defying prodigy, was 'Brother Li Feng' who had rescued him. He knew that the monstrous prodigy from the God Defying World's lower realms was stronger than most advanced Supreme Gods despite being only about a thousand years old. Moreover, due to his strength and luck, Duan Ling Tian also possessed a huge amount of liquid from the divine fountain that even supreme powerhouses coveted.

Meanwhile, Sun Long recounted their encounter with Duan Ling Tian to Sun Ping Yun, the supreme powerhouse of the Sun clan.

"Based on your words, it seems like he really did save Yu Qian's life," Sun Ping Yun said as he shifted his gaze to Sun Yu Qian, the Sun clan's most outstanding prodigy. He paused for a moment before he continued to say, "However, the coincidence is too uncanny. He rescued Yu Qian, but is it a coincidence that our clan also possesses the Transportation Formation to the Outer Boundary? Who knows if everything was set up by him?"

As a supreme powerhouse, Sun Ping Yun had lived the longest among the members of the Sun clan. Based on his experience, he did not think that Sun Yi Qian and Sun Long's encounter with Duan Ling Tian was a mere coincidence.

Sun Yu Qian had never doubted his encounter with 'Li Feng', the man who saved him. However, after listening to Sun Ping Yun, he did not think that it was impossible for it to be a setup.

Not only did Duan Ling Tian hide his identity, but he also came to the Cyclic World and coincidentally rescued Sun Yu Qian, the Sun clan's most outstanding prodigy, which gave him access to the Sun clan's Transportation Formation that led to the Outer Boundary. Moreover, it was not hard to guess that Duan Ling Tian did not dare to go to the Outer Boundary from the God Defying World due to the liquid from the divine fountain in his possession that even supreme powerhouses coveted.

Sun Yu Qian took a deep breath and said solemnly with his forehead still pressed against the ground, "Old ancestor, this is all my fault. Second uncle doesn't have anything to do with it. I'm willing to bear the consequences and be punished."

Upon hearing this, Sun Long's expression changed immediately. "Yu Qian!"

Sun Long might lose his qualification to become the next Clan Leader of the Sun clan if the supreme powerhouse of the Sun clan held Sun Yi Qian responsible.

Sun Ping Yu grunted and said coldly, "How loyal! Very well, I'll fulfill your wish if that's what you want! From this day onward, Sun Yu Qian, your status as a direct descendant of the Sun clan is revoked. Your status will only be reinstated after you become an advanced Supreme God."

The expressions of Sun Long and the other high-ranking officials of the Sun clan, who supported Sun Long and Sun Yu Qian, changed immediately.

Sun Long leaped to his feet and hastily said, “Old ancestor! It’s all my fault! Yu Qian is still young and inexperienced! It’s only normal for him to make mistakes. As an elder, I failed to guide him...”

Sun Long was like an ant on a hot pan at this moment. If Sun Yu Qian was temporarily cast out of the Sun clan, he would not be able to compete for the position of the Clan Leader of the Sun clan until he became an advanced Supreme God. With that, one of the other candidates would become the next clan leader for the next 10,000 years at least. The Clan Leader of the Sun clan would usually serve for 10,000 years before a new clan leader was elected. If there were no other more suitable candidates, the clan leader would continue to serve the clan.

“Old ancestor!”

After Sun Long spoke up, quite a few high-ranking officials chimed in, but they were all silenced by Sun Ping Yun’s frosty gaze.

“This matter is settled,” Sun Ping Yun said expressionlessly. Although he looked indifferent, he felt rather gloomy at this moment. After all, he still had to face the other supreme powerhouses who suspected he gained some benefits from Duan Ling Tian.

...

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that his identity had been exposed in the Cyclic World and that the supreme powerhouses had found out that he came to the Outer Boundary through the Sun clan’s Transportation Formation. Moreover, word of this matter had also spread to the God Defying World.

In the pavilion on a floating island in the endless void.

A middle-aged man said respectfully to the young man in the pavilion, “My lord, Duan Ling Tian is already in the Outer Boundary.”

The young man nodded slightly in response.

The middle-aged man hesitated for a moment before he said, “My lord, he’s just an intermediate Supreme God. Isn’t it too cruel to let him go to the Outer Boundary? Nobody in the God Defying World would dare to lay a hand on him if you speak out...”

“Are you afraid that he’ll die prematurely?” the young man asked.

“Yes,” the middle-aged man replied with a slight nod.

In the middle-aged man’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian was very lucky so far. However, the Outer Boundary was much more dangerous compared to the God Defying World. A monstrous prodigy like Duan Ling Tian was not unprecedented in the God Defying World, but most of them died shortly after going to the Outer Boundary.

“It’s his fate if he dies,” the young man said, “He’ll be able to survive in the Outer Boundary as long as he lays low. If he dies there, it only proves that he’s foolish to have drawn unnecessary attention.”

Despite his words, the young man looked highly upon Duan Ling Tian, who was a rare prodigy in the history of the God Defying World. However, he knew that Duan Ling Tian would only become

an ordinary supreme powerhouse if Duan Ling Tian was not tempered by his experience in the Outer Boundary.

‘After master’s demise, there has never been a supreme powerhouse who ranks among the top 30 supreme powerhouses in the Myriad Worlds... The God Defying World’s current peace is all thanks to master’s reputation. However, if the other supreme powerhouses find out that master has passed, the God Defying World will likely face a crisis...’ the young man thought to himself with a sigh.

After a moment, the young man said, “If there’s nothing else, you can take your leave.”

The middle-aged left after the young man spoke.

The young man continued to stare ahead and sighed heavily.

‘Things are too difficult... The two senior uncles have high hopes for me, but I’m afraid they’ve overestimated my ability. I might be on par with them now, but I’m still far from becoming a World supreme powerhouse. In the history of the Myriad Worlds, in its prime, there were only forty World supreme powerhouses at most. Now, there are fewer than thirty of them. Master used to be one of them. There are at least 800 to 1,000 supreme powerhouses like me and my senior uncles in the Myriad Worlds... Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent and comprehension skills are shocking. However, it’s impossible for him to become a World supreme powerhouse if I keep him under my wings. Every World supreme powerhouse went through many trials and tribulations in the Outer Boundary before they rose to the peak. As such, there’s no doubt that the Outer Boundary is the best training ground for him...’

...

In the Crimson Demon’s Little World.

Duan Ling Tian was naturally clueless about the high hopes that the supreme powerhouse in the God Defying World had for him. At this moment, he was completely engrossed in cultivating, determined to grow as strong as he could before the secret realm opened. It would increase his chance of escaping from the Crimson Demon's Little World, after all.

...

Three months later.

Just as Crimson Demon had announced before, the secret realm opened.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian flew out of his cave toward the entrance of the secret realm. When he arrived, a few prodigies were already gathered there and were chatting among themselves.

When the prodigies saw Duan Ling Tian, they greeted him enthusiastically.

“Brother Ling Tian, are you ready to enter the secret realm?”

“Brother Ling Tian, please take care of me if we meet in the secret realm!”

“Brother Ling Tian...”

These few prodigies were on par with Ao Long Yu and Tian Hu. Previously, they had no interactions with Duan Ling Tian at all. However, at this moment, all of them were trying to get acquainted with Duan Ling Tian. Their attitude changed completely after they witnessed his strength three months ago.